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**Padre says:**

“It’s the little things having to do with kindness that matter most. When we engage in little acts of kindness, it feels good and makes us happier.”

**Poor Economy Creates Tree Surplus Saved And Sold At Auction Benefitting Charities**



The Great Big Tree Auction for Kansas City attracted about 150 bidders to buy “at below market value” more than 2,400 surplus trees and shrub that otherwise would have been destroyed.

The recent collapse of the housing and commercial construction markets has created a huge surplus of trees and plants. Thus, tree growers across the country are all over stocked with premium trees that they cannot get rid of in the current market conditions.

“Instead of destroying these trees, local growers came together to create The Great Big Tree Auction for Kansas City, an opportunity for the general public to purchase top quality trees and plants for below wholesale cost to beautify their properties and communities,” according to Chad Weinand, marketing coordinator for KAT Nurseries in Olathe.

The last auction in Lenexa was advertised heavily on WIBW AM-FM and offered a wide variety of maples, oaks, elms, ash, crabapple, redbud, pine, spruce, arborvitae and other trees.

“This sale was the final one in a run of eight auctions on consecutive Saturdays starting in September,” Weinand said. “It was not until this last one that we decided to advertise on WIBW AM-FM. We regret that we didn’t advertise all of the auctions on

WIBW, because it would have made the previous sales more successful.”

At the sale advertised on WIBW, there were about 150 people in attendance. “We sold more than 1,200 trees and 1,200 shrubs that otherwise would have been destroyed,” Weinand related. “In the process, we donated about \$2,500 cash and about 20 trees to Heartland Habitat for Humanity.”

All told over the course of the eight auctions, more than \$15,000 cash and several dozen trees and shrubs were donated to local charities. “We sold more than 10,000 trees and 10,000 shrubs,” Weinand summarized. “Overall, this was a huge success for us to give people the opportunity to buy trees they otherwise would not have been able to afford, for the most part.

“We may be doing these auctions again in the spring, at which time we will be in touch with WIBW for advertising,” Weinand commented.

As a forecast, Weinand added, “Prices for trees in future years will skyrocket.”

**Irvine Ranch Continues 154-Year Tradition**



Three generations of Irvines, Bernard, his son Nathaniel, Paul and John, stopped long enough to visit briefly during the Irvine Ranch Simmental-Simangus Sale at Manhattan.

Irvine Ranch began before the Civil War when the family’s ancestors arrived near Manhattan, Kansas, in 1856 built a log cabin and started a farming and ranching tradition that continues today. Paul Irvine and his sons, John and Irvine, are the fifth and sixth generations, respectively operating the ranch.

The present cowherd traces back more than 80 years when Paul’s father purchased 25 Hereford cows at the Kansas City Stockyards. That beginning has been supplemented with a few purebred Simmental and Angus cows. In 1968, Irvine Ranch incorporated Simmental bulls through artificial insemination.

For nearly 40 years, seedstock was sold from the farm, but since 2005, the ranch has conducted an annual bull production sale. Females were added to this offering at the recent sale advertised heavily on AM 580 WIBW.

High selling bull, Lot 1, IR Expedition W413, brought \$7,000 from Cow Camp Ranch at Ramona. Thirty bulls in the auction averaged \$2,889. Peter and Robert Tully of Manhattan paid \$2,150 for Lot 49, the high selling cow-calf pair. Twenty pairs sold for an average of \$1,592.

“The seventh generation of the Irvine Ranch is on the ground and starting to work their way into the ranch operation,” John said. “We look forward to continued success in providing superior genetics for our customers by combining our rich tradition and heritage with modern advancements in beef production.”

**Bennett’s Serves Those Who Sew**



Although being a seamstress isn’t an essential requirement for housewives as it once was, many women and men still sew and quilt for economical advantages and personal satisfaction. Thus, Don Bennett finds eager patronage at Bennett’s Sewing Center on 2125 North Kansas Avenue in Topeka. Started in 1988, Bennett’s, a WIBW AM-FM advertiser since the beginning, is the community’s oldest locally-owned sewing center. With more than 4,000 bolts of quilter fabric and 600 bolts of flannel, the store has the largest selection of sewing furniture in northeast Kansas,