

Decoration Days of childhood

Decoration Day was always on May 31 in the years before Monday holidays with the attendant long weekends came into being. It was also the official beginning of summer as far as kids were concerned since school ran until the very end of May, having begun on the day following Labor Day. It heralded official "white shoe" season, the first family picnic, and most important, it was a day of supreme garden anxiety. Would the peonies bloom too soon, too late, or just in time?

Mama spent the last week of May anxiously checking peony buds every morning. If we had a mild spring and the buds were burgeoning too early, they were picked at a certain stage, carefully swaddled in newspapers and stored in the bottom of the refrigerator in hopes they would hold until the big day. If a late spring delayed budding, much fretting took place. Either way it meant the bath tub would be filled with buckets of warm water on the evening of May 30 and in those buckets, bundles of peony buds being coaxed to open to full blossom before the sun rose on Decoration Day.

In the meantime, tall fruit juice cans were covered with foil, tied 'round with ironed-out ribbons salvaged from gifts. A few treasured paper mache baskets saved from funeral arrangements, complete with slightly bedraggled bows, were brought up from the basement and prepared for the major arrangements. We needed at least a dozen bouquets for the Caferty family graves plus a pansy bowl for remembrance of a dear old friend.

Child of the '40s

Liza Deines



Morning dawned and found Mama in the garden, cutting every daisy, pansy, iris, rose and any other flower that had dared to open. Not a single bloom escaped her scissors. Dad muttered under his breath about "foolishness" but each year he faithfully got the water jugs ready and managed to get the picnic basket safely stowed in the trunk, wrapped in damp burlap to keep it cool. I sat among the containers in the back seat, charged with keeping them from tipping, pansy bowl on my lap. Mama balanced a bucket of fragile iris between her feet and off we went to the Hill City cemetery, a whole twenty-five miles north, at about forty miles per hour. En route we stopped to pick wild roses and yucca spikes, which proliferated along the roadsides.

In and around all of the floral preparations, food had also been prepared. Fresh rolls, tiny beet pickles, the first of the little green onions and radishes and always Mama's cocoa red chocolate layer cake, held precariously together with toothpicks and fudge frosting. Aunt Florence brought a basketful of farm-raised fried chicken, green beans and homemade butter, Aunt Mabel brought relishes of all kinds and her awful black cherry and black olive jello salad. No one ever forgot the

year she first brought hot cherry peppers and Mama, unaware of their "kick", popped one in her mouth. She spent the rest of the day guzzling lemonade trying to cool off her tongue. Uncle Jack teased her forever after

Flags and twenty-one gun salutes, addresses by veterans in slightly snug uniforms, the mournful sound of "Taps", then flowers and graves, shared memories of those gone before, hugs with a tear or two filled the morning. Family, fun and fried chicken followed at the green stone shelter-house in the Hill City park and the day ended with a twilight drive home. Mama, at last relaxed, each year declared, "I think this year's flowers were the prettiest ever." Decoration Day will always be these things to me.

Memorial Day weekend is a whole different occasion. Since my marriage in 1960 we have gone to Zion Cemetery south of WaKeeney where my husband's family, and now my husband, are buried. It is much more a worship service than a patriotic celebration. At the farm my brothers-in-law grill hamburgers, the nieces and nephews play softball, at and visit and later they all load into the pickup and go out to "help" feed cattle. It is a joy and a pleasure that I look forward to all year, another treasured family tradition, but it can never replace the Decoration Days of my childhood.

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BIRTH

Kayne Bralan Henderson was born in Hays on May 15, at 8:43 a.m. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces, and was 19 inches long. The proud parents are Gavlin and Leann Henderson of Norton.



Sunflower holds 56th annual meeting

Sunflower Electric Power Corp. held its 56th annual meeting at Pioneer Electric Cooperative Inc. in Ulysses, Kan., on May 17, 2013. The board of directors received the annual report of the corporation, which is available on the Sunflower website, and elected officers for the upcoming year.

Stuart Lowry, Sunflower's president and chief executive officer, and other key staff discussed current and future projects.

Keynote speaker Ed Cross, president of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, spoke to the importance of oil and gas to the national economy and gave an overview of the type of drilling activity that is expected in south-central Kansas and northern Oklahoma.

Following the board meeting, an organizational meeting was conducted by the board to elect leadership for the coming year.

Charles McK. Ayers, a representative of Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., was elected to succeed Loren Ochs as chairman of the board of directors.

