

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service has been set for Norcatur resident Eric Danny Milnes who died Feb. 12, 2013 at the age of 54.

Services will be on Saturday, April 27 at the Eagles Aerie, 16614 Eagles Rd., Norton, at 1:30 p.m.

Life's elegant rock garden

An acquaintance of mine has created an elegant rock garden in the corner of her back yard. It's a quiet, relaxing spot cleverly constructed with various sizes, shapes and colors of rocks. With the passing of the seasons a wide variety of carefully chosen flowers and plants grace its surfaces. I stood admiring it, wishing I'd ever thought of asking LeRoy to build us a rock garden with all those rocks that were piled helter-skelter on our patio.

"Well, this one was built out of necessity," my friend explained as I "oohed and ahhed" over her creativity. She led me around through her vegetable garden, which backed up the rocks with a tier of railroad ties held in place with stakes. "See, we had this odd rise at the corner with an outcropping of a boulder too big to be moved. It was in direct view from our dining room windows. We tried various plantings but nothing really looked right. Then my husband, the scavenger, came home with a broken slab of slate discarded from a construction site. It finally occurred to me if life was going to give rocks, why not make a rock garden."

I'm sure there are entire books on how to build rock gardens, but here is the simple procedure she and her husband used to create a yard feature that has only improved over the years. Their first step was to settle a solid foundation by digging out the area and lining it with heavy black plastic, which was sprinkled with a mixture of gravel

Pieces of life's puzzle

Liza Deines



and sand and secured with corrugated landscaping edging. Terraced layers were planned around the upslope of the corner using flat cuts from the cracked slab. They hauled in some large pasture boulders and packed fill dirt mixed with peat moss and some mulch mixture from their backyard compost bin around them, adding a few smaller stones and a patch of bricks here and there. They watered it all down and left it about ten days to see where nooks and crannies would appear, where water would run off when it rained and how it would settle down. It was nearing fall by the time they got this far so they scatter planted clusters of bulbs for spring daffodils and tulips, then set a few pots of chrysanthemums here and there as a temporary fix while they planned for spring.

At that point in her narrative, the similarities between her garden and our lives struck me. How many of us have some inconvenient trouble or an area in our life we consider ugly; some element we would like to disguise? Is there anything we can do to add variety of color, texture and strength to the sad part of life? Here, too, a good foundation is essential as well as some temporary fixes. An

unexpected problem or situation may urge us into action or show us we can achieve something beautiful we didn't know we could do. A job change, an unplanned move, even a health failure can be turned to benefit if looked at from a different perspective.

Plants with strong, wiry root systems help hold soil in a rock garden just as we need a good support system to keep us going. My friend, still pasture hunting, had transplanted three yucca plants, those beautiful "candles of the desert", to look pretty not only in their spring blooming season but in the fall and winter when their dry pods are decorative. Iris, with their sturdy rhizome roots, are another attractive and wise choice to enrich height and color while holding tight to the earth. Low, vining and clinging plants, such as creeping phlox, cover and hold the lower areas. Fat purple grape hyacinths make an excellent border. Add some violets and tiny violas to peek out of soil niches. Life needs variety, too. Soften the rocky places with a few shy, quiet friends, some stalwart acquaintances to keep you grounded, a few flamboyant, colorful people for a splash of color and, of course, friendly neighbors to share the joy.

Got a problem? Build a rock garden!

Liza Deines
1098 NE Independence Ave. #230
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
childofthe40s@gmail.com
816-554-0398

Forest service to host field day event

With the current drought in Kansas, it is important for landowners, farmers, ranchers and natural resource professionals to focus on conservation and management.

On May 8, the Kansas Forest Service will host the 2013 Agroforestry Field Day in Trego County to educate participants on current issues facing agroforestry in Kansas.

The field day, located near WaKeeney, on the farm of Dave and Mary Hendricks, will focus on the wildlife habitat the Hendricks have created through planting and renovating windbreaks and establishing native grass and wildflower plantings. Suggestions on row removal, selective thinning, watering and establishing additional tree rows will be provided.

The Hendricks are known throughout western Kansas for their wildlife habitat and conservation achievements. The couple will be recognized by the Kansas Forestry Association and the Kansas Forest Service as recipients of the 2013 Kansas Agroforestry Award. The award is presented to landowners who do an exceptional job implementing agroforestry practices on their property such as riparian forest buffers and shelter-belts.

