

Sixth graders do well in annual essay contest

The St. Francis Elementary School sixth grade students recently participated in the annual Kansas PTA Citizenship Essay Contest. This year's theme was "Why It's Important to Vote."

Judges at the local level selected Taylor Archibald's essay as the first place entry. Second place went to Lucas Carmichael. Their award was to serve as pages during the legislative session of the State Senate in Topeka on March 12.

Serving as a page is a great honor, and it presents students with a unique educational opportunity to participate in the legislative process. They were sponsored by Kansas Senator Ralph Ostmeyer.

Taylor's favorite part of the trip was sitting in at the Senate sessions and watching the voting process. Lucas enjoyed meeting the Senators and taking a tour of the Capitol. They both were excited to meet and have their picture taken with Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Each year the top three essays from the local level are sent to the state PTA to compete with essays of sixth grade students from schools throughout Kansas. From these, six are chosen to receive either an Award of Excellence or an Award of Merit. Taylor's essay, along with Sarah Whitmore's essay, which placed third locally, were selected as State Award of Merit winners. They were honored at an awards ceremony during the 2007 Kansas PTA State Legislative Conference held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka on Feb. 12.

Following the ceremony the winners and their families enjoyed a luncheon with many of the Kansas State Representatives. Afterward, they were treated to a tour of the Kansas State Capitol building, in-

cluding a tour of the Capitol dome.

The winning essays are:

Why It's Important to Vote
By Taylor Archibald

As an American we are granted a great right, the right to vote. To vote is an expression of freedom. The freedom to make a choice, your personal choice, as an individual. The right to vote means democracy. Sometimes we take our right to vote for granted but many people around the world don't have the right to vote, they have no voice in what their government does. Your vote is a voice in how you want our government to be run. Some people feel their one vote doesn't count but when you vote you have made a statement. The only vote that doesn't count is the vote that isn't cast. As Americans we should respect our right to vote, learn about the issues that affect not only ourselves but our country. What you expect from the government depends on how you vote. You may vote based on taxes, your ethics, even the defense of our country. We must never give up the right to vote and the only way to do that is by voting.

Why It's Important to Vote
By Lucas Carmichael

In Kansas 70 percent of citizens are registered voters, only 50 percent vote. That means only 50 percent of Kansas vote. Even though those 20 percent are registered they still don't vote. Voting is an opportunity and 50 percent of Kansans are not using it. People may think that they don't need to vote because they



Archibald



Carmichael



Whitmore

are one person. Well they are wrong. One person CAN make a difference. Voting is what makes America free. If nobody chose to vote America would no longer be free. People who vote can change our country. The voters basically control our country. So if you don't vote you're letting OUR country drift away. So take responsibility and VOTE!

Why It's Important To Vote
By Sarah Whitmore

A good citizen will vote for who they think will do a better job for their community or country. If your community has two candidates wanting to be in charge of the real estate, vote for who you think will do a better job. If one of the candidates wants to build a bigger town and you don't want that, then you should show up and vote. When presidents are elected, don't vote for one candidate because you like him better. Vote for who you think will lead our country in a better way. If St. Francis's schools decided not to have fun activities like art and music and they were voting, I'd show up and vote. People who don't vote and they complain about the winner should have voted. All of these reasons are why it is important to vote. Whenever I can vote, I will think hard about the choices before I vote. All votes count.

Two new loan officers join the staff at a St. Francis bank

Two new ag loan officers have joined the Bankwest, St. Francis, staff.

Mike Bandel and Tye Faulkender, both of St. Francis, are the two new faces. Both say they are looking forward to working with the Cheyenne County producers.

Mr. Bandel is a 1985 graduate of St. Francis Community High School. He went on to graduate from Kansas

State in 1990.

Prior to coming to Bankwest, he worked for Continental Grain, was in the farming and ranching industry and worked for a bank in Goodland.

Mr. Bandel has a daughter Lauren. He is the son of Tom and Sandra Bandel, St. Francis.

Mr. Faulkender also graduated from St. Francis Community High School, but in 1990. He graduated

from Kansas State University in 1994. Prior to coming to Bankwest, he was a farmer/rancher and was the county Extension director for 3.5 years.

His wife, Amber, works for Dr. Melvin Dunn as a dental hygienist. They have three children, Jude, Jade and Jordyn. He is the son of Joyce Faulkender and Roger Faulkender, St. Francis.

Cowgirl poet produces recording

By Karen Krien

Cowgirl poet, Helene Landenberger's latest CD is on sale. Known as the Wild Rose Poet, Ms. Landenberger's CD is titled *When the Whip was the Way West* and is the fifth recording she has made since 1996.

Born and raised in Cheyenne County, Ms. Landenberger loves the western Kansas prairies and canyons as well as the history that goes with them. Her CD talks about this area, the history and families as well as her own family and experiences.

In her *Buttermilk Pie* poem, she talks about the first time she tasted it and finding the baker, Elsie Grace, to get the recipe. It has become a favorite in the family.

The older generation will remember the Wheeler general store when Ms. Landenberger begins reciting *The Old Screen Door*.

She goes from humorous (telling about working cattle and ending up in the dirt) to the history of the Deweys. There are two songs she wrote and many of her poems have background music set to them.

"I just love to perform my brand of poetry," she said.

She has performed at fairs, at the Ellsworth Fall Roundup and last year, was one of the performers at the Kansas Sampler Festival in Garden City. She keeps in practice by entertaining the residents at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

The latest CD can be purchased at K-Store or the Homesteader Motel.