Ochs, a representative of The Victory Electric Cooperative Association Inc., had served on Sunflower's board of directors for 34 years. Jim Imel, a representative of Victory, was elected vice chairman.

Darrin Lynch, general manager of Western Cooperative Electric Association Inc., was also seated on the board of directors. Lynch replaced Dave Schneider, who retired after 23 years on the Sunflower board.

In addition to the election of officers, the board appointed Corey Linville as vice president of power supply and delivery. Linville, who has been employed at Sunflower since 1993, will supervise activities that ensure reliable generation and transmission service, such as power flow monitoring and resource planning, to Sunflower's six members-owners.

"During our annual meeting at which the election of officers occurs, we are especially reminded of the important contribution electric cooperatives make to our economy and way of life," Lowry said. "As al-

ways, Sunflower's board comprises directors that take very seriously the obligation to those they serve and remain committed to providing reliable energy at the lowest possible cost."

About Sunflower
Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale generation and transmission supplier that operates wind, gas, and coal-based generating units and a 2,433-mile transmission system for the needs of its member cooperatives who serve in central and western Kansas.

Sunflower's member cooperatives include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Inc., Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative Inc., Ulysses; Prairie Land Electric Cooperative Inc., Norton; The Victory Electric Cooperative Association Inc., Dodge City; Western Cooperative Electric Association Inc., WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Cooperative Inc., Scott City, Kansas. For more information, please visit Sunflower's website at www.sunflower.net.

Publishers agree to refund e-book consumers

Kansas consumers who have purchased e-books may be entitled to credits or refunds from two publishers following the partial resolution of a multi-state antitrust investigation, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said recently.

Kansas, along with 32 other states and territories and class action counsel, has reached agreements with Penguin Group (USA), Inc., and Holtzbrinck Publishers, LLC, d/b/a Macmillan to settle allegations that Penguin and Macmillan colluded with other major publishers and Apple, Inc., to manipulate prices in the e-book market.

"Consumers have the right to a fair price, set by the mar-

ketplace, for products they purchase," Schmidt said. "Our office is dedicated to ensuring a fair and competitive marketplace where prices are determined by supply and demand, not by price fixing."

The agreements with Penguin and Macmillan must be approved by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. When finalized, the agreements will grant e-book outlets greater freedom to reduce the prices of their e-book titles.

Eligible consumers will be contacted and offered refunds or customer credits to compensate for over-charges on previous e-book purchases. Consum-

ers nationwide will receive \$75 million in compensation from Penguin, and \$20 million from Macmillan.

Kansas has previously settled with three other publishers - Hachette Book Group, Inc., HarperCollins Publishers, L.L.C., and Simon & Schuster, Inc. - for allegations relating to the same conduct. Consumers nationwide will receive another \$70 million in compensation as a result of the settlements with those publishers.

The Kansas antitrust action based on the same allegations against Apple, Inc., remains pending with trial scheduled in June.

SENIOR CENTER

Monday, June 3 - Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, biscuit and pears.

Tuesday, June 4 - Meatballs, scalloped potatoes, peas, bread and gelatin w/fruit.

Wednesday, June 5 - Chicken and rice casserole, stewed tomatoes, applesauce, bread and cook's choice complement.

Thursday, June 6 - Liver and onions w/gravy, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, bread and apricots.

Friday, June 7 - Tate tot casserole, 3-bean salad, bread and hot cinnamon apple slices.

Monday, June 10 - Baked fish, green bean casserole, Harvard beets, bread and Mandarin oranges.

Tuesday, June 11 - Ham and beans, cantaloupe, cornbread and bar cookie.

Wednesday, June 12 - Sloppy Joe's, parsley potatoes, cottage cheese salad, bun and hot fruit cobbler.

Thursday, June 13 - Paprika

chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, mixed vegetables, bread and Ambrosia fruit salad.

Friday, June 14 - Lasagna, tossed salad w/carrots and tomatoes, peaches, garlic bread and Krisp Rice bar.

Monday, June 17 - Smothered steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas and carrots, bread and cook's choice fruit.

Tuesday, June 18 - Chili dog, broccoli salad, bun and tropical fruit.

Wednesday, June 19 - Chicken and pasta salad, strawberries/bananas, breadstick and cookie.

Thursday, June 20 - Roast beef w/gravy, mashed potatoes, apricots, bread and birthday cake.

Friday, June 21 - Spanish rice

w/ground beef, Italian blend vegetables, mixed fruit and bread pudding.

