

It's going to be a busy, busy spring

It's going to be a busy spring if things keep up at the same pace they are starting off, so far. On the first day of spring, which was mighty fine, if you want my opinion, there was a potluck at the Brewster Community Church.

This was to honor the Brewster boys who were 1A champs in basketball. There was a good crowd of coaches, players, friends, parents and grandparents of the team members present.

I've also heard it rumored there was a big, friendly, white dog that ate the food that happened to land in its vicinity.

It must have been a busy night, because the next day the church lost its steeple! Is that the same as "flipping its lid?"

I know there was a leak under the structure, so I'm sure there were other reasons for this event to occur. It sure makes a difference in the looks of things, though.

It will probably be over before this makes the paper, but the Craft Peddler is having a big Spring Open House, on March 24 and 25. Hope you were able to take advantage of all the bargains and fresh craft ideas, plus the drawings for prizes.

Just in case you are wondering about the Bob Ross painting classes, they will be held on Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24.

I have seen some of the results of these classes, and the enjoyment of those who participated, and I believe it would be a spirit lifter for anyone that wants to "create" their own masterpiece. Stop in and sign up, if you are interested.

OK, now for more things that are coming up. On Wednesday, a local lady will be celebrating her 80th birthday and we know she would enjoy getting a card letting her know you are thinking of her.

Kay Norton is having the special day and her address is P.O. Box 254, Brewster, Kan. 67732. Happy birthday, Kay!



sally michael

• brewster beacon

Also, another lady that would enjoy a card is Maxine Moore, in care of Lantern Park Manor, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Her 84th birthday is on Tuesday and I'm sure it would perk up her spirits to know that others are thinking about her.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday the Brewster Lions Club and the Northwest Kansas Heritage Center will be having a community box supper in the south gym of the Brewster School.

Col. Maynard Bane will auction off the decorated boxes and the funds raised will be used for community service, maintenance and improvements for the Heritage Center Museum and Library in Brewster.

It just seems like yesterday that I was reminding you of last year's City Wide Garage Sale and now it's time for this year's. Start looking over your belongings and sorting out the ones you don't use much, anymore.

It might be just the "necessity" that the fellow down the street needs. And, maybe your neighbor will decide it is time to get rid of that power tool that you have been wanting. Anyway, the first Saturday in June is going to be here before we know it.

Here's another reminder of the "55 and Alive" driving course that will be held at the Brewster Senior Center on April 17 and 18. We've had a few people sign up and we hope we get more.

There are some insurance companies that will lower insurance rates a little if you take this program. But even if it doesn't cut your rate, the purpose is to save a life and that is worth a lot more than a discount on

your insurance, isn't it? I hope to hear from you.

Are you tired of hearing about all the events coming up? Well, now we'll talk about some of the

things that Brewster folks have been doing.

I'm happy to report that Susan Montaglio is on the mend and is looking like she feels very good. Her hospital stay helped get her on her feet and we hope the same thing will happen to Corky Wolfe.

He has been in the hospital for a few days. We hope he is going to feel much better when he gets home. Cliff Starkey has also had a stay in the hospital and we hope he is feeling better, too.

Wilma Burk enjoyed having her sister, Alma Wondersee, from Denver, spend a few days with her. Alma came to Brewster with some friends who were going to Oakley for a few days. So it worked out good for Wilma and Alma to have a little reunion.

Frances Jones was able to spend time with some of her family. She went to Olathe, Wetmore and Topeka for visits with her daughters and grandkids. She says she also enjoyed playing with her great-grandchildren and I'll bet the kids had fun, too.

Ruth and Duane Jones said their daughter, Monna Rose, and her husband, Mike Blank, from New Caney, Texas, were in Brewster for a few days. The Blank's sons and their families were also here.

Ruth said the boys, Caleb and Aaron, helped her with some tasks that needed done. It sure is nice for these young folks to lend a hand with chores that are just a little too difficult for us to do as we get older, isn't it?

