

Special greenhouse a pleasant surprise

Northwest Kansas and Eastern Colorado are fortunate to have access to a number of great greenhouses and garden centers.

The offerings of quality-grown garden plants and garden accessories are most helpful to the gardening public, not to mention the staffs' outstanding knowledge about the things they offer.

Greenhouses and garden centers serve an important service to the gardeners of the area, particularly this time of the year as we plant seeds and transplant all kinds of growing things in our gardens.

One of the best kept secrets regarding the services of greenhouses and garden centers is a facility called the Glade Greenhouse. It's in Glade, in Phillips County, about four or five miles south of Phillipsburg on U.S. 183, population about 105. The greenhouse is owned and operated by Gerald Ratliff and his wife Patsy.

They have been operating it since the middle 90s, when they bought it from Norm Leidig, who built the greenhouse several years before. Gerald had worked for Norm for a couple of years when Norm announced one day to Gerald that "you are going to buy this place." Which of course, the Ratliffs did.

The Glade Greenhouse offers just about anything you could possibly want in the way of plant life and so much more. Just east of the greenhouse is nearly a half a block of garden statuary. Most of the things in the hugh display were made by the Ratliff family



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

right there at the greenhouse.

You can buy just about every animal, in just about any size, that you could possibly want. Some of the figures, all made from concrete, weigh as much as 600 pounds. Gerald has close to 700 different molds of the statuary he makes right there at the greenhouse. There are hundreds of garden statues available, and people come from far and wide to stroll through the "concrete jungle" of animals and birds.

Lets fact it. The Glade Greenhouse is a throwback to most of the facilities located in the city. There is no glass in the buildings and most of the plants they sell are grown especially for them by other facilities in Kansas. But just about every vegetable and flower is available there.

In a recent visit, I noticed that they even had copies of my book "The Gardener's Common-Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest," available right there on the counter. I was glad to hear that sales are brisk for it, just like about everything else at this unique greenhouse and garden center. If you happen to find yourself anywhere near Glade, make sure you pay a visit to the greenhouse. It's not hard to find.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Wednesday

12:25 a.m. - Baby calf out in the 100 block of S. Country Club. Put in a pen at the Livestock Auction.

7:17 a.m. - Criminal damage to vehicle.

9:46 a.m. - Loud music 210 N. Country Club.

11:21 a.m. - Gas skip from Loves.

11:32 a.m. - Funeral block from Catholic Church to Sacred Heart Cemetery.

11:41 a.m. - Dog at large on W. Eighth. Owner contacted.

2:10 p.m. - Assisted ambulance crew at McDonald's.

4:24 p.m. - Provided escort.

5:07 p.m. - Someone who refuses to leave store. Told manager to ignore.

8:59 p.m. - Caller needed help with her oxygen.

Thursday

12:38 a.m. - Gate unlocked at business. All buildings checked and secured, including gate.

2:34 a.m. - Call reported neighbor banging on wall. Subject damaging his own items.

5:15 a.m. - Removed a dead animal from street.

2:10 p.m. - Welfare check on subject at Greyhound Bus Depot for Forest Lake, Minn. police; everything OK.

6:04 p.m. - Maintenance worker at Bosselman's located a black bag, requested an officer to check it out.

7:37 p.m. - Report of vehicles being keyed.

9:29 p.m. - Welfare check.

11:47 p.m. - Assisted Colby ambulance with intoxicated male off Greyhound.

Friday

12:37 p.m. - Criminal damage to property, conspiracy to commit: female and juvenile reported possibly trying to enter residence they were told to stay away. Three officers responded.

12:47 p.m. - Manager at 2000 S. Range called about a man who claimed to have \$400 taken off Greyhound bus last night. Provided information to subject.

3:24 p.m. - Report of battery - physical contact by employer.

5:40 p.m. - Lost cell phone. Lost property report taken.

7:29 p.m. - Subject reported

that earlier in the day she was involved in a domestic.

8:29 p.m. - Vehicle parking in alley at 500 block W, Seventh. All parties contacted.

11:33 p.m. - 911 call requesting an ambulance. Turned over to emergency medical services.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Wednesday

9:46 a.m. - Tagged numerous vehicles, Levant.

11:21 a.m. - Assisted police looking for gas skip vehicle.

11:25 a.m. - Assisted police for funeral block.

5:21 p.m. - Removed debris off roadway on I-70 at mile 60.

Thursday

8:56 a.m. - Theft of diesel fuel from J-J Oil.

6:52 p.m. - Kansas Highway Patrol advised of vehicle on side of roadway on I-70. Not found.

7:45 p.m. - Assisted motorist at Fourth and Franklin.

Friday

9:34 a.m. - Posted tow-away notice on vehicle parked on U.S. 24.

11:27 a.m. - Report of a suspicious person walking around Rexford.

Saturday

9:35 a.m. - Vehicle parked partially on roadway at County Rd. 6 and Old U.S. 24. Will post tow-away notice later; no one around vehicle.

2:22 p.m. - Possible drunk driver eastbound on I-70. All OK.

5:45 p.m. - Assisted Colby police.

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