

'Up on the Housetop'



Several Santa Claus paintings by Bobbi Kerth of WaKeeney are on display at the Carnegie Arts Center this month. Kerth's display of watercolor and oil paintings include many of spring flowers, but she is best known for her Santas, which have been on the American Diabetes "Gift of Hope" catalog and on Christmas cards. The painting above, done in 1999, was on a card with sales of \$170,000, a record for the catalog.

DECA qualifies five for national event

The Goodland High School DECA Chapters had a great Kansas State DECA Career Development Conference in Overland Park.

Two Goodland students were elected as state officers, and the school had five qualifications for national conference. They competed at state Saturday through Tuesday.

Jonathan McClung was elected into the state DECA executive council as the state reporter, and

Jessica Lu was elected into the executive council as the western region vice president.

The officers qualify for nationals, and Lu also qualified with a second place finish in the Entrepreneurship Promotion Project. Lauren Abernathy and Andrew Philbrick also finished second in Entrepreneurship Promotion Project.

DECA sponsor Richard Schwasinger said there is also a good possibility that the third place team of

McClung, T.J. Freeman and Thomas Terry in the Learn and Earn Project could move into a national qualifying spot if another team has to drop out. Students are limited in the number of events they can compete in at Nationals.

Of the four awards in the H.D. Shotwell Chapter Service Award, Goodland High School took two, one for Goodland DECA II Chapter and one for Goodland DECA I Chapter.

Lu was the state champion in the Restaurant and Food Service Management Role Play No. 2. Jedediah Snethen was fourth place overall in Technical Sales Event. Michael Bryce was fifth place in the Retail Merchandising Comprehensive Exam.

Cody Engel was eighth in Quick Serve Restaurant Management, and Jillian Parker had two 10th-place finishes, in Restaurant and Food Service Management Role Play No. 1 and Role Play No. 2.

Aging Expo comes to Goodland in April

Older... and wiser, the saying goes.

Full Circle, an Aging Expo for residents in Northwest Kansas, promises helpful and healthful tips on managing the aging process successfully.

A session will be offered in Goodland Thursday, April 27, at the First Christian Church. The conference is for older adults, ages 55 and up, and for caregivers.

Cost to attend is \$15 per person or \$25 for two family members with registrations paid before Wednesday, April 19.

The fee covers refreshments, a light supper and program materials. Late registrations of \$20 per person and \$30 for two family members will be accepted, but the evening

meal will not be guaranteed.

For registration or other information, interested persons may contact any Northwest Kansas County Extension Office, the Northwest Area Extension Office at 785-462-6281, visit www.oznet.ksu.edu/nwao/Block2FoodNutritionSafety.htm, or e-mail twwatts@oznet.ksu.edu.

The presentations and their session leaders will include:

- Brain Blitz, focusing on the differences between more serious mental impairments and the memory lapses associated with the normal aging process — Donna Martinson, K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agent in

Geary County.

- Identity Theft — Ways to protect yourself from identity theft — Dean Reynoldson, Kansas Department of Revenue.

- Wellness and Aging — Jeff Burnett, Fort Hays State University's Department of Health and Human Performance.

- Take Steps to a Healthier You — focusing on foods that offer health benefits, as well as meet nutritional needs — Mary Higgins, K-State Extension Nutrition Specialist.

- Talking to Each Other — with tips for communicating effectively with family and friends — Charlotte Shoup Olsen, K-State Extension Family Systems Specialist.

- What to Know About Prescrip-

tion Drugs — with a review of pain medications and their use — Pharmacist Cesar Miller of Goodland.

- Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Counseling — a 30-45 minute, confidential session with Glenna Clingsmith, Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging.

At each location, sessions will begin at 3 p.m. and conclude with a wrap-up at 8 p.m.

Conference sponsors include Kansas State University Research and Extension - Northwest Area, the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association of the Great Plains, and the Department of Health and Human Performance at Fort Hays State University.

Students win Hansen scholarships

Several area students have been awarded scholarships from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

McKenzie Grace, a senior at St. Francis High School, was selected as a Hansen Scholar. She will receive \$3,000 for one year, which may be renewed for one additional year.

Non-renewable Hansen Student awards of \$2,000 were given to Matt Rohr, a senior at Goodland High School, Heath Owens and Samantha Marin of St. Francis



Rohr



Albers

High, Jacob Jensen of Cheylin High and Kyle Elder of Wallace Community High.

Nine area students received Vocational Education awards of \$1,500 each.

Those students are Sarah Albers, daughter of James and Loraine Albers of Goodland; Kalie Smith, Tadd Taylor, Mitchell Welsh and Jonathan Bussen, students at Wallace Community High; Joni Andrews and Janie Herschberger, students at Weskan High; Erica Olson, a student at Cheylin High; and Heath Kibel, a student at St. Francis High.

