

# The Gardener

By  
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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 7. This year, the buds are apparently already frozen and there have been no blooms.

While I cannot legitimately blame the weather, 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 beauti-

ful winter this spring." Downtown 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 winter.

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!



## Signing set for April 28

Former McDonald resident, Todd Osborne, will be signing his new book, "Dr. Sleepy Makes a House Call," on Sunday, April 28. He will be at the McDonald Senior Center from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. People are urged to stop by, have their book signed and enjoy a dessert buffet, hosted by McDonald Area Development.

Todd lives in Tulsa, Okla., with his wife, Jalynn. They have two children, Ryan and Kayla.

"Dr. Sleepy" was one of the many bedtime stories he shared with them when they were young.

I always enjoyed creating memorable characters, he said, including my "Attitudes" animation group which I hope to bring to the television screen someday.

Todd's father, Elroy, illustrated the book.

## Student's poem selected for state

Joel Hill's poem was selected to be published by the Friendly Poets contest.



Hill

"I love your poem!" said Lavender Aurora, poetry editor.

Joel's poem has moved into the semifinals and is in the position to win \$1,000. His poem will be published in the book, "Famous Poets of the Heartland," as part of their 21st anniversary celebration and will be published on a page by

itself. His poem will not only be published, but it will be recorded on an accompanying audio book CD as well. They have commissioned Shakespearean actor and scholar, John Campbell, to do the honors.

"This is the first time I have had students enter this poetry contest and I am so thrilled and proud of Joel!" said Lisa Holzwarth, teacher. "What an awesome opportunity and honor for him!"

Joel is an eighth grader at St. Francis junior high.

### The Gridiron

Hitting and running  
Either touchdowns or tackles  
Making friends in sports



CITY CREW PREPARES berm for the new St. Francis sign. The sign is to be up and lighting the way to Saintry activities by June 15.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## VILLAGE

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ing \$10,000 funded depreciation costs in the expenses each month.

He also pointed out that they had made it clear that, whenever possible, money for supplies and

services be spent in the county.

If we can keep the money in the county, Mr. Ketzner said, we are going to do it. We don't understand why they are contracting physical therapy out of Colby when we have the same service at the hospital.

Mrs. Lampe asked if the commissioners will meet with the Society's representative periodically? The commissioners assured her that they plan to meet with them yearly and with the administrator monthly.

Mr. Jensen, city councilman, asked about the land that will come with the nursing home and apartments? Mr. Patton said there is a legal survey of the Village campus. Terry Miller, clerk, noted that all of the content of the nursing home will also be the county's.

Both Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, and Mr. Jensen commended the commissioners for taking time to study the matter of the lease with the Society and making sure they were doing the right thing.

We are not stalling (in signing the lease), said Mr. Patton. We know we truly need the service, that we owe it to our older citizens to keep it here, but we want to make sure that we are making the best decision and we have a good lease.

## Writers read with students

The public is invited to the Old Country Church, St. Francis, from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, for readings by about 20 students from St. Francis and Bird City. Most of the students have had their readings published and some have even received payment for being published or winning a contest.

Family and friends of the students and community members are urged to attend and support these young writers.

In addition, several members of the Rough Writers, a local group of writers, will read some of their original works.

The Rough Writers have been gathering monthly during the school year since September 2007. Their primary purpose is to encourage each other "to write

and to keep on writing."

Some also assist with monthly writing workshops at the Good Samaritan Village. A little over a year ago, they published a book on "Memories & Musings" of the residents of the Good Samaritan Village, available through the Cheyenne County Historical Society and the Methodist Church Thrift Store, St. Francis.

This is the fifth of a series of quarterly readings in the old church, located near the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, sponsored by the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

The Rough Writers plan to host more such readings on a quarterly basis. Call Lucille Rossbach (332-8903) if interested in doing a reading or joining the Rough Writers.

## April is Occupational Therapy Month



Our Dynavision machine improves sight-to-response skills

Our Occupational Therapists can help you

# master

the tasks of everyday life!

Simple tasks like doing laundry, writing a note, or turning a key are major parts of our daily routine. When illness, injury or disability makes routine tasks difficult, Community Hospital's occupational therapy team can help.

We help patients of every age to improve muscle tone, coordination and motor skills, increase reflexes and response time, and so much more. Our facility even features an apartment-like area equipped with household appliances, where patients can practice the ordinary, extraordinary tasks of the daily routine.



Hand therapy improves dexterity, and reduces arthritis and carpal tunnel pain.

