

Community News



Porch Swing Conversations

Jeanie Hart

www.fstribune.com

Projects and Cheddar Potato Strips

I’ve titled this column “Projects” because in the spring I like to plant, rake and plan for summer. As of this writing, I haven’t done much of anything, but I have big plans. (Don’t we all?) Our dogwood tree is dead as I can’t find a snip-pet of green anywhere on it. It makes me a little miffed because I faithfully watered it last summer. Husband will saw it down soon. I do have plants waiting for the correct moon signs for their planting and I hope to get some hostas for the front planter. In August when nothing is blooming, hostas

make a lovely arrangement. Use the leaves to line a glass vase and add some cut leaves as a bouquet. It’s simple, but stylish, and as you know I’m always styl-ish. Husband has almost completed a very large project of placing large pavers to extend our patio. The small patio at the end of the back steps was fine, but the dogs’ leashes dragged across the grass and all we had was bare earth. I’d like to have all the money, not to mention time back that he spent sowing grass seed. I was the one who suggest-

ed extending it and making a decorative addition. He chose a brick red paver 16 inches-by-16 inches and it looks very professional. I’m happy and the dogs are happy. Speaking of happy dogs – we boarded them while we took a short trip to Branson last week. They immediately forgot that they had been left for months and months when Husband picked them up to come home. We had pleasant weather and had a good time as shown by the sunburn on the top of Husband’s head and on my nose. Sunscreen must not be

forgotten next time. This is an easy recipe and adds potato flavor in a different way. Sometimes I just like a change from the usual. This recipe is from the “Taste of Home Annual Recipes 2001.”

Cheddar Potato Strips

3 large potatoes, cut into 1/2 inch strips

1/2 cup milk

1 tablespoon butter

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup shredded cheese

Some parsley or I like chives

In a greased 13x9 inch baking dish arrange potatoes in a single layer. Pour milk over them and dot with butter. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover and bake at 425 degrees for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese and parsley or chives. Bake again, uncovered 5 more minutes or until cheese is melted.



Jeanie Hart photo

For a change of pace, try Cheddar Potato Strips.

Entries accepted for Gordon Parks Poetry Contest

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

The Gordon Parks Museum at Fort Scott Community College will feature a poetry contest sponsored by poet and Fort Scott native Helen Townsend and Trabar & Associates. The theme of the contest is “What Does Your Heart See?” This contest is

inspired by a quote from Gordon Parks, “I feel it is the heart, not the eye, that should determine the content of the photograph. What the eye sees is its own. What the heart can perceive is a very different matter.” The contest is open to any emerging poets who have not yet been published in a book. Poets are invited to capture the essence of the

theme. Emerging poets of any ages and skill level are invited to write a poem for this contest and may enter up to one poem. There will be a first place (\$200), second place (\$150) and third place (\$100) prize and up to five honorable mentions. Winners will be announced at the Gordon Parks Celebration. All poems submitted will be on exhibit during

the 22nd annual Gordon Parks Celebration on Oct. 2 - 4. All poems will also be posted on the Gordon Parks Website and Facebook page. Judges for the poetry contest will be and Annette Hope Billings, poet and author from Topeka, and Cash Hollistah, hip-hop recording artist, poet and arts educator from Salina. Poems must be submit-

ted via e-mail to gordon-parkscenter@fortscott.edu. Poems are limited to one page. All entries should be typed and submitted as a word document only. Attachments (including pdf’s, pictures, google docs., etc.) are not accepted. Type or ‘copy and paste’ your poem into the body of your email. Poets should submit poem with the title, their name, address, email,

and phone number. If under 14 years old please include parent’s information. Poems should be received via email by Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the latest. For more information, email gordonparkscenter@fortscott.edu or by phone call 620-223-2700, extension 5850.

State reports claims from 2024 storms

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

TOPEKA – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt on Friday released data on the amount paid by insurance companies for Kansas storm damage claims in 2024. “The Kansas Department of Insurance calls on insurance companies for yearly data to better understand the impact of storm events across the state,” Schmidt said. “The Department uses this data as a tool to monitor trends in the marketplace.” In 2024, reported storm claims totaled 56,778 and the amount paid out on those claims by insurance compa-

nies was \$612,069,643.50. Johnson County saw the highest amount while Greeley County saw the lowest. Bourbon County had \$740,331.22 in claims. A county-by-county breakdown of the data can be found on the Department’s website at <https://insurance.ks.gov/documents/department/publications/Storm-Claim-Losses-by-County.pdf>. The Department collected data from companies writing property and casualty insurance in Kansas. This data includes the number of total claims as well as the amount paid for those claims across several types of storm losses including hail, wind, water

damage, and other weather-related claim losses for homeowner and automobile policies. “These numbers serve as a reminder that catastrophic weather events do not just happen on the coasts,” Schmidt said. “Check in with your insurance agent and make sure you are ready for this storm season.” This storm season, anyone who is having trouble with an insurance claim, contact the Kansas Department of Insurance’s Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071, by email at KDOI.complaints@ks.gov or online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.

