



American Association of University Women member Kathy Cayton showed off one of the tables at last year's tablescaping event.

University women plan 'tablescaping'

The American Association of University Women is once again sponsoring its fundraising event, known to many as "tablescaping."

The theme selected for this year's event is *Stroll Through the Seasons*, which starts at 1 p.m., Sunday, and will end at 4 p.m. at the Colby Community Building, said Joyce Mahin, one of the organizers.

"Everyone is invited to join the viewing of a variety of tables decorated by community individuals and businesses," she said.

The event is a "come and go" and dipping dessert treats in the chocolate fountain will be available.

As in previous years, the organization will use the \$6 admission to provide scholarships for

local women.

The association has arranged for 20 tables with a variety of themes. Some will show special table settings. Some will feature interesting collections. Some will supply a combination of ideas. Others will include products for various uses. There is something of interest for all viewers, she said.

Tickets may be purchased in advance from any member or by calling 460-2800 or 462-6604.

Organizers are encouraging everyone to plan to participate in this fun event to provide scholarships to our local students.

If anyone is unable to attend, they may contribute to local scholarships by sending your donation to AAUW, c/o Joyce Mahin, 413 Smith Drive, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Entries sought for barbecue contest

Atwood organizers of the second annual "Smokin' on the Beaver" Barbecue Contest will host 25 teams of BBQ cooks from three states on the weekend of Saturday, Oct. 8.

The best part is that all the barbecue meats cooked by teams vying for top honors in their favorite categories will be served to the general public at an evening barbecue meal.

The teams will begin setting up Friday evening outside the Columbian Hall.

"Some will start cooking that night, and others will wait until Saturday morning to fire up their grills," said Gary Worthy, organizer. The event is being held in connection with the Atwood Ambassador's Drag Races planned also that day.

"From 1 p.m. through the evening barbecue meal, spectators are invited to mingle with the cooking teams to share recipes, cooking styles, and best of all, just talking about great barbecued food," he said.

Contest teams will prepare, and the public is invited to enjoy, smoke-cooked meats like pork butt, ribs, brisket, chicken and beans.

The teams will also compete in an open category called "Fins, Fur & Feathers" where they'll cook wild game, game birds and fish.

"Through the generous donations of the competitors, the public will also be invited to enjoy some unique barbecue cooked delicacies," he said.

Jim Ferguson, outdoor radio show host and voice of the Atwood fall drags, is according to Worthy, "challenging his listeners and area radio stations to get teams started and registered to share their favorite cooking techniques, recipes and flavors."

Unlike the format at other barbecue contests, where teams have to pay entry fees and bring their own meat, the Atwood Ambassadors furnish the meat for "Smokin' on the Beaver" so that it can then be served to the hundreds of event spectators enjoying the day in Atwood, Worthy said.

"We plan a full day of people cooking their favorite barbecue recipes, and the public's invited to visit the chefs, smell the aroma, check out some unique barbecue grills and cookers, and then enjoy the various meats, beans and other

Competition to include finding best salsa recipe

The organizers of Atwood's second annual barbecue contest, "Smokin' on the Beaver" have announced that this year's contest will feature a special category for "all those people who have favorite salsa recipes," according to Linda Vap, one of the contest judges.

Atwood area chefs are invited and encouraged to bring their salsa to the Columbian Hall on Saturday, Oct. 8, so it can be judged. Salsa entries can be submitted anytime Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m., with entries being judged starting at 5 p.m.

There are no entry fees or pre-registration required, and salsa contest participants do not have

to compete in the barbecue competition, Vap said.

All salsa is required to be homemade, and may either be canned or fresh. Contestants must supply a minimum of one quart of salsa, and all salsa not used for judging will be served to the public at the evening barbecue meal.

Contestants will be given numbered cartons when they register so they can add their favorite chips and other garnishments to complete their "presentation for appearance."

A complete list of salsa contest rules can be found posted in various businesses throughout Atwood or by calling Vap at (785) 626-3121.

Education conference set in Colby

To confront the challenges facing public education in communities across the Great Plains, Ogallala Commons, Western Prairie RC&D, and their local partners will host an education conference and Field Tours Day in Colby on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7 and 8.

The theme of the Field Tours Day and conference: "Knowledge for Life...Innovating Education on the High Plains," aims to engage interested citizens, community leaders, and representatives of public education in western Kansas, as well as western Nebraska and eastern Colorado.

"Education has been a hallmark of rural communities, and schools are the centers of community life," notes Darryl Birkenfeld, Ogallala Commons Director.

"While public education is facing huge challenges with funding shortfalls, declining student populations, standardized testing, and technology demands, we also have a great opportunity to reinvigorate education in our communities through adult continuing education, placed-based learning, leadership training, and entrepreneurial courses.

"These strategies can empower struggling communities, and help build the local resource base over the long term instead of depleting it."

The Friday Field Day starts at 9 a.m. in the City Limits Convention Center in Colby, with tours of the Prairie Museum of Art & History,

the KSU Experiment Farm, Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, the Tech Lab at Colby High School, plus Youth Attraction strategies in Atwood and Designing a 2-Year Certificate in Renewable Energy Technology.

At 5:30 p.m., a special presentation will be given on Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, Mass., an innovative institution where 600 students also learn marketable trades, in addition to high school diplomas and advanced placement courses.

The Saturday conference at City Limits Convention Center features a keynote presentation by Dr. Cornelia Butler Flora, a well-known rural sociologist from Iowa State University.

The event will also include workshops on entrepreneurial education, community leadership training, adult continuing education, and place-based learning. To see a complete brochure, visit www.ogallalacommons.org.

Those interested in attending can also register online at the website.

Ogallala Commons is a resource development network for the High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer region, offering leadership and education to build thriving communities and

commonwealth.

To obtain further information, contact Dr. Darryl Birkenfeld, Director, Ogallala Commons, at 806-938-2529 (darrylb@amaonline.com).

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Dole Institute needs money

LAWRENCE (AP) — The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas needs to raise more money to ensure its long-term survival, said Richard Norton Smith, the institute's first director.

Smith led the Dole Institute from 2001 to 2004 before leaving in frustration to become executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill. He will lecture at the institute Wednesday and give a preview of his upcoming book about Nelson Rockefeller.

Smith oversaw the completion of the institute and its dedication on former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole's 80th birthday on July 22, 2003.

When he left, he complained about the institute's lack of funding and "the dead weight of academic bureaucracy."

But Smith said this week that is "ancient history" and the current director, Bill Lacy, "was the perfect person to take it to the next stage of its evolution."

But he said it's critical for the institute to strengthen its endowment. Lacy said Smith considered a \$25 million endowment sufficient for the long-term survival of the insti-

tute. Currently, the institute's endowment is \$5.7 million, with an additional \$700,000 in expendable private funds.

Income from the endowment and the expendable funds covers programming and operations, and the university adds more than \$500,000 for salaries, Lacy said.

Dole said in a statement: "I'm confident the Endowment Associa-

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