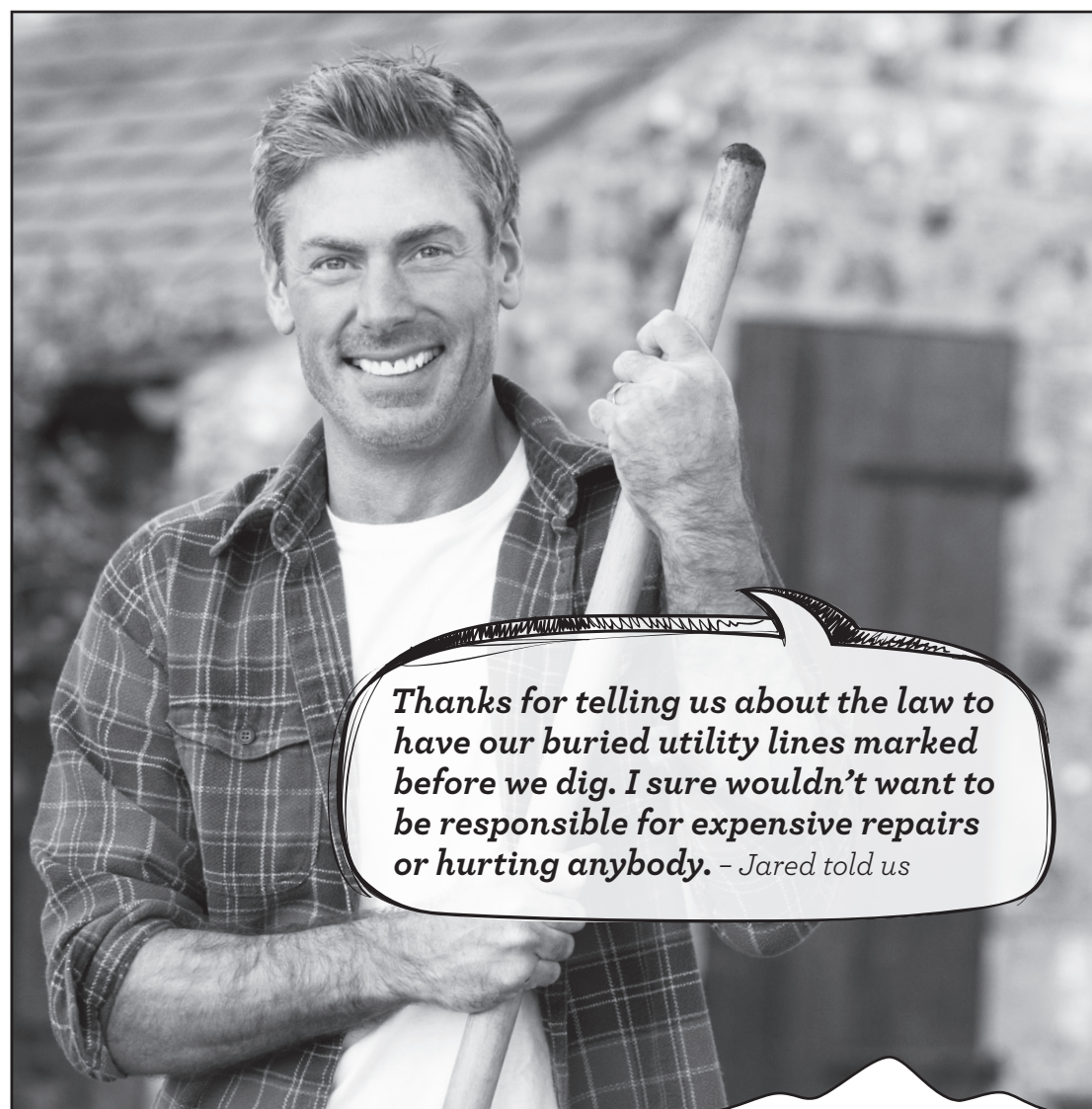


Routine activities are practiced in our independent living skills unit.



Kids improve sensory and motor skills, and learn ADD and ADHD coping techniques.

**COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**  
Advanced care. Always there.  
**REHABILITATION CENTER**



Thanks for telling us about the law to have our buried utility lines marked before we dig. I sure wouldn't want to be responsible for expensive repairs or hurting anybody. - Jared told us

**Right you are, Jared.** Always call 811 toll-free at least two full business days before you dig. A technician will come out and mark buried utility lines, which could potentially help you avoid disaster. It's free, it's safe, and it's the law!

Oh, and don't forget mulch and plenty of water!

**811** Know what's below. Call before you dig.

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