Library gets new books, CDs

The Goodland Public Library has added the following books to its collection:

In fiction: "Gone," by Lisa Gardner; "More than Friends," by Barbara Delinsky; "The Stone Children," by C.J. Morris.

"Hawk's Way Brides," by Joan Johnston; "Just Rewards," by Barbara Taylor Bradford; "The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell," by Barbara Taylor Bradford; "Death Dance," by Linda Fairstein.

"The Witness," by Dee Henderson; "Every Breath You Take," by Judith McNaught; "Memory in Death," by J.D. Robb; "Death of a Dreamer," by M.C. Beaton; "Summer of the

Midnight Sun," by Tracie Peterson; "Terror Town," by Stuart M. Kaminsky.

"Some Like it Haute," by Julie K.L. Dam; "Sea Change," by Robert B. Parker; "Wild Animals," by Rich Shaper; "A Rush of Wings," by Kristen Heitzmann; "Flying through midnight," by John T. Halliday; and "Crazy in love," by Luanne Rice.

In non-fiction: "Generation T," "The American Bar Association Guide to Credit and Bankruptcy."

"Home Buying for Dummies," "Consumer Reports Used Car Buying Guide 2006," "Night," by Elie Wiesel; "Tell Them I Didn't Cry," by Jackie

Spinner; and "A Strong West Wind," by Gail Caldwell.

On compact disc: "Just Rewards," by Barbara Taylor Bradford; "The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell," by Lilian Jackson Braun.

"Death Dance," by Linda Fairstein; "The Witness," by Dee Henderson; "Every Breath You Take," by Judith McNaught.

"Long Time Coming," by Sandra Brown; "Gone," by Lisa Gardner; "Memory in Death," by J.D. Robb.

"Wolf Mountain Moon," by Terry Johnston; "Sea Change," by Robert B. Parker; "Wild Animals," by Rich Shaper; "Flying Through Midnight," by John T. Halliday.

Applying nitrogen can help wheat yields

Moisture over the winter has been marginal to nonexistent, which is causing many farmers to scratch their heads and wonder whether it is worth top dressing nitrogen on their wheat fields.

If nitrogen is not applied, potential wheat yields will likely be reduced. Spring could have normal rainfall and temperatures, but the wheat will be unable to achieve higher potential yields due to lack of nitrogen.

Typically, the biggest yield response to nitrogen with wheat is where the nitrogen is in the root zone before jointing, said Dale Leikam, soil nutrient specialist with Kansas State Research and Extension.

Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist, said if nitrogen is delayed until moisture is received, sufficient nitrogen may not be available to wheat at jointing. If the wheat does not have enough nitrogen, it will abort some tillers while promoting other tillers, therefore, decreasing the amount of tillers in the field.

So when is wheat going to joint? There is no specific date for the area. Initiation of jointing is related to the weather, wheat variety and when it was planted.

A bitterly cold winter and cool spring will delay jointing, while in



jeanne falk

• agron notes

if it is taken up as late as the boot stage."

About half of the total nitrogen used by wheat is in the plant by the early boot stage.

Nitrogen taken up at the boot stage will

a mild winter and spring, jointing will likely start earlier than normal.

Some varieties of wheat, like Jagger, tend to start jointing earlier than others.

Realistically, however, we suspect jointing will start earlier than normal. Therefore, farmers need to apply additional nitrogen to wheat no later than mid-March for Northwest Kansas.

An additional 30 to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen top dressed has the potential to increase wheat yields by 15 to 25 bushels per acre.

So what happens if we apply nitrogen now and don't get rain for a while to get the nitrogen into the soil? If rains do not come until after the wheat has jointed, will the top dressed nitrogen still have impacts on yields?

Leikam said that in most cases the answer is yes. "Even though we would prefer to have the nitrogen into the root zone before jointing," he said, "nitrogen can still increase yields on nitrogen-deficient wheat,

not increase tiller numbers or maximum potential head size but can increase kernel weight and help maintain potential kernel numbers per spikelet.

Many producers like to wait as long as possible to apply nitrogen so they can add a herbicide with it. This combination is a good way to minimize trips across the field.

However, by waiting to put herbicides on wheat in mid-April, the opportunity to maximize wheat yields with additional nitrogen will have slipped away with only a marginal increase in yield received from the additional nitrogen.

For more help with top dressing wheat or fertilizer rates, please contact your local extension office. The number for the Goodland office is 899-4880.

Jeanne Falk is an area crop production and economics specialist for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties with Kansas State University Research and Extension.



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