That's about it for now. So, we hope everyone has a good week and we'll see you all next time.

Time flying by for retiree

Another week has gone by and it will soon be April 1. The year 2001 will be a fourth over. It's hard to fathom where the time has flown to. People keep asking me how I enjoy retirement. My usual answer is, "I've not had time to 'retire' as I seem to be as busy as before."

The thing that amazes me is that I haven't gotten more work done than I did when I was working full-time. I guess one uses his or her time in a different manner. At least you really don't have a time schedule that you have to pace your daily work on.

Maybe when the weather decides to get better and stay that way, I can plan to do some things that it isn't really fit to do now. I did have a couple of men rake my front yard which makes it look much better. I then spent a couple of afternoons working in my flower beds as my tulips, daffodils, hyacinth and crocus are up. Some are even budding out and some are in bloom. I didn't uncover them all the way and I'm glad I didn't do more since the weather has been less than nice since Friday.

The one thing I did accomplish was to stir up allergies to the dust and moldy leaves—something I do each spring. Oh well, I'll get over them as soon as I get the rest of the flower beds cleaned up.

I've received some reports about Goodland people who are having medical problems. Sally Farr is still in Denver and will be there for a short time following some surgery. You might drop her a card at her local address so it will be waiting for her when she gets home.

Ed Linville told me Martha is much happier here in Goodland, as is he. He



jan zwetzig

• goodland gazette

can see her everyday and eat meals with her at noon and sometimes in the evening. He enjoys not having to travel as far as he did before. Best wishes to them both.

Biff Young broke an arm, had surgery in Denver and was staying with her daughter Tiffini in Greeley, Colo. My latest report is that things are not going as well as she had hoped. She is very uncomfortable with that arm and will be seeing the surgeon this week to see if there is anything else they can do for her. Her mom, Elaine Thompson, is doing pretty good and I hope both will be feeling much better shortly.

I've really no news as many of the families in town were looking forward to this week, since it's spring break from school. I know that some 4-H kids were to go skiing for a few days.

I heard several talk of going out-of-town for a few days, namely to Denver and Colorado Springs. They planned to just take in the sights, do some shopping and just enjoy a few days as a family. The spring break means I don't have to do my usual Monday mentoring.

I didn't get to the Goodland Senior Center's monthly potluck meal as I was involved with church work on Saturday morning. At noon, my friend, Lucille Nash, and I went to the pancake feed put on by the Knights of Columbus. Father Schneider joined us for

lunch and we all enjoyed the fare. I did visit with several people at the feed and then went home to do some more work for the church and some paper work from the office before church service at 5 p.m. Sunday I washed several loads of clothes, checked on Muffin and Mandy and just enjoyed myself with nothing special to do.

The weather wasn't such that I could do anything outside. It spit snow off and on all day and was snowing when I finished this column.

I have one anniversary, that of Conrad and Carol Pettijohn. Many happy wishes to all. There's a special birthday coming up on April 7. Glen Rauscher will celebrate his 80th birthday then. I'll write more in the next column, but there will be a party for him that afternoon at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Goodland.

The only death that I know of that has local ties was the death of John Collett's father. Sincere sympathy to the Collett family during this time.

As I said before I've no real news, so on that note I'll sign off and get this ready to print. I just looked out and saw that the grass is getting covered with white. In fact a car just went past and the snow looked like it was fairly heavy as seen in the head lights.

I haven't had my car out all day so I guess I'll drop this off in the morning, if things are moving then. I didn't see a forecast for how much snow Goodland might get or if any accumulation was predicted. I guess I'll find out in the morning. Till then, take care, stay warm and see you next time.

Legislature resumes work on budget

BUDGET, from Page 1

cal 2001.

About \$4.6 billion in spending under Graves' proposals would come from the state general fund, the largest source of money for Kansas government programs and where the state deposits most of its tax revenues.

Spending recommended by the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means committees throughout the session was close to the governor's proposals, in part because legislators aren't certain about the amount of money the state really will have to spend.