Monday, June 24 - Pork patty, hash brown casserole, seasoned carrots, bun and orange-pineapple salad.

Tuesday, June 25 - Chef salad, cantaloupe, crackers and brownie.

Wednesday, June 26 - BBQ chicken, potato salad, pork and beans, bread and watermelon.

Thursday, June 27 - Cook's choice entree, corn casserole, cucumber and tomato salad, bread and peaches.

Friday, June 28 - Meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, green beans, bread and gelatin with fruit.

Nursing department awarded \$50,000 grant

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation has awarded the Department of Nursing at Fort Hays State University a \$50,000 grant to provide scholarship support for undergraduate nursing students enrolled in the registered nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs.

"This scholarship will help students afford a higher education from the Department of Nursing," said Dr. Christine Hober, chair of the Department of Nursing. "The expectations for the nursing profession have grown exponentially to include more complex patient care in all arenas of health care."

"In addition to caring for complex patient needs," she said, "nurses are expected to demonstrate competency in the ar-

reas of evidence-based practice, health policy and cost, quality improvement, technology and information management systems, coordination of care, and collaboration with other professionals."

A maximum of 25 students, enrolling full-time or part-time, will be eligible for this scholarship yearly. Applicants must live in a northwest Kansas county while attending Fort Hays State University, meet all admission criteria for the RN to BSN program, and agree to work full-time in a northwest Kansas community for at least two years after graduation.

Eligible counties are: Cheyenne, Cloud, Decatur, Ellis, Ellsworth, Gove, Graham, Jewell, Lincoln, Logan, Mitchell,

Norton, Osborne, Ottawa, Phillips, Rawlins, Republic, Rooks, Russell, Saline, Sheridan, Sherman, Smith, Thomas, Trego and Wallace.

For more information, contact the Department of Nursing at 785-628-4255.

WATER AEROBICS CLASSES
to be offered by Norton County Hospital's
Physical Therapy Department
Norton Municipal Swimming Pool
Tuesdays and Thursdays, Weather Permitting,
JUNE 11 THROUGH AUGUST 1
WE ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS TO WEAR WATER SHOES
Low Impact Classes: 5:00-5:30 p.m.
High Impact Classes: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
\$25.00 Paid First Night of Class at the Pool
• NO EARLY REGISTRATION REQUIRED •

Do you love to garden and share your produce?
Design crafts from plants?
Proud of your 'family favorite' jams and jellies, baked breads, muffins, pies?
Do you like to be your own boss?
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JOIN OUR VENDOR TEAM AT THE
New Norton Farmers Market!
PRIME LOCATION ON HWY. 36, NORTON

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STARTING JUNE 15
Great Advertising, Organized, Low Stall Fees, Vendor Workshops + More!

Learn and grow with us to provide the upper northwest with fresh fruits, vegetables and grains; locally raised eggs, honey, meat and cheese products.

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Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE
Epic-in 3D
1 Hours, 53 Minutes (PG-13)
Fri. and Sat.: 7:00 and 9:35 p.m.
Sun. and Mon.: 5:00 and 7:35 p.m.
Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

Star Trek
Into the Darkness - in 3D
2 Hours, 19 Minutes (PG-13)

Epic-in 3D is a Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00. NO Sunday Discount
Star Trek is a Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00. NO Sunday Discount

Friday, May 31
the Great Gatsby (PG-13)-
based off the award winning novel

COMING SOON

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

Tickets are on sale for bull riding event in Phillipsburg

Tickets are on sale for the June 1 Phillipsburg PBR.

Pro Bull Riding is the nation's premier bull riding association, and the event in Phillipsburg is part of the PBR's Touring Pro Division, with about 40 bull riders scheduled to compete.

The Phillipsburg PBR is the culmination of the weekend's Riverless Festival. Riverless Festival activities include a Fun Run, Kids' Pedal Pull, Kansas Cushman Club Show, Turtle Races, Car and Bike Show, inflatable games, free swim, seniors' men's open golf tournament, and live entertainment and

vendors on the square. Riverless Festival activities are throughout the day on June 1, with the PBR beginning at 8 pm.

Tickets can be purchased at Heritage Insurance Co. in Phillipsburg (785-543-2448) with a credit card. Ticket prices are \$18 for general admission, \$20 for adult reserved and \$10 for children reserved seating. Box seats and chute seats are still available. For more information, visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/philippsburgpbr or call 785-543-2448.