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LEADER & TIMES
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INSIDE

SO LONG GENE!

Community says goodbye at Gene Austin's retirement reception

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SERVING THE HOME OF KENNY GARRISON, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Kansas County Extension agent Kylee Harrison visits Thursday at Liberal's Bur Center about some various issues regarding planting gardens and sampling soil before growing. | Staff photo/Kevin Parrot

Planting tips, when real spring arrives

By ROBERT WRIGHT
• Leader & Times

Despite some below average temperatures, it is officially still spring in Southwest Kansas, and many people have or will be taking advantage of the conditions to make gardens, as well as other plants, grow in their yards.

Local K-State Extension agent Kylee Harrison, with some help from master gardener Joe Steinhart, gave some advice concerning that Saturday morning at the Bur Center in Liberal.

Harrison started by talking about how taking soil samples is one other kind of dirt is up the ground being considered by planting. She also talked about the importance of using the right kind of fertilizer, the proper watering and weeding, fertilizing practices and choosing healthy plants from greenhouses or other local vendors.

Harrison also talked about the master gardener program next winter, and the series classes to participate.

"I've got a form, and they can give you their contact info," she said. Harrison said the Kansas County Extension office is open Mondays and with the unusual spring weather this year, gardeners need to take care to also prevent freeze damage.

Harrison said the Extension agent recommended at least four samples from a garden, farm or library yard.

"Put them into a clean container," she said. "Mix them up. Take out a cup-full, and put it in a bag. Take it to the Extension office, or send it to Junction City. Avoid sampling in odd-shaped areas, low spots or areas where there could've been any feeding going on that could alter the results of the soil test."

Harrison said bags are available at the Stevens County Extension office at 1001 Madison Road to be given to use for soil samples.

Harrison said the Kansas State University Extension office also has the bag, fill out the form, send it in. Inside the bag is a sheet which tells the pH, phosphorous, potassium, nitrates and organic matter of the soil. Harrison said the sheet also tells what to do to get that back.

Harrison said she can also suggest the right soil, and Harrison said the Extension office can also suggest fertilizer.

"They can check out if that's needed," she said.

As for where to send soil samples, Harrison said that information is on the sheet that comes back with the soil test results.

"The address is on the sheet that they have to fill out and send with it."

See GARDENING/Page 5A

Garden City school district community approach differs from that of Liberal

By DON PATT
• Leader & Times

Transition was the theme of the first Garden City meeting of the 2013-2014 school year.

The board recently approved the addition of Closer conference, the match for a new elementary school in Garden City, and the recommendation of a slate of new superintendents for three.

Board member Dan Schmidt said the transition from Garden City will bring a Garden City and Kansas comparison month, comment a lot of those who were high school students in Garden City and Liberal, which Schmidt is correct high school 10 years ago.

A closer look indicates several differences between the approaches of Garden City and Liberal. Garden City has a strong foreign language planning and teaching leadership, a community involvement with the Kansas Coalition for Agriculture Education, a Business Connection unit, and that focus is for 2-3 community awards, a participation approach and a budget stabilization approach.

That would probably not be the result in Garden City as nothing is the amount of community involvement that can be expected planning and operations of the school district.

BUDGET STIFFING APPROACH

Recently a budget of school district staff and board members was approved by the board and recommendation to the board.

an additional 10 positions were needed. It was not apparent that any community input was sought for the recommendation.

At the same time, Garden City's Program Budgeting Committee was the outstanding model for the Kansas Association of School Boards, which includes district representatives as well as community members. The committee was a group of citizens who had to generate a 10 percent budget and a 10 percent budget.

Garden City's Program Budgeting Committee was a model for Kansas. That bottom line of all the presentations.

See COMMUNITY/Page 7A

Check out Kansas Sampler Festival exhibitors

• Leader & Times

The Kansas Sampler Foundation has announced the following groups and individuals will be exhibiting at the Kansas Sampler Festival at Light Park in Liberal.

Wild West Country - SW Kansas

Baker Arts Center, Liberal
Beaver County Historical and Marine County Historical Society Museum, Elkhart
Big Bend Tourism Cooperative
City of Coldwater Tourism, Coldwater
Clark County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dodge City
Finney County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Garden City
Grant County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, Ulysses
Greeley County Economic Development/Chamber of Commerce, Tribune
Hamilton County Economic Development, Syracuse
Hugoton Visitor & Tourism, Hugoton
Kearny County Community Development Table

Kansas Little Wonders Fun Kansas!
Kansas Coal Convention & Visitors Bureau, Liberal
Marsh Co. Economic Development, Hooker
Meade Co. Historical Society/Dalton Gang Hideout, Meade
Mid-America Air Museum, Liberal
Morton County Chamber of Commerce, Elkhart
Scott City Tourism, Scott City

Stevens County Historical Society, Liberal
Sublette Chamber/Tourism Co., Moscow, Mexico
South Mennonite Museum, Moundridge

Southeast Kansas Tourism Region

Coffeyville CVB, Coffeyville
Chanute/Chanute Chamber of Commerce, Chanute
Independence Convention

Tri-State Bureau, Independence
Iola Area Chamber of Commerce
Indian Area Economic Development, Iola

South Central Tourism Region

Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arkansas City
Harper County Preservation

See SAMPLER/Page 5A

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