

Oakley to have Celtic music

Are you ready for a magical show with hot Celtic music and amazing Irish step dancing? On Sunday, Nov. 18th, Feast Celtic Music from the Rocky Mountains comes to Oakley High School at 2 p.m. (Mountain Time). They are part of the current concert series being presented by the Western Plains Arts Association, and will be performing in the high school auditorium.

Feast Celtic's fiery sound and passionate delivery has won fans on two continents. Add two champion Irish dancers to the mix and a show that appeals to all ages at any time is formed. The American based Feast Celtic brings a unique approach to Irish music; it was born out of a classical chamber music series in 2005, when a one-time special event performance turned into a lasting commitment to create a unique Celtic band. All of this band's mem-

ber have performed nationally and internationally as virtuoso classical musicians and are passionate about crossing over into the timeless music of Ireland. With the unusual combination of violin, viola, cello, bass, keyboard, harp and drumset, plus two champion step dancers, they deliver a rocking show that connects deeply to their audiences. They have been greeted with wild enthusiasm and standing ovations from audiences of all ages.

Feast Celtic's programs offer a delightful variety-fiery group numbers, soulful solos, duos and trios, haunting versions of "Star of the County Down," to humorous versions of timeless songs, and rockin' interpretations of hot Irish fiddle tunes. Admission to this program is by season ticket or at the door; adults, \$20, students kindergarten through 12, \$10.



Feast Celtic Music

Water usage, rights big issues for conservationists

Water usage and rights are becoming increasingly hot issues in today's conservation-conscious society, only exacerbated by the prolonged drought in the Midwest. Gov. Sam Brownback reiterated the importance of water conservation at the Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas.

"For generations, people in the state of Kansas have been focused on water, and rightfully so," Brownback said at the conference held Oct. 30-31 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. "They have done a lot of planning and a lot of work to get us to this point. Now we really have to take the next step in moving on forward."

One of the steps to moving forward, as Brownback saw it, is the preservation of the Ogallala Aquifer in western Kansas. The Ogallala is a major part of the larger High Plains Aquifer, which lies underneath eight states and supplies 70 percent of the water used by Kansans daily. The Ogallala spans more than 30,000 square miles in western and central Kansas.

As a key resource for agriculture, as well as industry and cities, the Ogallala could be depleted without conservation practices.

"We must conserve and extend the life of the Ogallala," Brownback said. "And

it's up to us to figure out how we get that done while at the same time maintaining our economic activity."

Brownback commended producers who have already banded together of their own accord to conserve their water resources and preserve them for upcoming generations.

"If we extend the life of the aquifer, future generations will call us wise. If we don't, they'll consider us selfish," he said. "It's on us. It is a local decision, not one the state is going to make."

Brownback also spoke about the silting in of federal reservoirs, which is decreasing storage capacity.

With approximately two-thirds of the Kansas population relying to some extent on reservoir storage for water supply, new technology and management is needed to remove silt from these reservoirs to secure fresh, quality water for Kansans. "We can do these things, but they're not without choices, without cost, without difficulties," he said. "I'm convinced we can do it."

All of these water usage issues come in the midst of a serious drought throughout much of the Midwest. Kansas has already been battling the lack of moisture for the past couple of years, and State Climatologist Mary Knapp with Kansas State

Research and Extension said there is not a clear end in sight.

"For the rest of the winter, the outlook is that the drought will persist," she said.

"We don't get a significant amount of moisture in winter months on average anyway, and the outlook is actually for normal to below normal moisture for winter."

Knapp said the outlooks for spring are currently mixed and it is uncertain whether signals will develop indicating a wet or even normal spring.

Despite the drought conditions and hardships, Bill Blomquist, professor and dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, said Kansas is taking positive steps toward water conservation. His research is centered on water problems and policies in the western U.S.

Speaking directly after Brownback at the conference, Blomquist cited several common characteristics he has observed in his studies that are often helpful for successful conservation of water resources.

He first discussed the importance of clearly defined boundaries for the physical resource, the community of resource users and other communities affected by the resource.

Kansas water resources, like many other natural resources, have multiple types of users and multiple communities affected by it. "Defining boundaries often means creating multiple institutional arrangements around those resources and users," Blomquist said. "And those boundaries often have to be constructed, not given."

He echoed Brownback's statements that resource management needed local leadership, and also emphasized the need for nested institutions.

To properly manage the Ogallala and High Plains Aquifers, cooperation is needed at all institutional levels—from local to state to regional and to inter-state levels.

"Trust is often built more readily at smaller scales, but small isn't enough," Blomquist said. "Large scale institutions have huge benefits in technical and other capabilities."

But large-scale institutions are not close enough to the ground for day-to-day governance, he added. Local entrepreneurial leadership that is eager to foster a culture of sharing information about patterns of use and varying interests of affected parties will contribute to successful resource management.

Blomquist also emphasized the impor-

ance of incentive compatible arrangements that allow for marginal adjustments. Repealing the "use it or lose it" clause, in which a producer had to pump water or risk losing his water rights, was a big step in this direction.

"It's better over the long run if individuals can benefit themselves from restraining their behavior, rather than just doing so with some kind of uncompensated sacrifice for public good," he said. "It's helpful to build in a way people can benefit themselves from their restraint."

While these characteristics have often been key to the successful management of water resources in other areas, Blomquist warned there is no ready-made formula.

The most important quality to consider when developing institutions and creating rules of use is adaptability to changing resources and user needs.

