



BRUSHING THE PELTS — Cliff Semler, trapper, brushes the pelts of a beaver and four of the bobcats he has trapped during the winter season. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Bobcats seen west of Sainty

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

There have been several reports of bobcats along the creek bottom northwest of town near the Ron Zimelman place.

Cliff Semler, local trapper, said

he had also heard of people in that area losing cats and even one dog. He said along that creek, there have been sightings of four to five bobcats in a bunch.

Mr. Semler has studied wildlife since he was a boy and said that

when more than one bobcat is seen together they generally are a mother and her last year's kittens.

They are very territorial, he said, getting rid of any other cats, whether they are other bobcats or house cats. They eat rodents and rabbits but with the wild turkey population growing in this area, he said there will more than likely be even more bobcats.

He said this has been a good year for trapping and he has already taken four bobcats. Last year, in the county, there was a total of 17 bobcats harvested.

Even with the bitterly cold mornings, Mr. Semler is out checking his traps (it is the law that traps be checked regularly). He noted that Monday morning, as he crossed the river in his waders, he found he had a slit in one and it quickly filled with icy water, sending him home quickly for dry clothes and another pair of waders.

Because of the very cold winter, the animal coats are thick and in good condition.

So far this season besides the bobcats, he has harvested 55 coons, 2 mink, 19 beavers (one weighed in at 54 pounds), a few coyotes, one red fox and 25 skunks and possums.



Aubrey Brunswig

— Introducing —

Aubrey Lynn Brunswig
Preston and Amber Brunswig, Wichita, announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Lynn Brunswig, born Dec. 19, 2008, at Wesley Birthing Center. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19 3/4 inches. She was welcomed home by brother, Jace Brunswig.

Grandparents are Chris and Melinda Taylor, Arkansas City, Mark and Diana Bosso, Arnold, Mo., and John Brunswig, Haigler, Neb. Great-grandparents are Leota Mayberry, Arkansas City; Al and Margaret Reed, Arkansas City; Edward and Emma Brunswig, Haigler, Neb. and LeRoy and Judy Taylor, Wichita.

Eighth grader wins contest

Clarice Neitzel was the winner of the St. Francis eighth grade English class's writing competition in conjunction with the Goodland Elks Lodge's essay contest. The essay topic was "What Freedom Means to Me." Lisa Gibson is the English instructor.



Neitzel

Clarice's essay won the local competition and placed second overall among the Goodland lodge's entries. As one of the three top essays, her paper is eligible to be forwarded on for district judging.

Following is Clarice's entry:
What Does Freedom Mean to Me?

By Clarice Neitzel

Have you ever thought about the meaning of freedom? To me, freedom means to be able to learn from my mistakes. If I didn't have freedom, I would have to do what the top authorities always tell me to do. I don't have any room for mistakes so it would be harder to learn about life.

Freedom also means having the time to do things right. No freedom, in this case, would mean I wouldn't have any time for fantastic, clever thoughts. I would have to do things extremely precise and quick. When I don't have freedom, I am under pressure constantly. While I am under so much pressure, it makes it a more stressful world to live in.

One last example of what freedom means to me is being able to do many things without being forced into doing anything. No freedom means that I might have to enlist in the army reluctantly.

I might even be forced to quarter troops and watch them take over my home! If I didn't have freedom, I might have to get married at a young age and start a family which I have no intentions of doing at my age. My life minus freedom would equal being controlled with everything. When I don't have freedom I can't do anything except for what the strict laws tell me to do.

In summary, we are very lucky to be in a society of freedom. Just remember, we are the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Local photographer raises charity funds

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

Cheyenne County resident, Susanne Todd, is participating in the National Charity Model Search to select "America's Cutest Kid" and to raise funds for charity.

Participating photographers will submit portraits of local children,

ages 18 months to 14 years, for online voting to determine the city finalist. The child voted city finalist may elect to serve as a model during the 2009 Sandy Puc' Tots 2 Teens Seminar Tour at a city near their home.

City finalists are determined by online votes. Anyone may vote. Each vote is \$1 and all proceeds benefit "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep" (NILMDTS.org). Photography and modeling industry experts will determine the contest's national winner. The national model winner receives many prizes, including a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond and a digital camera.

