

Surprise shower nice; hurricanes covered really well

We had a great surprise shower on Tuesday evening, and it brightened up the faces of everyone the next day. We had about a half inch of rain. We do need more, but it is such a treat to get these rains.

It is hard to believe there are places that have too much. Have you ever seen so much hurricane coverage? There have been so many of them this year, and they are so fully covered.

I guess there isn't that much excitement in covering a drought, but I believe the results are just as serious to those it affects as the hurricanes are. Anyway, that rain just put a little sunshine in our lives — is that a possibility?

There have been some reports of illness, accidents and such that I want to pass on. One is that Rex Farley of Wichita had an occupational accident on Tuesday that put him in the hospital a few days.



sally michael

• brewster beacon

His parents Don and Donna Farley of Brewster went to see him and were happy they could report that he would be home from the hospital after just a few days to do the rest of his recuperation at home. We hope his recovery is very speedy and complete.

Another fellow who grew up and went to school in Brewster, who now lives in Oakley, has also had some problems. Merle Parker, son of the late Bill and Inace Parker, had an apparent heart attack on Monday the 13th and was taken to Hays for treatment, and we hope the report is

also good about him. I will report as soon as I hear from someone on his condition. In the meantime, our prayers are with the Farleys and with Merle and Sandy while these healings are coming about.

Continuing on the healing outlook, we are sending special prayers up for Denny Horney, who has started his third round of chemotherapy and is looking forward to a full recovery from pancreatic cancer.

He told Roger that he appreciates all the help and prayers that folks have given in his behalf during this time. His son Keith told us they are looking forward to some fishing trips this fall, and we sure hope they

catch their limit.

We visited with Steve Richards about his son Shaun and the battle with West Nile that he is still fighting.

There are a lot of serious things that a person goes through with this ailment, and we are happy that this young husband and father has successfully gone through the worst ones, and each day he is better.

Steve, Shaun and Scot are planning a little elk hunt, and I am sure this will be a good time for this father and his two sons. I'll bet Carolyn has some plans with her daughter, daughters-in-law and grandkids too. It won't be long until all those Christmas items will be needing to get ready, so have fun before the "work" begins!

Another report that all are anxiously awaiting will be hearing that Curt Stephens is fully restored to good health after his accident. So

far, it sounds like it could take a while for this to happen, but we know that things can change in a hurry with today's medical breakthroughs and with the prayers of believers.

This column seems almost like a medical report, but when we have folks ailing, I think everyone likes to know about who needs cheering up with a card, phone call or visit. And we can all use the prayers, just some need it more at times than others.

There are a lot of local folks traveling for another week or so, and we will be happy to have their reports when they get home.

Some are traveling to Canada, some to Washington (I don't know whether it is D.C. or state) and some from Arizona to Louisiana.

With a little more moisture and the nice weather we've been having, there aren't many places that

are any nicer than northwest Kansas. I still say we have the bluest skies, on clear days, as there are anywhere.

The fall flowers are looking beautiful as always, and some yards are looking so organized. The trees are starting to get a little shaggy, preparing to drop their leaves and make room for new ones next spring.

The temperatures have been pretty warm during the day and getting a little cooler at night, so I guess there will be a change one of these days.

I have seen a snake, on two different occasions this past week, heading for the park.

I think they were bull snakes, but I really don't get too chatty with them. I just don't think humans and reptiles are all that compatible in my opinion. On that note, I'll close for now and look forward to seeing you next week.

Tall fescue grasses considered best club news

Though several cool-season grasses are grown in Kansas, tall fescue is considered the best adapted and is recommended for home lawns.

The cultivar K-31 is the old standby and has been used for years. However, there are a number of new types that have improved color and density and a finer leaf texture.

Each year university horticulturists rate tall fescue varieties for color, greenup, quality and texture.

Kansas State University has 160 varieties of tall fescue in the Tall Fescue Cultivar Trial near Wichita. Quality ratings are taken once a month from March through October.

K-31 consistently rates near the



dana belshe

• ag notebook

bottom. The highest-rated named cultivars from last year's ratings were Justice, Falcon IV, Avenger, Scorpion, Coshise III, Coyote, Grande II, Picasso, Raptor, Millennium, Finelawn Elite, Legitimate and Matador.

Each of these varieties averaged a rating of at least 5.6 on a scale of 0 to 9, with 9 being optimum quality.

Keep in mind that mixes of several varieties may allow you to

take advantage of differing strengths. It is not necessary for mixes to contain only the varieties mentioned. Many varieties did not make the list above but did not differ significantly in quality from the top-rated selections. I did not include them because the list would have become too long.

Though K-31 may still be a good choice for large, open areas, the new cultivars will give better performance for those who want a high-quality turf.

Masonic Lodge holds essay contest

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Kansas is offering an essay contest for juniors and seniors at Kansas high schools on the topic, "Describe and explain three requirements for all immigrants to be eligible for government benefits."

Entries must be submitted to a local lodge by Friday, Oct. 15. Call Art Nelson, master in Goodland, at 899-7215, or Allan Hurlburt, master in Sharon Springs, at (785) 852-4162.

Winners will compete for state scholarships, which will be for-

warded to the student's college after enrollment.

A total of \$12,000 will be awarded. The first-place winner will receive \$4,000, the second-place winner \$3,000, the third-

place winner \$2,000 and the fourth-place winner \$1,000. Four honorable mentions will be awarded \$500 each.

Essays must not be longer than 500 words.

Area students get \$1,000 for college

Two area students received \$1,000 Excellence Awards for the 2004-05 school year at Barton County Community College.

To qualify, a student must have a grade average of 3.5-4.0 and be enrolled full time.



Titus

Nicole Titus, a 2004 graduate of Goodland High School, and Jill Zumbahlen, a 2003 graduate of Cheylin High School in Bird City, received awards.

Titus is a freshman majoring in business administration. In high school, she was active in Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) and student council. She was named to the supreme and principal's honor rolls. She is the daughter of Lori Titus of Goodland.

Zumbahlen, a sophomore majoring in graphic art and design, is the daughter of David and Marjean Zumbahlen. Her father is superintendent of schools in Bird City.

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Accidents

The following accidents were reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Sept. 15 — Amber Searle backed her 1994 Pontiac into a fire hydrant at 2810 Commerce.

Robert Truby, Roswell, N.M. was making a U-turn in the parking lot of the Conoco when he struck the corner of the building.

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Lee A. Starkweather, trustee of the Ernestine M. Marshall Trust, of Los Angeles County, Calif. to New Horizon Associates, LP, DBA New Horizon Farm, all of Sec. 1, T10S, R38W.

900

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