

Northwest Kansas residents gather for a 'pray for rain rally'

By Tom (TD) Dreiling

The title of the event says it all, "Northwest Kansas Pray for Rain Rally."

The brainchild of Brewster area farmer Leonard Kinkade, and his wife Zelma, the rally is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

"We hope to see people from all over northwest Kansas, from Trego County west to the Colorado line and north to Nebraska," Kinkade said. "Farmers, ranchers, ag and machinery people, clergy, townfolk — this first-ever Northwest Kansas Rally for Rain is for everyone," he said.

"The purpose of this event is to pray to the Lord to break this drought, which affects everyone," he said. "We need to get back to our normal rainfall. We need to speak directly to the Lord."

The rally, said Kinkade, will begin at 3 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. "People can come and go as they need. We hope to have clergy say a few words, read scripture and lead us in prayer," he said.

A large map will be posted in the building and each person on hand will be asked to take a pin and stick it in their particular location on the map, Kinkade explained. "We will probably ask people to come down front, state their name and offer a prayer for rain," he said.

He said prayers will be offered for political leaders who have the influence to assist with the problems associated with the drought. "We need to ask God to point them in the right direction."

Kinkade said "we need to break

this drought...It affects everyone...If I get 2-3 inches of rain at my place (3 miles southwest of Brewster on the Thomas-Sherman County line) and nobody else gets any rain, only I benefit. The drought continues."

He stressed the need to ask the Lord to break the drought, which, he says, has forced a number of our own farmers and ranchers to be driven from their farms.

"The drought is not just a rural problem, it is also felt in all our towns in northwest Kansas, too," he said.

Kinkade said he has no idea as to the reception his prayer rally will receive. "This is the first time for such an event in such a wide

area," he said. "We pray for rain in our churches, or we pray individually, but we need to bring all of us together in a common plea to our Lord."

Kinkade said he got the idea for the prayer rally some months ago while traveling and listening to the radio. "They (the people on the radio) were talking about doing this and that sparked my interest," he said.

"I guess I am the person the Lord selected to carry out the project in northwest Kansas," he said.

He asks the clergy to ask their congregations to take part "in this show of unity" in Colby on Feb. 22.

Volunteer honored

At its annual recognitions banquet Jan. 30, the Topeka Regional Office of the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter honored eight special people with awards and issued certificates of appreciation to several others. The banquet this year was held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

A special award was presented to Lois Johnson Morelock of McDonald in northwest Kansas, for her long service (more than 15 years) to the Alzheimer's cause. During her first husband's illness, she spent many hours lobbying the Kansas Legislature to enact a Division of Assets law that would recognize the financial distress of couples trying to cope with this disease and enable them to qualify for Medicaid assistance early in

the disease process. Since her first husband's death, she has maintained her interest in helping rural Kansans understand how to cope by organizing support groups in northwest Kansas and utilizing videos and written materials obtained from the Topeka office.

Bird City News

Dean and Joan Smith spent three weeks with their daughter Dee and Jim Riebel at Lubbock, Texas. They also spent time with their great-granddaughters, Brooklynn and Kiersten and Marilyn Jensen, formerly of Bird City.



ROY SHRADERIS PUTTING together the final fittings on the Bird City grocery store which will be opening the first part of March. Timesstaff photo by Casey McCormick

The other side of the dog story

By Karen Krien

Last week's issue of *The St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* told about legislation that is being proposed to the House Committee concerning the control of prairie dogs. Senator Stan Clark had made the statement that in House Bill 2027, farmers and ranchers could lose the ability to control prairie dogs on their land. He had also listed several supporters of the bill including the Kansas Farm Bureau.

Steve Swaffer, director of Natural Resources for the Kansas Farm Bureau reported that what the organization supports is that landowners be allowed to control prairie dogs but, if the prairie dogs are placed on the endangered list, that ability for landowners to control the dogs would be taken away.

"The bill 'softens' the language, letting those who want to raise and

keep prairie dogs keep them," he said.

Instead of the word "destroyed" used in the bill, the words "manage and control" is proposed. The bill also talks about the landowner working with counties to maintain the prairie dogs if they so chose.

