



A NICE ADDITION to the Good Samaritan Village's new greenhouse is several plants people around town have donated before the freeze hit to the Village. Pictured above, starting from the left is Helen Peter, Alma Neitzel, Paul Rainbolt, and Glenn Neitzel. To the right is Tob Zwegardt volunteering his help and handing Larry Kramer, on the ladder, tools. A group of Lutheran men have volunteered a large quantity of their time to the greenhouse.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Fall celebration to draw numerous area children

On Oct. 31, area children are welcome to the Saf-T-Fun Fest, a fall celebration sponsored by Idalia Student Council and Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance organization. The event will be held from 2 to 2:45 p.m. at Idalia's old gym. Admission is free.

The Saf-T-Fun fest is designed to give kids a safe Halloween Parade and the chance for a fun supervised fall celebration. It encourages children to respect others. Participants will be asked to sign pledge cards stating, "I

promise to respect the property of other people and will cooperate with leaders to make the party a success."

Kids will also enjoy activities such as a costume contest and other games.

Started in 1948, the Saf-T-Fun Fest is one of six Youth Educational Programs offered by Modern Woodmen. Richard Lamberson of Highlands Ranch, Colo., is the local representative.

Other donations to the party have been made by Idalia Student Council and Idalia Elementary.

Farm agency announces program payments

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that approximately \$752 million is being made available for a new Livestock Compensation Program. The Livestock Compensation Program is available for cattle, sheep, goats, buffalo and beefalo producers in counties that have received primary disaster designation due to drought in 2001 and 2002. Signup began Oct. 1 with payments being made soon after signup.

Payments are made at the following rates: adult beef cows and bulls, \$18.00/head, adult dairy cows and bulls, \$31.50/head, stockers, \$13.50/head, buffalo and beefalo, \$18.00/head, sheep and goats, \$4.50/head.

Producers must certify the numbers in each category. Livestock had to be owned for at least 90 days including the date of June 1, 2002. The stockers need to have weighed 500 pounds or more on June 1, 2002. The need to be divided between heifers, steers, and bulls less than 2 years old on June 1. Cows had to have gone through a calving cycle by June 1 and bulls had to be 2 years old or older by June 1.

Visit your local Farm Service Agency office for program details and to request assistance. Producers can also visit the United States Department of Agriculture web site (<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>) to learn more about the program.



PONCA CITY, OKLA., was the setting for the National Championship motorcross races. Austin Green, Gem, places several times while competing in the different classes.

Teenager competes well in motorcross races

Motorcross racer Austin Green raced in the Ponca City, Okla., Grand National Championship July 30 through Aug. 3. He placed first in the first heat and second in the second heat in the 125-Stock Beginner Class, coming out with a second place overall win.

He received first in the first heat and third in the second heat in the 125-modified Beginners Class, with second place overall.

In order to qualify for the event, Austin had to run in both the Lakewood and Colorado Springs races and finish with a 10th place of better against 39-40 other riders, who are some of the best in the Midwest.

The weekend of Aug. 10, Austin returned to Lakewood with the pros and took third in the Novice Class. The next

big race for Austin was held in Brush, Colo., in the Amateur Nationals where he raced Novice.

Austin is 14 years old and the son of David and Dana Green of Gem and the grandson of Judy Castle of Denver and Merlin and Dixie Green of Ludell. He is the great-grandson of the late Avis Byers. Mrs. Byers had been a member of the Bird City community.

—Service News—

Pvt. 1st Class Brad Carney, Fort Leonardwood, Mo., D-Company 795 Military Police Battalion has qualified as an expert in grenades and pistols, and qualified with marksmanship in rifle.

He should be back in this area around Oct. 21.

New regulations in place for ambulance billing

At the Thursday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, Larry Gabel, emergency medical technician service director, reported on the new Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulation.

This regulation does not allow the director to show the names of those individuals who appear on the ambulance list of write-off because Medicare and/or Blue Cross Blue Shield will not pay the additional amounts. And, when these companies pay what they think is fair, they do not allow the additional amount to be billed. Now, they do not allow the names of these people to be released.

The commissioners were unhappy that they had no control over what was not being paid and if those being written off were considered old billing. But, still, the county was having to pick up the difference.

The director said that he thought the auditor had suggested that the list be submitted so the commissioners were aware of what was happening but the commissioners, in actuality, had no

control over what was written-off.

It is possible that the name of the insurer (Medicare or Blue Cross Blue Shield) and the date might be listed but the director was not sure.

The director then addressed the matter of why one of the write-offs was an older bill and why the bookkeeper or director had not caught the fact earlier so the bill had not been processed sooner. Director Gabel informed the commissioners that the bookkeeper is doing an excellent job but, at that time, those bills were being turned over to a billing company in Plainville and this bill was lost in a folder. Commissioner Ron Krien thought that missing a bill was inexcusable. Director Gabel said that the billing company in Plainville had become overloaded with work so the county's ambulance bookkeeper had taken over the billing.

Commissioner Krien asked that the director do some spot checking occasionally to make sure that all bills were being processed as quickly as possible. However, the commissioners agreed that there would be write-offs each month.

Foundation workshop to be held in November

A three-day foundation workshop will be held Nov. 12, 13 and 14 in the conference room at the Thomas County Office Complex located at 350 South Range in Colby.

Have you ever applied for a grant? Ever had the opportunity to look for grant money in our area? If so, then you know how hard it is to find a foundation that serves northwest Kansas. Here's an idea...start your own foundation. Imagine how nice it would be to have a local foundation providing money for your cause. It's not as hard as you might think. Did you know

that there are currently 158 foundations that will provide money for newly forming foundations? Join a foundation workshop and find out more.

Workshop instructor is Dr. Don Udell. Dr. Udell is a grant writer as well as reviewer of grants for several foundations. He has assisted many in the organization of a new foundation. He is in high demand from organizations across the nation.

For more information, please contact the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development

DRIVER'S Ed

Children who are NOT restrained are THREE TIMES MORE likely to be seriously injured in a car crash than children who are SECURELY buckled up in a car seat OR WITH SEAT BELTS, AS APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR SIZE AND AGE.

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