The non-profit organization committed to assisting parents and families going through the difficult time when experiencing an early infant loss. The organization connects families with photographers and provides them with a DVD and a reproducible CD of the images of their baby at no cost. For further information on the organization, visit the website at www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org.

Parents who want to enter their children in the contest may do so by calling Mrs. Todd at CountrySide Portrait Studio at 785-734-2531.

Mrs. Todd has been a professional photographer since 2006. She said she loves doing children's photography but covers just about any area.

"Photographing children makes this contest a wonderful journey as this is one thing I love to do," she said.

For more information, visit www.sandypucmodels.com.

Students participate in Kansas honor band

The Kansas John Philip Sousa Honor Band is a statewide honor band open to students in grades six through nine. Participants in the band are selected by audition and are among the most talented middle level musicians in the state of Kansas. Of the 347 students who auditioned this year, 83 were selected for the top band, the Blue Band, and 106 were selected for the Red Band.

From St. Francis, eighth grader Sarah Whitmore, flute, and freshman, Logan Whitmore, trumpet, were each selected to play fourth chair in the Blue Band.

"This is quite an accomplishment and a great honor for Sarah and Logan," said Debbie Fiala, St. Francis Music Director for the Junior/Senior High Schools. "Not only are they the first students from St. Francis to audition for the Sousa Honor Band, but they were competing against students from much larger school districts such as Wichita and Kansas City."



Sarah and Logan Whitmore



Logan and Sarah traveled to the University of Kansas on Jan. 23 and 24 where they rehearsed with fellow honor band members Friday evening and Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, they performed in a public concert at the Lied Center on the University of Kansas campus. The Blue band was under the direction of Douglas Akey, renowned composer and band director at Hendrix Junior High School in Chandler, Ariz.

Sarah and Logan are music students of Mrs. Fiala. They also take private lessons from Neal Russell, a retired band director in Oberlin.

CATS

Continued from Page 1A

lice, reported that they have a couple of taser guns which stun the victim. They are waiting for training and videos from Goodland. He said the tasers take the fight out of someone quickly.

There was discussion of hiring a transport officer whose only job would be to transport prisoners to other locations. This position does not have to have law enforcement training, only training in transport. The way it is now, it puts the officers on overtime and takes them away from their duties. Mike Day, city attorney will discuss this matter with Kari Gilliland, county attorney.

Housing Development

The resolution that was to be brought before the council has been delayed due to time schedules. It was said that they were trying to get commitments on four different properties for their building projects.

Property line issue

Kyle and Crystal Schultz were at the meeting with their attorney, Jim Milliken, regarding the alley at the east end of Spencer (Lorraine St). So far, they have been unable to reach an agreement with the city. It was agreed that Mr. Milliken and Mike Day, city attorney, will meet to try and come up with an agreement or solution that everyone can feel is fair.

Water rates

Rates and usage on water and sewer in comparison to other nearby towns was explained by J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent.

We are very low in comparison, said Mr. Landenberger. It looks as if it is costing the city more to produce the water than what we are now charging.

He will be working on averages of water usage and the cost of production and then again look at the rates being charged.

Ordinances

Ordinance 555 was approved making it illegal to make J turns and also to back out of a parking space across traffic on designated city streets.

Ordinance 556 was also ap-

proved changing the city council meetings from Tuesdays to the second and fourth Mondays of each month starting in February.

Building permits and licenses

Two building permits were approved, one to Diane Graham for a fence and one to Margaret Shay for a sidewalk.

Licenses were also approved for JaNan Cooper for her kennel and a mobile home license to Tommy Peter.

FILLED

Continued from Page 1A

the council at a later date.

Board of education

St. Francis — There three seats up for election on the St. Francis Board of Education. Positions and the people currently serving are: District 3, position 6, Pete Raile; District 1, position 4, Bruce Feikert; and District 2, position 5, Kelly Gienger.

Filing were Mr. Gienger for District 2, position 5; Mike Antholz, Bob Holzwarth and Ed Marin for District 3, position 6; and Derrick Tice for District 1, position 4.

Cheylin — The Cheylin Board of Education has four seats up for election including District 1, position 1, George Louderbaugh; District 2, position 6, Doyle Bock; District 1, position 3, Don Orten; and Member At Large, Belinda Serrano.