Issues to be covered at the field day include:

*With the current drought stressing windbreaks throughout western Kansas becoming a challenge, Jim Strine and Bob Atchison, Kansas Forest Service foresters, will provide tips on how to maintain and renovate older windbreaks and shelter-belts using one of the many windbreaks the Hendricks have on their property. Participants also will receive the latest information on financial assistance available to implement windbreak renovation projects.

*Stacie Edgett-Minson, K-State Research and Extension watershed specialist, will share her knowledge of water quality and quantity issues and offer suggestions to participants on practices to implement.

*Burning the prairie helps ensure the health of grass and range lands. Unfortunately, many landowners are hesitant to burn or do not plan adequately. Windbreaks on the Hendricks' farm have been damaged by wildfire for that very reason. Michele Witecha, Kansas Forest Service wildlife ecologist and rangeland fire specialist, will

provide a session on how to develop a burn plan that accomplishes specific management interests while lowering the risk of wildfire potential.

*Nikki Opbroek, Kansas Forest Service forest health specialist, will offer an update on potential health threats to trees and shrubs (including drought) and provide both diagnosis and control recommendations for the major tree problems people encounter in western Kansas. Foresters will also provide suggestions on appropriate tree and shrub species to plant in the Trego County area.

*Mule deer have a different set of habitat requirements compared to upland birds and are regular visitors to the Hendricks farm. Dave Hendricks will show participants how windbreaks can be used as a fawning area for mule deer and discuss how landowners can encourage mule deer habitat on their properties.

*Winners of the 2012 Kansas Wildlife Federation's Land and Soil Wildlife Conservationist award, Randy Rogers and Helen Hands will provide both the landowner as well as the professional wildlife biologist perspective on how to improve habitat for upland birds. Last season hunters harvested an estimated 475,000 pheasants and this year's numbers are down by almost 50 percent.

*With a population decline of more than 90 percent since settlement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species. Mark Witecha, a Pheasants Forever biologist, will be on hand to discuss the habitat needs of this important species and suggest conservation practices that foster lesser prairie chicken and other important grassland birds.

Registration for the field day will begin at 8 a.m. A hot lunch will be provided as part of a \$10 registration fee. To register, checks should be written to Kansas State University, and mailed to the Kansas Forest Service, Agroforestry Field Day, 2610 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS 66502-2798. More information about the field day may be obtained by calling Bob Atchison, rural forestry coordinator, at 785-532-3310 or by checking out the News and Events section on their website at www.kansasforests.org.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "American Legacy: Our National Parks," April 12 - June 16. In this exhibit, 38 members and guests of the Plein-Air Painters of America set up their easels in national sites across the country. The artists are among the country's most respected plein-air painters. Each artist selected a favorite park to document. The more than fifty paintings depict sites from coast to coast, border to border, and from the earliest

park designation to one of the most recent. The exhibition is a "field journal" experience that draws viewers into seasonal and daily experiences of color and light rendered in pigment on paper or canvas. In some instances, the field studies were used to create larger, studio paintings.

The annual meeting was held Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. in the Dane G. Hansen Community room. We had 25 in attendance for a wonderful afternoon. Deb Berg was recognized for 35

years of service to the museum. Professors Ben Cline and Matt Means from the Fort Hays State College Music Department presented a wonderful musical program. The drawing was held for the Arts & Crafts chain saw artist carving and the winner was Edith Schick.

Our April Artist of the Month will be Barbara Morton from WaKeeney. She has quilt pieces and crocheted afghans on display. Come in and check out her beautiful display of her talent.

'Just desserts'



The Northern Valley Forensics team hosted "Just Desserts" on Tuesday, April 16 in Alma. There were several performances and during intermission everyone enjoyed the many desserts. Students qualifying for the state competition on May 4 are Alex Tharman, Makayla Smith, Macy Kasson, Eli Lowry, Camden Cox and Ame Baird.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

What a difference a year makes

Kay Melia
vkmelia@yahoo.com

My goodness, what a difference in garden seasons from year to year!

I was looking over my notes from last year's gardening experience, and quickly decided that strange things are taking place in THIS year's garden.

I'm writing this on April 12 in order to get it to the paper on time.