"Over the long run, what looks like an efficient outcome will change. What looks like an equitable outcome will change," he said. "One of the most important criteria for examining the design and performance of your institutions is adaptability."

Decision on replanting wheat needs to be made carefully

Wheat emergence has been slow this year in parts of Kansas because of dry soil, and is the stand in a field is spotty, it may be necessary to replant some or all of it.

"Replanting an entire field is expensive and time-consuming, so producers have to make this decision carefully," said Jim Shroyer, Kansas State University Research and Extension specialist. "Even just spot planting a few bare areas can be time-consuming. Still, replanting any area that truly needs it can pay off."

Generally, he said, if the average number of plants in an area is about 50 percent or more of normal, farmers should keep the stand. With less than 40 percent of normal, the

farmers should replant the field, or at least parts of it.

Shroyer said there are two major concerns other than yield potential in deciding whether to replant: the possibility of wind erosion and the potential for weed infestations.

"Where stands are less than 40 percent of normal, these become major concerns, even if yield potential is not a concern," he said. "In fact, research in western Kansas indicates that 260,000 plants per acre, or about six to seven plants per foot of row, can produce within 90 percent of expected yields - especially if the plants are able to tiller well and the stand is uniform. But if the soil is blowing or weed and grass infestation becomes severe,

the stand should probably have been replanted and thickened."

When replanting into a thin stand, Shroyer added, farmers should run the drill at a 45 degree angle to the original stand if possible to minimize damage to the existing plants.

If the replanting is done in November or later, Shroyer said, use seeding rates of 60 to 75 pounds per acre in western Kansas when re-seeding into thin stands that are about 30 to 40 percent of normal.

Where there was no emergence in all or parts of the field, he added, farmers should use a slightly higher seeding rate than used initially - 90 pounds per acre in western Kansas when planting in November or

later. Seeding rates on non-irrigated fields should not be higher than 90 pounds per acre in western Kansas, he added. Under irrigation, seeding rates should never be higher than 150 pounds per acre. Before replanting, farmers should dig through the soil crust to determine why the seed did not emerge, Shroyer said. The most common causes are dry soils, crusting, poor-quality seed, seedling rot diseases and wireworms.

"If dry soils are the cause," he added, "which is the most likely situation this year, you should dig up some seed and check its condition. If the seeds are still hard and viable, or have just a very short stub of coleop-

tile emerging from the seed, there is no need to replant. Just leave the field alone and wait for rain.

"But if the seed has partially germinated and the coleoptile stalled out before emerging, it's unlikely that seed is still viable and replanting is advisable."

Farmers should also dig through crust to evaluate the condition of the seeds or seedlings, he added.

"If the seed is still viable, it could still emerge if conditions improve," Shroyer said. "For example, sometime a light rain on crusted soil will soften the crust so seedlings can emerge. Otherwise, a rotary hoe will break up the crust, allowing them to

emerge."

If the coleoptiles have become bent or crinkled due to the crusting, however, they will most likely have reached the full length already and will not be able to elongate. In that case, replanting will be necessary, he said.

Finally, if there has been adequate moisture and no crusting, but little or no emergence, poor-quality seed, seedling rot diseases or soil insects are possible causes, Shroyer said. In this case, the field should be replanted with good-quality, treated seed, he said.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our

Breaking Dawn Part 2 starts November 16!!
November 9-15
Here Comes the Boom
 (PG): Bouts of MMA sports violence; some rude humor and language.
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 Bring this AD to the theatre. \$1 OFF on large popcorn & 2 med. drinks. EXP: 12/31/12
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 Movie bucks make great gifts!
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 Breaking Dawn Part 2 "Almost Midnight" show 10 PM Thursday, November 15

INVITATION TO BID
 Sealed bids will be received by Sherman County, Kansas at 813 Broadway, in Goodland, Kansas for the sale of:
 All of Lots Seventeen (17), Eighteen (18), Nineteen (19) and Twenty (20) and the South Fifteen Feet (S 15'), of Lot Twenty-one (21), in Block Seventeen (17), in the C. K. & N. Addition to the City of Goodland, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof, which is also known as 212 E. 17th Street, Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas,
 until 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday, the 13th day of November, 2012, at which time the bids will be opened publicly and read aloud.
 Each bid should include any known or intended purpose or use of the property. A bidder may withdraw any bid he has submitted at any time prior to the hour for the closing of the bids provided the request for withdrawal is signed in a manner identical with the bid being withdrawn. No withdrawal or modification will be permitted after the hour designated for closing bids. No bidder may withdraw his proposed bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date and hour set for the opening of bids.
 The Board of County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all bids, to waive formalities in considering bids and to accept the bid which in its opinion is the best bid. Determination of the best bid will include, but not be limited to, the Board's determination of the best price and best use or purpose. Special consideration may be given to a stated purpose or intent to use the property for an economically valuable use, such as new business.

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COMMUNITY INPUT WANTED
USD 352 Goodland will be hosting **School Facilities Meetings** for the community. The district has been working on the next school facility project for almost a year, and would like to get the communities input at this point in the process. The Board of Education is preparing to make final decisions and would appreciate your thoughts on several options. Each attendee will be given a brief survey to complete after the presentation so your voice will be heard. **The meetings will be conducted at the High School auditorium on the following dates:**
MONDAY, November 12th at 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, November 14 at 12 p.m.
FRIDAY, November 16 at 7:30 a.m.
 You only need to come to one session as the same information will be presented.
SCHOOL FACILITIES MEETING

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