

Monarchs roost in Rice County



(Above) Anna Minnis of St. John, a longtime volunteer at the Monarch Mania annual tagging event at Quivira Wildlife Education Center, shows Mariah Dowling, 9, also of St. John, the proper way to tag and release a Monarch butterfly. (Right) A group of Monarch butterflies roost on a willow branch west of Lyons at the home of Jeanette Miller. Due to heavy rains and wind thousands of Monarchs roosted in the same place for five days. The Monarchs are migrating south to the trans-volcanic mountain range in Mexico and expected to arrive there the first part of this month. (Photos by LouAnn Cobb)

'Pirates of Penzance' Oct. 7-9

STERLING -- Sterling College's Homecoming musical, "Pirates of Penzance," will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7-9, at 8 p.m. in Culbertson Auditorium.

The Sterling College production of "Pirates of Penzance" features Houston Smith as the Pirate King, David Ireland as Frederic, Samantha Davison as Ruth, Larissa Versaw as Mabel, Andrew Curtiss as Major-General Stanley, and Ryan Ehresman as the Sergeant of Police. Other cast members include Marcus Mull, Amanda Xydis, Kaedra Dixon, Tillie Wilbeck, Mike Love, Paul Brecht, Shiloh Duff, Stuart Parman, Mike Redondo, Ka-

leb Knighton, Ben Jones, Spencer Nolan, Grant Brintnall, Victor Smith, Mandy Lee, Rachel Gardner, Ashley Hasart, Greta Larson, Amanda Denning, Jackie Wilkerson, Lauren White, Emily Zerger, Nathan West, Travis Norton, Tim Kerr, Jordan Snow, Nathan Sullivan, and Tim Dinh. Cara Spencer serves as the stage manager, and Mandy Nichols serves as the assistant stage manager.

Tickets are available through the Sterling College box office and can be reserved by calling (620) 278-4279.

As "Pirates of Penzance" opens, the Pirates are celebrating the promotion of their apprentice Frederic to the status

of full-blown pirate. In his speech of thanks, Frederic startles them with the news that he is leaving them because he never should have been apprenticed to them at all. His nursery maid, Ruth, misheard his parents' instructions to "apprentice him to a pilot" and instead took him to the pirates of Penzance.

Frederic and Ruth leave the pirates and meet Major-General Stanley's large family of unwed daughters, which includes Mabel, who is of special interest to Frederic. All is going well until the pirates return, kidnap the daughters and inform Frederic that he is not truly free, since he was born on February 29 of a

leap year and his apprenticeship does not end until his 21st birthday. When Major-General Stanley appears and tells a lie to get the pirates to set his daughters free, the mix-ups and misunderstandings continue and are not sorted out until the closing scene.

This comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan premiered in 1879 in New York. Even before its opening, Arthur Sullivan wrote, "I think it will be a great success, for it is exquisitely funny, and the music is strikingly tuneful and catching." His words came true. The show was an immediate hit and is today one of the most popular and enduring works of musical theatre.



A controlled burn by Harlan Ebright created colorful smoke Wednesday off 15th road south of Lyons. (Photo by LouAnn Cobb)



A Sloppy Joe dinner benefit to defray medical expenses for injured Sterling football player Trevonte Bell (right) was held Sept. 24 at Smisor Stadium before the Sterling football game. Bell is recovering, but has lost some feeling in his arms. Doctors expect a full recovery, but Bell is sidelined for the season. (Left) The Bell family chats before the kickoff Friday, with sisters Alyssa (1) and Lashelle talking with their mother Pam Bell. Trevonte had been one of Sterling's top players before getting injured in the Hillsboro game Sept. 17. Sterling plays at Haven Friday night in a Central Kansas league football game. (Photos by Godfrey Miheso)

