



Good turnout for fish contest

By Karen Krien

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Several weeks ago, the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization had 500 pounds of rainbow trout dumped into Keller Pond, northwest of St. Francis. The pond was then closed to fishermen until last weekend when the fishing contest was held.

It was a great weekend for fishing, said Francis O'Leary, club member. The weather was not too cold and the sun was shining.

This year, the club members decided to sponsor two contests. The one on Saturday was held just for the kids. The Sunday competition, while there were still the youth fishing, was a team competition where more of the adults were fishing.

The kids got first chance at the big ones, said Francis O'Leary, club member.

The big one, he said, was about 27-inches long and weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces. This "tagged" fish was caught twice, once by Cody Rethke and then by L.J. Barnes. The second largest fish, caught by Tye Faulkender, was 26.5 inches long and weighing 7 pounds, 13 ounces

The kids contest was just for fun with around 40 kids participating. Three kids went home with a new fishing pole.

Hot dogs were barbecued by Patrick Delano, club member, for the kids and those accompanying them on Saturday. The food was free to those attending but several of the local markets had donated some of the items.

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JT RHODEN, left, and Michael Hilt check out the fish they caught at the fishing tournament on Saturday. JT's dad, Jeff Rhoden, is helping with the fish.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Wheat crop riding on roller coaster

It feels a bit like we have been on a roller coaster lately with the temperature extremes over the last three weeks, said Jeanne Falk, K-State Agronomist. We have yo-yoed from 12 to 77 degrees, in just a couple days. I know that I am feeling temperature whiplash and am pretty sure the wheat is feeling that too!

After the first temperature drop, when the area spent more than 24 hours below 20 degrees, farmers really didn't know how the wheat was going to handle the frigid temperatures. However, the growing point of nearly all wheat in northwest Kansas was still underground and protected by the soil. That was extremely important in feeling that the wheat was safe from the major damage, that was feared in southwest Kansas.

Generally after a freeze event, the story of freeze damage will not be complete for about 14 days after the cold temperatures. During this time, the wheat hopefully recovers enough to be able to see healthy, green regrowth.

The challenge is that a week later, temperatures were again dropping below freezing. And in between those two bouts of cold temperatures, the high temperatures were in the upper 60s. Then the same cycle was repeated this week.

In all reality, this wheat has not really had a chance to recover from any of the three periods of cold temperatures, Falk said. There are a couple things that we do know about the wheat at this time:

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Woman charged with second degree murder

On Tuesday, Leeanna Windell was charged with the second degree murder of Brad Figgins. She is currently being held at the Sherman County Bastille in Goodland.

Figgins, 45, was found dead in the basement of his home in St. Francis on April 3. The Cheyenne County Sheriff's officials and Kansas Bureau of Investigation were called to investigate the case.

Windell was arrested and taken to Larned for evaluation. On Tuesday, the Cheyenne County sheriff transported her from Larned to the Sherman County Bastille. Little information was available, but at sometime during the day, charges were filed against Windell.

Any person who feels they have information pertaining to the case is encouraged to contact the sheriff's office at 785-332-8880.



GREENHOUSE GOING UP - Rodney Neitzel, left, and Wade Krien are putting up the hoops on the greenhouse. The business will open Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

New Saintry business opens

By Karen Krien

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The County Seat Greenery will open on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Located at 702 South River Street and U.S. 36, the greenhouse will carry bedding plants including vegetables and flowers. They will also be selling hanging baskets, potted plants, ornamental grasses and some decorative planters as well as trees and shrubs. The trees and shrubs are available by special order which takes from seven to 11 days.

Owners, Wade Krien and Rodney Neitzel, have supplied the county with Christmas trees for the last three years. Last year, when they picked up the trees in Denver, the owners of the tree company asked them if there was a supplier for bedding plants in St. Francis. Goodell

Greenhouse had closed, so the answer was "no."

We went back to the supplier in January where we looked at what was available and if it was possible for us to set up a small greenhouse, said Neitzel.

While we were talking to the owners and explaining where St. Francis was located, Mr. Neitzel said, the older owner, now planning to retire, overheard the conversation. He said he well knew where St. Francis was as he had delivered to Cal and Gerri McCurry, who had owned a greenhouse a number of years ago.

Knowing that the company was reliable and that they would be able to supply them with what they needed for 20- by 28-foot greenhouse from Tennessee.

When it arrived, they began assembling it. While they could only work a few hours at a time, they figured the whole process took only four days.

Now that it is up, they will bring in the plants on Friday and will open up at 9 a.m. the following day.

Mr. Krien and Mr. Neitzel will be working evenings and weekends. During the day, Jeanene Peter will be manning the greenhouse.

Jeanene, Mr. Neitzel said, has a good eye for design and will help people creatively fill their planters. The greenhouse will carry some containers but she will also suggest plants for customer's containers.

A grand opening is planned for Saturday, May 11, when they will be having drawings for hanging baskets and plants.

Benefit happens Saturday

By Karen Krien

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After a year of planning, the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome "Kansas Walk, Run and Rock for a Cure" benefit has arrived. The weather is predicted to be in the 80s - not too hot and not too cold - for a day spent at the fairgrounds.

There will be organized runs and walks, live music provided by local and nationally known bands, talks about the syndrome, lots of food, snacks and booths. The 4-H kids and other food booths will start serving at noon and the entertainment will start at 1 p.m. and end about 10.

"We are expecting anywhere from 750 to 1,200 people to arrive at St. Francis," said Joe Caldart, one of the main organizers of the event. "There have been people from Utah, Texas, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado and Arizona who have indicated they will come and support the first Kansas RSD benefit."

The activities will actually start at 8 a.m. with an 8.9 K and a 2K run on the shortest state highway at Wheeler, then down the old Wheeler highway to the fairgrounds. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the high school. Principal Scott Carmichael has agreed to drive a school bus taking runners to the starting line. A fun walk begins at 9 a.m. at the high school track and ends at the fairgrounds.

Lots of runners, Mr. Caldart said, have signed up or told Warren Cico they plan to participate.

Live music will include Shantell Leitner, A Life Led Lucid, Fresh Picked Parsley, 9ine Foot Squirrel, Buffalo Head, Phil Crawford and My Starvin Lion. Because of scheduling conflict, Keli Raven ended up canceling but there will still be many hours of entertainment.

In between the music, which will be performed in front of the grandstand, those with Reflex



JOE CALDART, right, hands Jason Padgett a board as they continue work on the stage for the benefit. Austin Patton, not pictured, has also spent many hours working on the stage.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Sympathetic Dystrophy, also known as RSD, will be speaking about the disease. Local speakers are Mr. Caldart, Jennifer Archuleta and Brad Barnhart. Several

others, who are not local, will be speaking.

Besides all the planning for the last year, the stage at the fair-

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