12 St. Francis Herald Thursday, May 3, 2007

## May Meat Madness 72 Hour Meat Sale

Prices Good Thurs, Fri & Sat, May 3, 4 & 5, 2007

AT ST. FRANCIS SUPER'S!





 ${f CAREFREE}$   ${f GARDENER}$  was the setting last Thursday for a  ${f right}$  right, explained to the group how the weed barriers made gargroup of northwest Kansas ag agents to tour. The group also  $\,\,$  dening easier and more enjoyable. toured several other nurseries in the area. Dustin Gilliland,

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Group tours weed barrier facility

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com On Thursday, a group of northwest Kansas ag agents toured the Carefree Gardener plant on Lorraine and Fourth streets.

This was part of the "horticulture" tour which was lined up by Sandra Wick, Smith Center exten-

This group also toured the Golden Plains Nursery in Colby and Doug Music, Thomas County Extension, explained the recently landscaped Extension demonstration garden with two turf grass plots, a native plot, walking paths, along with plots of mixed perennial and annual flowers for northwest

Carefree Gardener opened in 2004 with two facilities. It employed nine people to produce the "Watering Weedless Wonder."

The product is basically a mat made out of a sturdy woven weed barrier with finished edges to ensure the mat lays flat (even in northwest Kansas winds), heat-cut planting openings which vary with the kinds of mats, and a sturdy type of soaker hose is enclosed next to the

planting openings. Jim Milliken, owner and devel-

oper, said the mat makes garden- control device on the female end nips, peas and broccoli are recoming easier or, takes the "ing" out of the hose limits water supply to of gardening leaving only a "gar-approximately 1 pint per minute

Most people love having a garden plants from seedlings to healthy, full-sized plants. Gardening generally requires bending and stooping, and watering and weeding before the garden begins to produce. The mat reduces weed growth while providing an efficient and effective watering system.

There are several types of mats (and more models are in the etables such as radishes, lettuce, plans). The mats are 44- by-58inch mats made of UV resistant polypropylene material (weed barrier) which allows air and water to pass through the top into the ground but will not let weeds grow. The weed barrier also helps keep the ground moist. Around the edges is a rubber strip which is encased by heat bonding. There are also grommets on the corners and sides which allow multiple

mats to be linked together. Each mat has a 3/8-inch porous hose similar to most soaker hoses. The hose is encased in the weed

and it takes about 10 minutes a day to water the plants in the mat. At but dislike constantly nurturing this rate, the water slowly seeps into the soil and there is no waste

or run-off. The mat can be quickly installed after the ground is prepared for planting. Once the soil or root zone is wet, it will retain moisture with minimal additional water by reducing evaporation.

Early planting of spring vegcarrots, onions, spinach, beets, tur-

mended. When these vegetables are harvested, it is time to plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, okra and eggplant. In the fall or late summer when the summer vegetables are basically done producing, gardeners can go back to planting the spring vegetables

Anyone interested in seeing or purchasing the mats are welcome to stop by the Carefree Gardener office at 116 W. Washington, St. Francis or call 785-332-2552. More information can be received by visthe

www.carefreegardener.com.



All horses must be boarded at the Stampede Corral (Owner not responsible for lost, stolen, or missing horses)

Located at Southwind Plaza, Colby, KS

## Transports reviewed

By Karen Krien

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Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County Sheriff, told the commissioners Monday that he had received a lot of complaints that city police cars have been out of the county. He said he has used the city vehicles to transport prisoners to and from Goodland and the county pays for the gas.

He had talked to the county's insurance company who said the sheriff's vehicles and occupants would be covered even if it was being driven by a city police officer.

The sheriff called for 12 minutes executive session to discuss personnel. After 12 minutes, the commissioners came out of session and asked for another 10 minutes.

When coming out, the sheriff said that, pending background and other checks along with approval from the Bird City City Council, Cody Beeson would be hired as the deputy and will site: cover the Bird City area.

Sheriff Gardner said he and Carol

## Teacher Appreciation recognized

The St. Francis PTA will be recognizing the teachers throughout the week of May 6-12 in celebrating National PTA Teacher Appre-

ciation Week. "We want to focus local attention on the outstanding contributions teachers make to our children and our community," said Jo Rogers, PTA president.

During the special week, resibarrier right next to the openings dents and parents are asked to help where there will be plants. A flow- the PTA show teachers the appre- gift certificate. Elementary teachers

ciation they deserve.

"Teachers, in partnership with parents, truly make a difference in the lives of our children," she said.

Seventy-three percent of teachers entered the profession because they wanted to work with young people and 68 percent state that this is why they continue to teach.

Some of the ways parents and oth-

ers can help show appreciation is: • Contribute supplies or give a

spend an average of \$498 per year of their own money to meet the needs of their students.

• Give a small token of apprecia-

• Help a child created their own

thank you note or poster to give to

• Write a note of appreciation to your child's teacher.

signs and banners giving thanks to

• Have local businesses put up

the old sheriff's office in the courthouse to be used as the new 911 dispatcher office. However, carpet is needed. He proposed taking the money from the Capital Outlay Fund and get the carpet laid before the equipment came in. Both commissioners Andy Beikman and Ernie Ketzner had been

Gamblin, who will be the supervisor

of the new 911 facility, had been look-

ing into additional grants to cut ex-

penses when the new system goes in.

However, the sheriff will not know if

they have the grant funds until the first

of January. So the office will not be

short of funds, the sheriff advised that

the commissioners have built the full

amount of expenses into the 2008

The commissioners had approved

informed that the hospital in St. Francis has an area that could be used for the 911 dispatch. The hospital has a back-up generator in case there is a disaster. The center would be completely secured which is necessary.

The sheriff said the state of Kansas is pushing law offices to go to a 800 megahertz radio frequency that will be used in the surrounding northwest Kansas counties. He said county officials have fought against it because of the cost. A grant has been obtained to cover some of the costs but it will cost each county \$500 for licensing. Other equipment will be purchased with Homeland Security Grants.

The commissioners asked about the Quad County Task Force and the sheriff said this was a matter that would need to be discussed in executive session and he will set up a meeting some other time.