

'Pray for rain' rally scheduled Feb. 22

By Tom (TD) Dreiling
The title of the event says it all, "Northwest Kansas Pray for Rain Rally."

The brainchild of Brewster area farmer Leonard Kinkade, and his wife Zelma, the rally is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 22 at the 4-H Building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

"We hope to see people from all over northwest Kansas, from Trego County west to the Colorado line and north to Nebraska," Kinkade said. "Farmers, ranchers, ag and machinery people, clergy, townfolk — this first-ever Northwest Kansas Rally for Rain is for everyone," he said.

"The purpose of this event is to pray to the Lord to break this drought, which affects everyone," he said. "We need to get back to our normal rainfall. We need to speak directly to the Lord."

The rally, said Kinkade, will begin at 3 p.m. and conclude at 6 p.m. "People can come and go as they need. We hope to have clergy say a few words, read scripture and lead us in prayer," he said.

A large map will be posted in the building and each person on hand will be asked to take a pin and stick it in their particular location on the map, Kinkade explained. "We will probably ask people to come down front, state their name and offer a prayer for rain," he said.

He said prayers will be offered for political leaders who have the influ-

ence to assist with the problems associated with the drought. "We need to ask God to point them in the right direction."

Kinkade said "we need to break this drought...It affects everyone...If I get 2-3 inches of rain at my place (3 miles southwest of Brewster on the Thomas-Sherman County line) and nobody else gets any rain, only I benefit. The drought continues."

He stressed the need to ask the Lord to break the drought, which, he says, has forced a number of our own farmers and ranchers to be driven from their farms. "The drought is not just a rural problem, it is also felt in all our towns in northwest Kansas, too," he said.

Kinkade said he has no idea as to the reception his prayer rally will receive. "This is the first time for such an event in such a wide area," he said. "We pray for rain in our churches, or we pray individually, but we need to bring all of us together in a common plea to our Lord."

Kinkade said he got the idea for the prayer rally some months ago while traveling and listening to the radio. "They (the people on the radio) were talking about doing this and that sparked my interest," he said.

"I guess I am the person the Lord selected to carry out the project in northwest Kansas," he said.

He asks the clergy to ask their congregations to take part "in this show of unity" in Colby on Feb. 22.



IT'S LUNCH TIME and the cooks at the senior center are busy finishing up the meal. The head cook is Janice Krien, left, part-time cooks Mildred Barnhart and Neva Wahrman assist through meal time.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Senior citizens asks for assistance

By Sandy Barnhart

The board of the St. Francis Senior Center was present to discuss the future of the center. Present were Ken Quigley, president; Rachael Keller, vice president; Art Krueger, treasurer, and Mavern Gienger, secretary.

The board asked that the council consider budgeting \$3,000 starting with the 2004 year. The council noted that they would review the request at budget time.

Mr. Krueger said this amount would not completely take care of the short fall, but he felt with that amount and using some different ways of saving money at the center, the town would be able to keep the facility open.

He went on to explain that the majority of the people who go to the center live inside St. Francis, and most of the "growing" population is the older generation. A lot of these people are either widows or widowers who not only go to the center for nutritious meals but for fellowship. He also noted that once a month a health nurse comes to take blood pressure readings.

Mr. Krueger explained that with all of the fund raisers and income coming into the center, the center was still falling short of paying expenses at approximately \$430 a month. If the trend kept going like it was, by the year 2006, the center would be completely out of money raised through fund raisers and donations and the center would cease to exist. The income the center took in for the year 2002 was \$12,539, while the center had expenses of \$17,775 — a difference of \$5,236. The center first opened in 1977 and at that time Rachael Keller and Ethel Whitten volunteered their time to managed the center and cook. They were supplemented with some Green-Thumb helpers.



JUST FINISHING LUNCH and enjoying a little visiting with those at their table and neighboring tables at the St. Francis Senior Center were (l to r) Ruben Bandel, Jessie Smith, LuAnne Neville and Bernice Bandel.

The last few years Janice Krien has been hired as the cook and the center employs two part-time helpers. Mrs. Krien's wages are paid through a contribution box which also pays for part of the food and some of the paper goods. The contribution box is strictly volunteer with the center asking for \$2.25 a meal. Those who are able will put in an extra dollar.

In 2002 the center received \$1,440 from renting the facility for family or alumni gatherings. They also received \$4,700 from Cheyenne County, with the Bird City Senior Center receiving the other \$3,133. There have been a few memorials left to the center, but the center was dipping into memorial

funds to keep up with the expenses, instead of using only the interest.

There are many services the seniors give including selling tickets for the Attendance Award, helping with the carnival and shucking corn for the barbecue at fair time; they have held an annual Pancake Day where the proceeds have gone to the rest room at the park or to help projects of the Lions Club.

The center regularly serves three noon meals a week. Last year the

center averaged 789 meals a month, and 133 meals being delivered to home-bound residents. For the last five years the center has not been able to get Green-Thumb assistance, and the center now pays two part-time helpers minimum wage with the total for the year 2002 coming to \$7,400.

The city council said they would keep the center in mind when starting on the budget for next year.

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St. Francis schools establish web page

The St. Francis schools now have a web page which can be accessed at www.usd297.k12.ks.us. At the Monday meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education, Superintendent Carl Werner distributed information about the new web site, explaining that there will be scores and highlights of all Indian activities, statistics, the district's e-mail directory and information about the schools, personnel and board.

The web site has been developed by instructor Chuck Peters and his Web Design class. Superintendent Werner said that the site is still in the stages of development but praised the teacher and his class for their efforts so far.

The board members were asked to complete an information sheet concerning some of their history and their stands on different issues. They were also encouraged to allow their picture to be put on the new site as people will be able to put a face with a name.

Parents will also be able to access their children's grades through the Powerschool student information system on the site.

— Bowling News —

Wednesday Mens 1/15
Team standings: Post Plumbing 8-0; Cox Construction 8-0; 2001 Electronic 6-2; Grace Flying 3-5; Krien Steel 3-5; First National 2-6; Haigler 1-7; High Rollers 1-7
High game (scratch): Ted Mosier 212, Bill Carpenter 204, Bill Cox 203
High series (scratch): Cox 558, Mosier 554, Marc Peterson 520

Wednesday Coffee 1/15
Team standings: Snyder's Hay Gals 3-1; The 3 G's 3-1; Krien Steel Buildings 3-1; Flower Magic 2-2; Dairy King 2-2; Sam's Electric 1-3; Windmill Restaurant 1-3; Cheyenne Bowl 1-3.
High game (scratch): Bonnie Mullanix 183, Charlene Counce 180; Shirley Adkinson 172
High series (scratch): Adkinson 498, Janice Krien 488, Kathy Snyder 459

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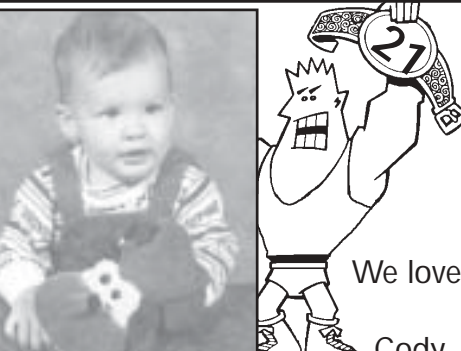
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