

You can linger a little longer

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

Remember the days when you could linger a little longer down by the old soda fountain? That sounds like the carefree days of yesteryear, but it is still possible to find an old-time soda fountain in rural Kansas.

Sharolyn Wagner is owner of an old fashioned soda fountain in the rural community of Bennington, north of Salina. Sharolyn's parents were teachers at various schools so she moved around Kansas as a child. After graduating from Hays, she went to KU where she met Jay Wagner from Bennington.

Not long after they started dating, Jay had a birthday. Sharolyn, the typical broke college student, racked her brain for a special yet inexpensive gift which she could get for her new boyfriend. She had learned that he loved Dr. Pepper, so she bought him a six-pack of it. It was a hit and Sharolyn started collecting Dr. Pepper memorabilia.

Jay and Sharolyn were married. They moved back to his hometown of Bennington to help on the farm during the summer and stayed in an apartment above a pharmacy downtown. Then they moved back to college where Jay graduated in the top of his class at law school and Sharolyn became a manager at Hallmark.

In 1989, they moved to Bennington permanently to farm and raise their three children. Then the doctor in town closed his office, followed by the pharmacist.

In 1996, Jay and Sharolyn bought the historic building which had housed the pharmacy - the very same building where they had lived as newlyweds. It also contained a soda fountain and a beautiful back bar.

They wanted to reopen the soda fountain. "The kids need a place to gather, and this would be good for the community," Sharolyn said. But by then the building had fallen into major disrepair.

"Everything was wrong with the building," Sharolyn said. "It should have been demo'd, but the structural engineer said it was okay."

Sharolyn and Jay went to work. "Almost everything in here has been replaced, repaired, or repointed," Sharolyn said.

New plumbing and electricity were installed, along with new walls, coverings, some of the tin ceiling tiles, and floors. Wood came from the gym floor at the Bennington High School gym, although the lines from the basketball court had to be cut out. After years of work, the soda fountain reopened in 2010.

What to call this new venture? In the 1920s, there had been a recreation hall in the area named The Linger Longer. That historic name became the name of this new business.

"Marci Penner says there are 39 operating soda fountains in Kansas, but less than a handful that make their drinks the way we do," Sharolyn said. The Linger Longer makes drinks from scratch, blending syrup, soda water, and other flavorings. That

makes it possible to get a chocolate Coke or a strawberry Dr. Pepper or a butterscotch Green River.

What is a Green River? It's a lime-flavored drink that was popular over 100 years ago, but it's a big seller at The Linger Longer. Along with other hand-mixed fountain drinks, there is wonderful ice cream, malts, shakes and sundaes as well as cookies and hot meal specials.

Remember that collection of Dr. Pepper memorabilia? It is on display at The Linger Longer, featuring some of the 2,000 Dr. Pepper items which Sharolyn collected through the years. Especially interesting is the collection of cans of Dr. Pepper impostors, including such knock-offs as Dr. Topper, Dr. Perky, and Dr. Becker.

There's a toy train, an electric shock machine, pool and ping pong in the back plus an outside patio and more. All this has given new life to the downtown of the rural community of Bennington, population 627 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to www.thelingerlonger.com.

Remember when you could linger for a little longer down at the old soda fountain? It is still possible in Bennington, Kansas. We salute Sharolyn and Jay Wagner for making a difference by preserving this historic 100-year-old building and keeping this heritage alive. You're invited to stop by for a handmade Green River or a strawberry Dr. Pepper. If you're lucky, you can linger longer.

BIRTH

Inez Suzanne Schemper was born to Craig and Julia Schemper on Tuesday, July 24 at 6:10 a.m. at Norton County Hospital. Inez weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and was 21 inches long. Welcoming her home are her siblings, Isabelle, Deacon, Drew and Iris. Grandparents are Calvin and Wanda Schemper of Prairie View and John and Mary Ray of Abilene.



Equivalency test just clicks away

In striving to provide more adult learners throughout the state with a high school credential and basic technology skills, the Kansas Board of Regents is partnering with General Equivalency Diploma (GED) Testing Service to offer the test on computer. Online registration and scheduling is now available to test-takers and testing began Sept. 25.

Several new services will streamline the testing process and benefit adult learners who often need to move very quickly into jobs or training programs. These benefits include online scheduling and registration that is available 24/7, more testing flexibility for test-takers, instant unofficial

score reports and enhanced test security.

The computerized test will initially be offered in three locations across the state before it is eventually expanded. The testing centers are located at Hutchinson Community College, Garden City Community College and Johnson County Community College.

The test on computer is the same test currently offered on paper and pencil. Whether a candidate takes the test on paper or computer, it must be taken in person at an official testing center.

For adults interested in taking or learning more about the test on computer, please visit www.GEDtestingservice.com.

