



# The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

22 Pages Including Special Section

Thursday, February 19, 2009

125th Year, Number 8\*\*



**PATIENCE AND WARM CLOTHES** were required Dr. Melvin Dunn and grandson Jude Faulkender were Sunday morning for the annual trout fishing contest. among those casting their lines out.

## Anglers bring in the trout

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

Early Sunday morning, the temperature was right at a cold 9 degrees. There was ice around the edges of Keller Pond as 18 teams of fishermen gathered to cast their lines, hoping to bring in the biggest trout.

Each year, the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization stocks the pond with rainbow trout. This year, on Dec. 21, there were 350 to 400 trout dumped into the pond with four tagged. Mark Brown, St. Francis, brought in one of the four and was awarded a cash prize.

There were 99 trout caught Sunday and they weighed a total of 247.875 pounds.

Taking first place was the team of Ted Trumbo and his dad, Tim, St. Francis. They had 10 fish weighing 22.25 pounds.

Second place went to Matt Tygart and Keegan Sherlock, St. Francis. They only had eight fish but they were big, weighing

an average of a little over 2.75 pounds each for total weight of 22.125 pounds.

Jacob Baxter and his dad, Slim, St. Francis, took third with nine fish weighing 22 pounds. Fourth was Cody Baxter and Mike Hanson, St. Francis, with 10 fish weighing 20.75 pounds.

Trevor Reed and Rick Lucas were the first team to weigh in at 9:30. They had 10 fish weighing 20.5 pounds and placed fifth.

George Harper said it was cold when he started fishing but, not as cold as it was when the wind came up a couple hours later. Mr. Harper said he wasn't catching much. Steve and Melvin Confer said they didn't have much luck but, the team of Melvin Dunn and Jude Faulkender, right next to them, were pulling them in. The Confers said they didn't know what they were doing wrong.

Hal Sager, who is one of the coordinators for the fishing contest, said there were many fish snagged but not landed because of the

ice around the pond.

All in all, Mr. Sager said, it was a nice day for the fishing contest.

Keller Pond has been closed to fishermen since the pond was stocked in December. There had been some fishermen who were caught fishing, even though it was closed. He figures about one-third of the fish have been caught.

The pond is now open to the public for fishing. Once warm weather arrives, the trout will die off and fishermen might as well have fun catching them.

Mr. Sager warned that fishermen need to abide by state creel limits which is five trout a day. Because these are stocked trout, fishermen do not need a trout stamp but, those fishermen between ages 16 and 64 need a Kansas fishing license.

The trout fishing contest has become an annual event and will most likely be held again next year about this same time.



**BIG FISH** — Cody Baxter was pulling out his trout to be weighed Sunday morning. Cody and his partner, Mike Hanson, were fourth place winners.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## State funding a concern of board

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

School finance was on the St. Francis Board of Education agenda when they met Thursday evening. At the time of the meeting, the superintendent was unsure as to what the legislature would do and how much money would be allowed for school districts.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz suspected the funds would be reduced \$66 per student. He had already budgeted \$4,433 per student but, this would find the budget short \$38,343 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The next year, he guessed that the drop in money could be \$117 per student. To top that off, he estimated that the school could have as many as 10-less students.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller, board member, said one-sixth of the state's budget needs to be cut but who (or what entity) can cut that much out of their budget?

Mr. Schiltz said he had talked to the teachers and they were well aware of the problems the administration and board faces. He said he had looked at ways to cut spending but not cut the education of the students. It will probably be necessary to raise the local option budget. St. Francis schools have only used 11.405 mills of the local option budget and are allowed to raise approximately 23 to 24 mills or 30 percent of general fund budget. He noted that many of the schools, to keep the doors open, have maxed out their

See STATE on Page 9A



**EARNING A I RATING** was the percussion ensemble: (l to r) Wyatt Landenberger, Mason Schiltz, Gaten Cooper, Erik Hart, Jacob Butler, Tyler Lee and Lane Hoffman.