Autumn Leaves met April 15

The April 15 Autumn Leaves meeting at Arcadia opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Lord’s Prayer. Richard gave our blessing for the meal. There were 19 attending. All enjoyed a wonderful Easter style luncheon of ham and all the fixin’s and fellowship time. The quarterly business meeting was held as last month it had to be postponed. The meeting was called to order by President Judy. Secretary Pat read last month’s minutes and Tammy, treasurer, gave the treasurer report. Tammy also reported that Autumn Leaves was approved for this year’s fund request from the Crawford County Commissioner’s Elderly Fund. A portion of that was received and the remaining amount will come at a later

date Last month President Judy mentioned that Northeast High School had recently joined the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Kansas (FCA) and the Arcadia Open Door Church had given \$750 for the purchase of bibles for the students at Northeast High School. It was suggested that Autumn Leaves might donate some reimbursement money to the church for this worthy cause. A motion was made by Tammy that we donate \$375 to Arcadia Open Door Church to help. Helen seconded the motion, vote taken, motion passed. Some new tablecloths will be purchased soon. If anyone would like to donate some metal forks that would be appreciated. Mary Lee read some funnies that made everyone laugh and several others

joined in with a few additional funnies. Next meeting will be May 13 at noon at the new place by the Open Door Church. We will have a fish fry. Menu: fish donated by John; cole slaw, Helen; baked beans, Pat; macaroni salad, Linda; cornbread, Suzie, Pat; salad, Cathy; desserts, Mary Lee, Patty, Barb and Suzie. Motion was made by Patty to adjourn the meeting. Cathy seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Several games of Bingo were played and Patty P. won the blackout game. Note: Meetings are to be held quarterly – March, June, September and December from now on, unless something special comes up that needs to be addressed. – Respectfully submitted by Pat Morris, secretary

Garden Club plans annual sale

The Bourbon County Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale from 8 a.m. until noon on the opening day of the Downtown Farmers’ Market, Saturday, May 3, at the north end of the pavilion. Proceeds from the sale support beautification efforts throughout the community, including the city pool islands, Heritage Park, and the North Main area. The garden club partners with Tri Valley Developmental Services to sell a wide variety of plants, all of which are geared to our area’s challenging weather. Club members offer plants freshly dug from their own gardens. Tri Valley provides annuals, herbs, and both floral and foliage hanging baskets. Among the variety of annuals for this year



Submitted photo

The Bourbon County Garden Club will give away unique pots planted with sedum during the annual plant sale Saturday, May 3, during the Downtown Farmers Market. are geraniums, calibrachoa, coleus, and begonias, which are in bloom and ideal for Mothers’ Day gifts. Knowledgeable members and Master Gardeners will be available to offer advice and answer questions about plants during the sale.

A feature this year is a children’s free activity area. There will be garden-related coloring sheets and crayons, plus rocks that children can decorate with acrylic paint markers. They may take the rocks with them or leave them around town for other children to find. The garden club will also be selling decorative rocks Fort Scott Middle School students have painted. There will be drawings for several unique pots that have been planted with drought-resistant sedum. The Bourbon County Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month, March through October. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at Heritage Park in downtown Fort Scott. Like us on Facebook for news, meeting announcements, and photos.

Items from the past

Contract let for new A.F.&A.M. building

25 Years Ago 2000 April 19 Jim Orr waited patiently for some assistance from Fort Scott Community College Information Services specialist Ken Beal. The 80-year-old local retiree, one of 65 area senior citizens attending a free FSCC Internet and e-mail introduction class Tuesday, was attempting to access a web site operated by Netscape, a software company that pioneered surfing on the worldwide collection of computer networks that send information and messages to far flung locations all over the globe.

50 Years Ago 1975 April 19 Photo Caption: “Dan Meara, in his star-spangled cowboy attire is one of several stellar performers in Saturday night’s Community Variety Show, sponsored by the Bourbon County Arts Council.”

75 Years Ago 1950 April 19 At a meeting of Rising Sun Lodge, A.F. & A.M. No. 8, held last night, a contract for the proposed new building on South Scott Avenue was let to Blaser and Vollmer of this city for approximately \$43,000. Ing-ham and Son were given the plumbing and heating contract at \$3,000. The building will be a three-story reinforced concrete structure fronting Scott Avenue. The

building will be financed through the Liberty Building and Loan Association.

100 Years Ago 1925 April 20 C.E. Conley, former custodian of Gunn City Park, has purchased the J.M. Parker farm northwest of Fort Scott and intends to make it into a summer resort.

125 Years Ago 1900 April 19 George Stockmyer, the veteran sweet potato farmer. Yesterday received a shipment of gold standard potatoes from southern Florida and immediately bedded them in his yards on Scott Avenue.

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