The Farm Bureau supports developing conservation management plans that will increase or maintain the population and, thus, making the endangered list unnecessary.

"Conservation management plans should be the result of cooperative efforts by landowners, agricultural producers, wildlife managers, conservation technicians and the appropriate state and federal agencies," Mr. Swaffer said.

"We believe threatened and endangered species protection can be more effectively achieved by providing incentives to private landowners and public land users rather

than imposing land-use restrictions and penalties."

Prairie dogs are a concern to ranchers and farmers because of the destruction to the grassland. Senator Clark called them a rodent that is a carrier of fleas that can and has carried bubonic plague.

Representative John Faber was unavailable when this issue went to press but it is rumored that he is in favor of House Bill 2027

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Over 15 piano students perform at state capital

Garret Wilson, 12-year-old son of Loren and Malinda Wilson of rural Pottawatomie County performed at the Kansas State Capital building on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the annual Christian Home Educators Confederation of Kansas (CHECK) "Day Under the Dome" in Topeka.

Wilson, a sixth grader at Monarch Academy of Truth and Knowledge, performed *Sonatina in G* by Beethoven on the piano. He, along with over 15 other home-educated students from across Kansas,

was selected through audition to play for the event.

Wilson was congratulated afterward by Representative Verlyn Osborn, 61st District Kansas Representative, for his excellent performance.

Wilson is the grandson of O.A. and Kay Bunjes of St. Francis.



Wilson

The City of Bird City is soliciting bids for CEMENT WORK

at the corner of Bird Avenue and 3rd Street.

Bids will be opened at the March 3, 2003 Council meeting. Contact the Bird City Superintendent at 734-2433 or the Bird City Clerk's office 734-2616 for any further information. The City of Bird City reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

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TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT
ENDING JANUARY 31, 2003

FUND	BALANCE
GENERAL	408,129.98
ROAD & BRIDGE	442,165.29
SPECIAL MACHINERY	81,014.00
BRIDGE BUILDING	68,238.48
NOXIOUS WEED	44,983.15
NOXIOUS WEED SPECIAL FUND	13,841.78
SOLID WASTE	1,788.17
CAFETERIA PLAN	2,260.09
HOSPITAL BOND & INTEREST	205,782.19
HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION	1,392,700.63
RURAL FIRE	22,882.85
HOSPITAL	18,860.17
DIVERSION FUND	9,227.39
CO ATT'NY FEE CHECK FUND	230.00
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND	3,183.61
RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TAX	88.00
1620M TRUCKS	367.45
SPECIAL ALCOHOL & DRUG	3,203.16
SPECIAL PARKS & REC	4,403.68
911	73,849.26
UNCLAIMED FUNDS	333.29
AMBULANCE MEMORIAL FUND	7,565.86
ADJUTANT TAXON BUDGETED	58.09
SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	19,400.00
DRIVERS LICENSE	30.00
SPECIAL FIRE EQUIPMENT	47,350.39
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	9,488.39
TREASURER'S SPECIAL	20,978.62
STATE SALES TAX	16,622.42
CURRENT TAX	40,717.82
COUNTY REDEMPTION	9,814.38
DELINQUENT FP TAX	5,581.99
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING	-1,564.63
ATTORNEY FUND	3,344.33
FISH & GAME	4,832.50
PARK PERMITS	25.50
WATERFOWL	47.25
MORTGAGE REGISTRATION	76.32
MAPS	1,329.50
BEWELMAN TOWNSHIP	620.45
CALHOUN TOWNSHIP	6,982.73
CLEVELAND TOWNSHIP	783.48
JAGUA TOWNSHIP	7,307.57
HANDICAP EQUIPMENT	245.00
EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND	222,249.75
CCHCOUNTY HEALTH	19,820.08
PRAIRIE DOG	7,250.03
GRANT ANNUITY	19,427.89
TOTAL	3,258,781.60

I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENT IS COMPLETE, TRUE, AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF. SO HELP ME GOD.
DOLORES JENK COUNTY TREASURER (SOF)

640 ACRES CHEYENNE COUNTY CROPLAND, GRASS & IMPROVEMENTS

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SELLERS:
RON & JUDY LEVALLEY

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