Let's see now...the temperature outside yesterday afternoon at this time was 47 degrees. Last year on the 12th of April, the high was 75 degrees. Our low yesterday morning was 15 and the morning before it was 13. Last year, the low was 40.

This year, my spinach, peas, radishes, lettuce, and green onions were planted on April 4. There's nary a sign of them emerging yet, mainly because the soil temperature is down to 36 degrees. A year ago, my spinach, peas, radishes, lettuce and green onions were all up and thriving, and the soil temperature was 51 degrees!

This year, I haven't even planted my potatoes, broccoli, or onion plants yet, which may, inadvertently, be a smart move.

Last year, there was not a single temperature reading of less than 32 degrees in the entire month of April. This year, the thermometer seems to struggle to push the mercury up as high as 32 degrees on any given morning.

Last year, my 30 year old apricot trees were in full bloom on April 7th. This year, the buds are apparently already frozen and there have been no blooms.

While I cannot legitimately blame the weath-

er, my indoor tomato and pepper transplants just don't seem to be doing too well. Some are almost ready to be moved to their individual pots, while others are barely emerging. Last year, ALL the transplants had been potted by now.

As previously mentioned, it was 15 degrees yesterday morning, and outside on the patio, a big tom turkey wandered in and was eating the cat food. Occasionally, he would shout a few "gobble gobbles" as if to say "could I please come in and get warm," obviously ignoring the fact that the turkey hunting season still has several weeks to go.

On Facebook yesterday, someone remarked that "it's been a beautiful winter this spring." Down-town at coffee, someone wondered out loud what had happened to global warming that he was sure had been a part of our environment last summer. Sadly, wheat farmers have got to be wondering if there will be anything to harvest this summer.

And gardeners? Well, certainly it was a rather short season for tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowering bulbs. We hardly had a chance to notice. Early season vegetables will be delayed due to snowmelt and below normal temperatures. The forecast doesn't sound good.

Late season crops, those usually planted from May 5 through the 15, like tomatoes, beans, and cucumbers....who knows? Surely Mother Nature will soon return the weather pattern to more normal expectations, whatever that is.

And if you spot a turkey on your patio, kindly remind him to take cover, else the growing season may be shortened for him, too!

Congressmen file 'no hungry kids act'

Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa) and Tim Huelskamp (R-Kansas) re-introduced the "No Hungry Kids Act." The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has released new mandates that have left children across the nation hungry during the school day because of calorie rationing. The "No Hungry Kids Act" repeals this USDA regulation that created the new mandates, prohibits the USDA's upper caloric limits, and protects the rights of parents to send their children to school with the foods of their choice.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp said: "The voluminous menu that's good enough for the federal bureaucrats' cafeteria should be good enough for our children's school lunchroom. If USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack thinks the federal government should dictate what local governments put on their school lunchroom menus, why isn't he leading by example? The outcry of hungry schoolchildren has spread across the country ever since the high school students in Sharon Springs, Kansas publicized their protest via YouTube."

Congressman Steve King said: "We passed the Act here in Congress in order to make sure that the kids going to school got enough to eat. And now we have the USDA capping the calories, putting every American student on a diet. They've limited the amount of calories that you can have and described the kind of nutrition that you must have, and it's everyone on a diet. My 'No Hungry Kids Act' eliminates the

calorie cap and puts them back to rewriting the rule again, so that these schools can serve our students as much nutritious food as they want, so that our students

can grow and learn and excel, in school and out of school- in the classroom and on the baseball field."

Angel Eyes Boutique

Redefine your look . . . we are working with the doctors who created Proactive and we are carrying the 2nd Generation Skin Line. It's a wonderful skin product that fights anti-aging and makes your skin glow and feel young again.

HOURS: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

103 S. State, Norton, KS
Phone: 785-874-8030

Skin Care, Clothing,
and Lingerie
Kim Ellis, Owner

Let's Go to the Movie

Showing at the
NORTON THEATRE

Olympus Has Fallen
2 Hours, 9 Minutes (R)
Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.

Jack and the Giant Slayer-in 3D
2 Hours, 3 Minutes (PG-13)

Jack and the Giant Slayer is a Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00, \$3/tax on Sunday
Olympus Has Fallen is a Premiere movie - \$7.00 and \$6.00, \$3/tax on Sunday

COMING SOON

Visit our Website:
nortontheatre.com

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram