



**STAR, the adopted dog at Salem Lutheran Church, took part in the Memorial plaque dedication.**

Photos by Casey McCormick



**A VETERAN plaque is dedicated at Salem Cemetery on Sunday in honor of Art Knodel.**

# Musicians to entertain community with redneck concert

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The Rednecks and Red Dirt concert is set for Saturday, June 12, 4 miles south and 2 miles east of Wheeler. The gates open at 1 p.m. and the first performance begins at 2. There will be six acts total with the last show going up to around midnight.

There will be at-the-gate admission but people can go on line to buy in advance. See the ad in this week's issue of *The Herald*. Inside the gates, there will be barbecue food, beer and other various concessions. Everyone is encouraged to bring their chair as there is no seating provided.

The entertainment was coordinated by local guy, Justin McAtee, and his friend, Matt Wilson, formerly from Oakley, now of Southlake, Texas. Their first concert was held in October and it was so successful, that they decided to host a second, and, hopefully, many more.

"A big reason why we are so excited about Rednecks and Red Dirt is the music itself," said Mr. Wilson, who is the manager for The Backroad Drifters.

"I know growing up in Western Kansas, most everyone listened to either country music or classic rock. I would venture a guess that 75 percent of the population would say their favorite music was one of those two genres."

Red Dirt music is a great blend of Outlaw Country and Classic Rock. Many of the artists in Red Dirt Music draw country influences from

Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Johnny Paycheck, etc. The rock influences could include, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Allman Brothers, and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

The bands in Rednecks and Red Dirt are mainly up-and-comers.

"We want to provide a platform for these bands to gain exposure in a festival style event,"

Phil Hamilton and the Backroad Drifters is the hottest new band in Texas right now. They released their first album in April and their first single is currently at No. 29 on the Texas Music charts.

"They are a very talented Red Dirt band with a strong rock edge," Mr. Wilson said. "They put on a phenomenal live show."

Kevin Pickett and Southern Rain have a new album out and one of their first singles has broken into the charts and is currently No. 90.

Blaine Younger has been one of the best alternative country bands in Kansas for a few years now and has a new album that was just released earlier this year.

Jared Daniels Band and Reckless Rebellion have been making waves in Manhattan and are very popular with the K-State crowd.

These are all independent artists, Mr. Wilson said. Having a major record deal is not the primary focus for these artists.

In Red Dirt music, Mr. Wilson said, it is truly about the music and connecting with the fans. At Rednecks and Red Dirt each artist will spend time interacting with fans

- taking pictures and signing autographs.

"It is really cool for the fans," he said. "There are not many concerts that you can go to and meet all the artists."

**How it came to St. Francis**

Mr. McAtee and Mr. Wilson have been great friends since they were in junior high school. They became friends through sports where they were very spirited competitors through high school.

That competition, Mr. Wilson said, developed respect and friendship that we continue today. A couple times a year, we make plans to get together and do something fun. Most of the time this means we take a trip somewhere to play golf.

A year ago, the idea came up to try and get a Red Dirt band up to St. Francis. Matt was friends with some guys in a band from Ft Worth called Phil Hamilton and the Backroad Drifters. They were a fairly new band, but Mr. McAtee really liked them and wanted somehow to get them to come to Northwest Kansas for a show.

"It seemed like a tall order at the time, so we shelved the idea," Mr. Wilson said.

In July last year, while they were playing golf, the discussion to get Phil Hamilton to St. Francis resurfaced. Only now Mr. Wilson was Hamilton's business manager and agent.

"We thought it sounded like a lot of fun so I start working on it and

see what we could do," he said.

While the idea sounded simple - like a backyard barbecue with live music with everyone they knew - there were a lot of details to work out. How would they raise the money? If they asked for contributions from those who came to the show, they would need a big crowd.

Then there was the PA system. That would require hiring a professional sound production crew with a sound engineer.

"That's pricey," Mr. Wilson said. "If we were going to get that big of a crowd, we needed a big PA system."

That led to more bands, food, beverage and portable toilets. Before long, it was a full-blown concert.

"And, with that, Rednecks and Red Dirt was born," he said.

Now, he said, we want to establish an annual music festival in St. Francis.

Mr. Wilson, having lived in Northwest Kansas while growing up, feels this project is very personal to him and Mr. McAtee.

"I always wanted to bring something back to Northwest Kansas that would benefit the area," he said, "And this music festival seems like a good opportunity to do that."

"I know it probably won't solve any problems but, we can provide some great entertainment and hopefully a little economic benefit to some of these small towns."



**PHIL HAMILTON and The Backroad Drifters will be part of the entertainment on the night of the concert.**

**Memorial Service for Wendell Kite will be held**  
**Saturday, June 12**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**at the United Methodist Church**  
**in St. Francis**

**"BIBLE" BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 7-11, 2010**  
**5:30 - 8 p.m.**  
**St. Francis**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**Ages 3-5th Grade are invited to attend!**

**Cheyenne County Wildlife**  
**will be taking orders for pheasant and quail chicks.**  
 If interested contact Martin Hilt at 785-332-0128. Must call by June 7th.

**Scentsy Open House**  
 414 E. Webster Street  
**Saturday, June 5**  
**2 - 4 p.m.**

Door prizes for the early birds!

**Take 10 Years off your Face**  
 Remove Sunspots, Freckles and Redness  
 Remove Rosacea and Soften the Skin  
**Try an IPL Photo Facial**  
**Frontier Medical Rejuvenation**  
**Dr. Rebecca Allard**  
 St. Francis, Kansas (785)772-1906  
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted

**Open House**  
**Marji Peter's Retirement**  
**Fri., June 11 • 2-4 p.m.**  
*in the Courthouse Lobby*  
**Everyone Welcome**

**Turn 50 Today?**  
**Doesn't Matter Though**  
**MGT50**  
**Happy Birthday Morita**  
**Who's Your Buddy?**  
**WE ARE**

**Summer weather is here!**  
**Make sure and have your car serviced at the St. Francis Equity Station.**  
 Call 332-2421 or stop by and talk to one of the guys!

**Equity Exchange**  
 Station  
**785-332-2421**  
 Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913

**Texas Red's BBQ**  
**will be at St. Francis Super's**  
**Tuesday, June 1**  
**thru**  
**Saturday, June 5**

Beef brisket, smoked pork, turkey breast, ribs & sausage

**Western Sprinklers, your complete Irrigation Store.**

**For all your irrigation needs.**

- Pump Repair •
- Gear Heads •
- Electric Motors •
- Pivot Insurance •
- Underground PVC Pipe & Wire •
- Valley Pivots •
- Pivot Parts - All Brands •

**Western Sprinklers Inc.**  
 Colby, Kan. 67701  
 785-462-6755