PUBLIC RECORD

Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

Sept. 6

Aug. 11-Amanda Majors, Norton; Charge: No proof of insurance; Other action: Dismissed/proof.

Aug. 8-Alec Hager, Alma; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106 and given restricted driver's license until Jan.2013.

Aug. 2-Robert Kearns, Republican City, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Aug. 21-Jamie McCracken, Muskogee, Okla.; Charge: Stop sign violation; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Aug. 4-James Comden, Michigan; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

June 6-Evan Chestnut, Phillipsburg; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Sept. 13

Aug. 11-James Essex, Alma; Charge: 1. Speeding 27 in 20, 2. No driver's license; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: 1. Fine \$30, 2. \$1,000 and 30 days jail. Fine to be reduced to \$100 and jail suspended if driver's license is reinstated by Georgia before Oct. 31, costs \$76, total \$1,106.

Aug. 25-Bradley Rehder, Olathe; Charge: Speeding 29 in 20; Plea: No contest; Found:

Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30 , costs \$76, total \$106.

Aug. 13-Carol Wardlow, Centerville, Iowa; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Aug. 25-Tyler Pierce, Grand Island, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 44 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106

Aug. 26-Marjorie Higgins, Kansas City, Mo.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Aug. 5-Gert Wetzel, Onalaska, Wisc.; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Aug. 17-Diane Farr, Goodland; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76,

total \$106.

Sept. 20

Jan. 20-Amanda Wilmes, Goodland; Charge: 1. Criminal use of a financial card, 2. Misdemeanor theft; Plea: 1. Guilty; Other action: 2. Dismissed/plea agreement; Found: 1. Guilty; Sentence: 1. \$500 fine and six months jail suspended if all fines due in District Court are paid by June 2013, 12 months probation, reimbursement of \$399, court costs \$76, appointed attorney fees and witness fees.

Sept. 7-Kelsey Obermiller, Norton; Charge: Loud stereo; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Sept. 7-Robert Vigil, Wheatridge, Colo.; Charge Speeding 50 in 35; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$60, costs \$76, total \$136.

Aug. 25-Stacce VanKooten, Phillipsburg; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Discrimination claims can be filed

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in past decades can file claims between Sept. 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013.

Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices from the department must file a claim by March 25, 2013 in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness. The opening of this claims process is part of department's ongoing efforts to correct the wrongs of the past and ensure fair treatment to all current and future customers.

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that the department denied their applications for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments,

plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The Department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants, around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants must register for a claims package (by calling the number or visiting the website) and the claims package will be mailed to claimants. All those interested in learning more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website or claims telephone number.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Claims Period: Sept. 24, 2012 - March 25, 2013.

CLUB NEWS

By Beverly Kindler

Members of GFWC Mid-Century met at The Gathering Place in Destination Kitchen to start their new program year.

Virginia Will, president, conducted the business meeting. She announced plans for the Sixth District Convention and asked for contributions of personal care items for veterans. Beverly Kindler will be the voting delegate to represent the club and will take the veterans' contributions.

Cheryl Scott, vice president, presented the program books and reviewed the programs for the year. The theme is "Pass-ports," with programs focusing

on sharing, the future, the past, caring and fun. Lyn Linde led the group in a Parliamentary Quiz.

Plans for the Operation Shoe Box project were announced. Members signed up in teams to fill a shoe box. The filled boxes will be displayed at the October meeting before being delivered to an area collection site. Millions of children in over 100 countries will experience the joy of Christmas through a gift filled shoe box.

Beverly Kindler presented reports on federated club conventions-GFWC of Kansas, GFWC International and the August

Board of Directors meeting.

Virginia presented a 50 year membership pin to Beverly.

Roll call was answered by 15 members and a guest, Donna Thomas, as they shared a special summer event.

Volunteer work is one of the goals of federation. Club members invite those interested in being involved, as a volunteer, in community projects to contact the officers or members about possible membership.

The next meeting was Sept. 27 for a salad supper and program. Doris Winteroth and Fonda Lawrence were hostesses.

Duplicate Bridge

There were three tables for Duplicate Bridge played Wednesday night at Norton Manor. First place honors went to Jackie Porter and Joyce Sumner and in second place was the pairing of Carla Latimer and Bob Jones.

Sept. 28- Oct. 3

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE

The Possession

(PG-13) 1 Hour and 40 Minutes

Friday and Saturday - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday - 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed., 7:00 p.m.

The Expendables 2

(Presented in Digital Surround Sound)
1 Hour, 53 Minutes,
(R)

All passes accepted for The Possession;
All passes accepted for The Expendables 2

The Possession is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday
The Expendables 2 is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday

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nortontheatre.com

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No Appointment Needed

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WEST HWY. 36, NORTON

Wed., Oct. 3 - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For Questions, Please Call:
785-877-2133

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Ribbon Cutting and Refreshments
Friday, October 5
1:30-3:30 p.m.