Writing for years

Ms. Landenberger has been writing poetry for years. She said that it is a way that she is able to express herself.

"Rhymes just come to me," she said.

Her dad was disabled and she



COWGIRL POET, Helene Landenberger shows her new CD she recently recorded along with a book of her poems.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

could see that the family stories might be lost.

"This (poetry) is one way I knew how to preserve the past," she said.

Through her father's stories and a love for history, she has an abundance of material for her poems.

At Christmas, she produced a book of poems. The cover even has an interesting story as it was a picture she had painted years ago for her uncle Norman Magley. One day, Vickie Schliep called Ms. Landenberger up and said she had that painting and would she like it back.

She used the snow scene for the book which includes that favorite recipe Buttermilk pie as well as one for sourdough biscuits. It was produced by Liz Weber's company, DEW Publishing, St. Francis.

These days, she is researching the creeks and canyons in Cheyenne County. Although a number of them have dried up, there are 24-named creeks in the county. There are also at least 28 canyons on the

old maps. She and her brother Fred, in an ongoing effort, have been marking the creeks and canyons.

On her CD, she refers to herself as "this old grandma," but, in truth, Ms. Landenberger can probably keep up with most cowboys and, for sure, she can probably write poetry better than most.

She welcomes opportunities to entertain for groups, small or big. For more information about the newest CD or to have her entertain, call her at 785-332-2528.

Springtime

The baby calves slide softly, onto the meadow floor.

The mother cows in their labors - complete the birthing chores.

It's a quiet process of nature that signals the coming of spring.

When "it" happens this easy - it makes our happy hearts sing.

Across the expanse of the Valley Creek bed

The song of the meadowlark is proudly said.

Obituary

Joyce Eileen Cooper Purdy

Sept. 15, 1929- March 8, 2007

Joyce Eileen Cooper Purdy of Russell, Kan., died Thursday, March 8, 2007, at Russell Regional Hospital in Russell, having reached the age of 77 years, five months and 21 days.

Joyce was born Sept. 15, 1929, in St. Francis, the daughter of James S. and Alma (Warren) Cooper. She grew up in St. Francis and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1947.

Joyce was united in marriage to Derald K. Purdy on Nov. 6, 1947, in Lawrence. Shortly after their marriage, Derald and Joyce moved to Manhattan. After Derald graduated from Kansas State University, they moved to Colby.

Three sons, Larry, Dennis and Craig, were born to this union. In 1961, they moved to Russell.

Derald preceded her in death on January 4, 1989.

Joyce was a devoted mother and homemaker when they lived in Colby. When they moved to Russell, Joyce started working as a secretary for the Soil Conservation District. She retired in 1985.

She attended Otterbein United Methodist Church of Russell and was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6240. When her boys were growing up, she enjoyed camping, fishing, and traveling.

Later in life, Derald and Joyce loved to travel. They traveled all across the United States as well as several areas in Europe.

They also were "snowbirds" traveling to Zapata, Texas, and later, Joyce also traveled to Mesa, Ariz., during winters.

Surviving family include her

three sons, Larry Purdy and wife, Mari, Russell, Dennis Purdy and companion, Amy, Portland, Ore., and Craig Purdy and wife, Corrynne, Albany, Ore.; sister, Eva Edmonds of Woodburn, Ore.; two grandchildren, Melanie Jackson and Jeremie Lumpkins; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Warren and Albert Cooper.

Graveside services were held at the Russell City Cemetery, March 13.

Miss Me - But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road

And the sun has set on me.

I want no rites in a gloom filled room,

Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little - but not too long.

And not with your head bowed low,

Remember the love we once shared;

Miss me - but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take

And each must go alone,

It's all a part of the master's plan

A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart,

Go to the friends we know

And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds

Miss me - But let me go.

Club Clip

Plum Creek 4-H Club

The Plum Creek 4-H Club met on March 6 at the Methodist Church. A model meeting was held. President Alecia Zimelman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and business items were brought forward.

For the program, Mariah Beikman gave a demonstration on how to make mini-pizzas. Matthisen Witzel gave a talk on making scrapbooks. Alecia gave a

talk about the dog project and the Corgie dog breed.

The song "Yadeelah" was led by the Beikman family. The "Number Game" was led by Matthisen and family. The 4-H Pledge was recited and the meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments of cupcakes and pop were provided by the Beikman family and the Hilt family.

Mikaela Grace, reporter



Smile it's Spring!

These 6 Wrestlers Are State Bound!



8 & under
Garret Brunk
76 lbs.



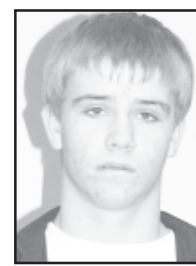
10 & under
Lane Hoffman
67 lbs.



Shakotah Blanka
150 lbs.



14 & under
Cody Sherlock
115 lbs.



Grady Brunk
145 lbs.



Adam Guthmiller
175 lbs.

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Wedding Registry

Jill Sowers
~ and ~
Tim Neitzel
WEDDING: APRIL 28TH

□ □ □

Amanda Milne
~ and ~
Glenn Mahon
SHOWER: APRIL 7TH
WEDDING: MAY 5TH

□ □ □

Cassandra Jantz
~ and ~
Andy Zweggardt
SHOWER: MAY 5TH
WEDDING: JUNE 9TH

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