## Students do well at music festival

Twenty-eight students represented St. Francis at the Northwest Kansas League Junior High Music Festival held in Colby on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

"I was pleased with the students' performances," said Debbie Fiala, band and vocal instructor. "Many of them put in a lot of time and work to prepare for this festival."

One of the St. Francis students was among the top performances of the festival, earning an Advanced Performance medal. Sarah Whitmore earned her medal on a flute solo entitled, "Rondo Capriccio."

Earning I ratings were vocal solos by Nariah Hamilton, Lane Hoffman, Bailey Merklin, Taylor Archibald and Randee Grover; clarinet solo by Nariah Hamilton; the percussion

ensemble (Jacob Butler, Gaten Cooper, Erik Hart, Lane Hoffman, Wyatt Landenberger, Tyler Lee, Mason Schiltz); the woodwind trio (Taylor Archibald, Nariah Hamilton, Sarah Whitmore); and the girls vocal ensemble (Taylor Archibald, Laura Brunk, Jandy Dunn, Randee Grover, Nariah Hamilton, Krissy Harris, Jacy Hilt, Katie Lambert, Bailey Merklin, Clarice Neitzel, Hannah Rider and Sarah Whitmore).

Other performances included vocal solos by Laura Brunk and Hannah Rider; piano solos by Katie Lambert and Jacob Butler; snare drum solo by Tyler Lee; the saxophone ensemble (Laura Brunk, Casey Keller, Katie Lambert); boys vocal ensemble (Lucas Carmichael, Lane Hoffman, Tony Meyer,



**SARAH WHITMORE** also brought home a I Rating.

Taylor O'Leary, Lennin Olivares, Dylan Peter, Dillion Straub, Kaleb Zwick); and girls vocal ensemble number two (Taylor Archibald, Laura Brunk, Nariah Hamilton, Krissy Harris, Hannah Rider, Sarah Whitmore).

All students were accompanied and directed by Mrs. Fiala.

## Awards banquet set for Tuesday

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

The 57th Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the American Legion Hall in Bird City.

Honored this year will be the Feikert family: Bruce and Sharon, and Ruben and Darlene, who are the Bankers Conservation Award winners. Windbreak Award winners are Kip and Pasty Rethke; and the Wild Habitat Award winners were Tim and Joanna Kraus. Others recognized will be the student winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the

county who nurture, tend and care for our most priceless resources — the land and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting, there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The terms of board members, Roger Orth and Randy Rueb, will be expiring and an election held.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted in this week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. There are articles about the award winners and conservation practices. Take special notice of the advertisers who helped make this section possible.

## Scouts come to town

A Klondike Derby is set for this weekend in St. Francis at the River Walk north of town. There will be troops from St. Francis, Atwood, Goodland and three from Colby here to enjoy the competitions and activities.

The Klondike Derby is a Boy Scout winter skills event held each winter. The scouts always hope for snow because the activities are planned around snowy weather.

Although, said Jerry Whitmore, St. Francis leader, Mother Nature does not always cooperate very well. Sometimes, derbies are held in mud or on frozen ground without so much as a single snowflake.

In camporee-type competitions, scout troops and patrols compete against each other. The boys are divided into patrols and each patrol uses a sled similar to the dog sled used in the Iditarod, a great sled race. The scouts are the pull power instead of dogs. Sleds are loaded with their equipment.

Scouts journey through the woods and fields, up and down hills and stop at different activity stations named after Alaskan towns. At each stop, they are tested on different scout skills. They are also timed and tested on their scouting knowledge, their teamwork and their problem-solving skills.

Scouts will be given a packet with locations to their first station. They will have 45 minutes to complete the task they are given. Scouts will need to know their map and compass skills for this project.

They will be required to cook lunch on the trail. The meal must be a well-balanced hot meal and enough for two extra guests.

Along the way, the scouts will be awarded gold nuggets with their score received at each station. The nuggets can be used at the auction held at the campfire ceremony.

Tired scouts and leaders will be packing up to leave for their homes on Sunday.