Filing were Belinda Serrano, Kerby Krien and Jan Busse, District 2, position 6; Jim Cahoj and George Louderbaugh, District 1, position 1; Anita Pochop, District 1, position 3; and Hal Antholz, member at large.

No withdrawing names

It should be noted, that after a candidate has filed for an office, he cannot withdraw his name after the last date provided by law for filing for such candidacy.

Election date

There is no need for a primary election as there are no more than three candidates running for a particular seat. The general election will be held on Tuesday, April 7.

Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created some difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income qualified applicants.

CCEAP Applications will be available starting Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the following locations:

- St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
City Office
St. Francis Equity Co-Op
First National Bank
BANKWEST
- Bird City - City Office
Frontier Ag
First National Bank
- SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
Priority Oil & Gas LLC
&
Energy Outreach Colorado



We'll pay your early termination fee!*

Back by popular demand. But only for a limited time.

Check out the New Sony W380 Featuring Gesture Control:

Move your hand above the W380i to mute an incoming call or put the alarm clock on snooze.



All Viaero Plans Have More Numbers & Minutes Than All Competitors!

Plans Starting As Low As \$29.95!

US Cellular* If you have this...	Verizon* If you have this...	Alltel* If you have this...	VIAERO Then you will love this!
700 Minutes Local Individual 0 FREE NUMBERS \$39.99	450 Minutes Local Individual 0 FREE NUMBERS \$39.99	700 Minutes Local Individual 1 FREE NUMBER \$39.99	1000 Minutes Local Individual 15 FREE NUMBERS \$34.95
1000 Minutes Local Shared 0 FREE NUMBERS \$69.99	700 Minutes Local Shared 0 FREE NUMBERS \$69.99	700 Minutes Local Shared 1 FREE NUMBER \$59.99	1100 Minutes Local Shared 20 FREE NUMBERS \$54.95
650 Minutes National Individual 0 FREE NUMBERS \$49.99	450 Minutes National Individual 0 FREE NUMBERS \$39.99	500 Minutes National Individual 1 FREE NUMBER \$39.99	800 Minutes National Individual 15 FREE NUMBERS \$39.95
1400 Minutes National Shared 0 FREE NUMBERS \$89.99	1400 Minutes National Shared 0 FREE NUMBERS \$89.99	1000 Minutes National Shared 10 FREE NUMBERS \$84.99	1600 Minutes National Shared 25 FREE NUMBERS \$74.95

Viaero Locations | For more information: www.viaero.com 1.877.4.Viaero (1.877.484.2376)

GRANT
• 522 Central Ave (308.353.1111)

LEXINGTON
• 210 Frontier #5 (308.651.1111)⁵
• 600 N Washington (308.324.4611) - *Barmore Drug*⁵

HASTINGS
• 320 S Burlington #102 (402.831.1111)

HOLDREGE
• 403 West Ave (308.995.7100)

IMPERIAL
• 438 Broadway (308.882.3042)

KEARNEY
• 214 A West 42nd (308.240.1111)
• 609 Platte Rd. (308.240.0210) - *FirsTier Arena*
• 5011 2nd Ave #57 (308.240.1010) - *Hilltop Mall*

McCOOK
• 1109 West B St (308.737.7800)

ST. FRANCIS, KS
• 707 S Benton (719.343.5001) - *Workman Wireless* ⁵ *Se habla Español*

* Limited time offer. Up to \$200 will be given as credit on your Viaero account. Service must be maintained in good standing with Viaero for 60 days prior to receiving Early Termination Fee (ETF) credit. ETF credit form (available at viaero.com or at a Viaero retail location) and copy of bill from previous carrier must accompany credit request to be eligible for ETF credit. Credit will appear on your account 4 to 8 weeks after your account is eligible and ETF credit request is processed. Only customers whose accounts are not required to be credit limited are eligible to receive ETF credit. See store for complete details. ** New activations only. If you receive federal benefits such as Old Age Pension, Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Needy or Supplemental Security Income, you may qualify for discounted Basic Universal residential service under the Lifeline and/or Link-Up programs (Colorado) or the Nebraska Telephone Assistance Program (Nebraska).