Graves based his budget on revenue estimates made in November, and col-

lections in the general fund through February were \$49.6 million short of expectations. State officials and university economists are scheduled to release new estimates April 4.

After both houses approve their versions of the state budget, legislative leaders expect to appoint a joint conference committee of three senators and three House members to draft a final version.

But work on the budget won't be finished before legislators take their annual spring break April 7. When they return April 25 to wrap up their work for the year, they'll have one last budget bill to consider.

Legislative leaders expect to tackle some of the toughest spending deci-

sions with that final bill. They're likely to go back to the spending they've already approved and adjust it to make it fit the new revenue estimates.

In other action:

—The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill extending the deadline for developing a proposed Wonderful World of Oz theme park in Johnson County. The vote was 70-51.

—Legislators learned that almost half the women who had abortions in Kansas last year came from other states. The Department of Health and Environment released abortion statistics for 2000.

—Gov. Bill Graves' \$112 million school finance package was introduced in the House Taxation Committee.

Pine cones stop fleeing barefoot girls

LEAWOOD, Kan. (AP) — Mother Nature had a hand in the arrest of two teen-age girls, both barefoot and one naked as they fled police.

While trying to get away, the girls ran into a suburban yard filled with pine cones, which slowed them down enough for police to catch them.

Police said that after talking to the 14- and 15-year-old Kansas City, Mo., girls they caught in Leawood, officers began unraveling a theft ring that preyed on cars left running unattended in two other suburbs, Prairie Village and Overland Park.

Police found four stolen cars in Johnson County and Kansas City and arrested three girls and a 19-year-old Kansas man.

Officers were looking for three teenage boys Monday evening. No one had been charged.

Police said they got their first break when a Prairie Village man saw a girl drive away lurchingly in his 1989 Honda Accord, which has a manual transmission. That happened about 7:15 a.m. Monday, minutes after someone had stolen a 1993 Nissan Sentra that had been warming up two blocks away.

Prairie Village Cpl. Wes Lovett saw the Sentra and followed it into Leawood, where the driver noticed him and stomped on the accelerator, he said.

When Lovett caught up with the car, three girls bailed out and ran. An officer arrested a 12-year-old Kansas City girl

nearby.

Lovett and Leawood Officer John Freeman ran after two other suspects.

The 15-year-old girl, who police believe was driving the Sentra, lost her shoes as she leapt from one yard to another. Her 14-year-old companion began the chase barefoot. As she scrambled over fences, her clothes got snagged and were ripped off.

"Her dress got caught on one of them, and then she jumped another, and her underwear pretty much came off there," Lovett said.

The girls gave up in a back yard strewn with pine cones.

"They had slowed down quite a bit because of the barefoot situation and the pine cone situation," Lovett said.

A man brought a T-shirt for the nude girl as police arrested the suspects in his yard.

Police found the Accord parked near the house where it had been stolen. They think the 14 year old abandoned it because she couldn't operate the manual five-speed transmission.

Later Monday, Overland Park detectives tracked two cars that had been stolen from their city early in the morn-

ing to a house in Kansas City, Mo. While the detectives waited for Kansas City officers, an adult came home from work early, and three teenage boys ran from the house. They drove off in a stolen 2000 Mercedes sport utility vehicle as the detectives followed them in an unmarked car.

A Kansas City officer chased the SUV but broke off the pursuit because the speed was unsafe, police said. Officers later found the SUV parked at an apartment complex and were looking for the three boys, 14 to 17 years old.

Police arrested a 19-year-old man at a house where they also found a stolen 1999 Toyota Solara.

They were still looking for a 2000 Nissan Maxima that had been stolen about the same time as the Solara and the SUV.

Detectives think the seven suspects began driving around Prairie Village and Overland Park about 5 a.m. Monday, looking for cars left running unattended.

Police are investigating whether the suspects are connected to a series of similar car thefts in the two cities earlier this month.

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