

April 'Spotlighting' award given

By Sandy Barnhart

The April 3 St. Francis City Council began the meeting by recognizing the recipient of "Spotlighting the Positive" award who was Carl Williams.

Mr. Williams takes a lot of pride in the appearance of the Cheyenne County Courthouse where he is the maintenance man. The

building, along with the landscaping and lawn, show his hard work.

The council said that the pride Mr. Williams takes in his work is very apparent to all whether it is decorating for the holidays; or stripping and waxing floors in the three-story building; or the beautiful lawn.

Mr. Williams, in his free time, supports

the Denver Broncos, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and the NASCAR Circuit. He also enjoys racing go-carts and fishing.

Mr. Williams says his family and faith are the most important things in his life.

Truck Parking

St. Francis resident, Grace Larkin, asked that the council revise the truck parking or-

dinance. The ordinance pertains to trucks over 25,000 pounds. At the present time, trucks are only allowed to park with the trailer on for four hours. Without the trailer, the truck has no limited time of parking.

Mrs. Larkin said that the truck which parks on her street often runs continuously for four hours and produces a diesel odor.

She felt that trucks should not be allowed to park in residential areas.

Since the erection started on the emergency building by the Roadside Park, truck drivers have only a select few areas to park their rigs. The council discussed the possibility of taking city property north of the

See AWARD on Page 8

Petfood poison hits home



By Karen Krien

In St. Francis, the pet poison scare was just another story on television until Bob Bixler's Kate, a Brittany, became sick. The veterinarian diagnosed her as having kidney failure caused by the contents of the canned Alpo dog food she ate.

Mr. Bixler reported that, as of Tuesday, Kate was stabilized and doing better. He said the vet told him, with kidney disease, it is hard to know just how long she will survive. However, she is on expensive drugs and diet.

The pet food, which has killed cats, as well as dogs, contained wheat gluten which the Canadian plant had purchased from China, then shipped to three pet food factories, two of them located in Kansas.

Sadly, the tainted food had been on the market since February, even though the company officials were aware of the problem. Christie Keith with petconnection.com, estimated that at least 9,000 animals had eaten the pet food but, it was hard to tell how many had died as there is no system to track animal deaths.

Mr. Bixler said pet owners can file a class action law suit if their pet has been diagnosed with kidney failure because of the food. He said that the owner should take the pet to the veterinarian to make sure what the cause is. They must also save the containers and a store receipt.

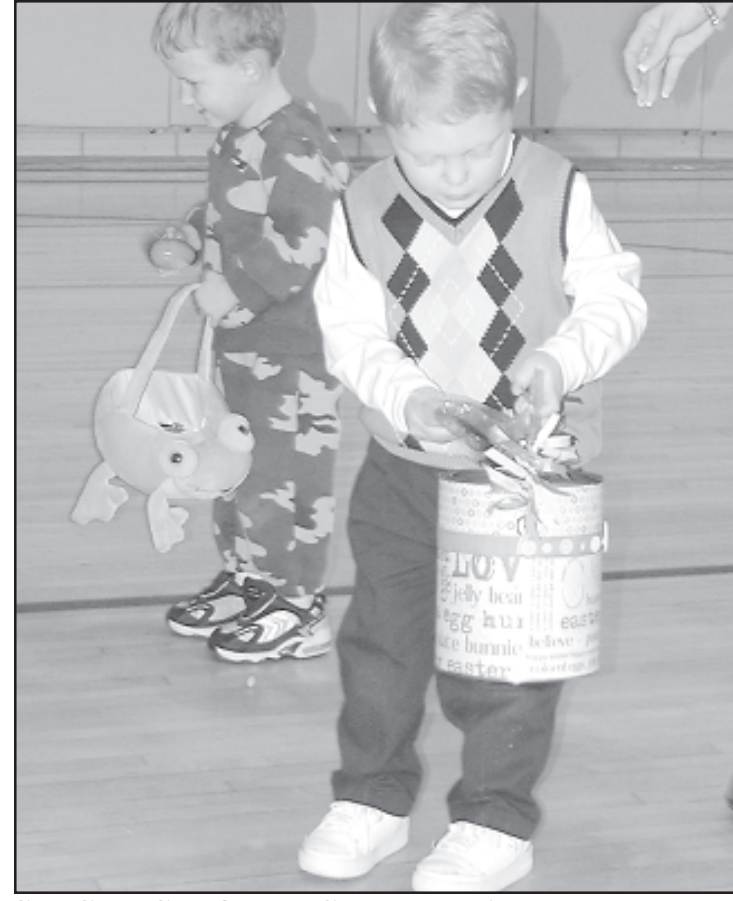
Pets are considered a "property," and the owner can only sue for the cost of the pet and other incurred costs because of the poisoning.

For more information, contact Mr. Bixler, 785-332-3128.



WHO ARE YOU????? Riley Burr couldn't figure out just who was holding her at the Easter Egg Hunt. Bunny (Andrea Blair) seemed to enjoy all the little kids that day. Riley is the daughter of T.J. and Sarah Burr.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



CHECKING IT OUT — Chase was seeing what he had collected in the Easter Egg Hunt. Chase is the son of Greg and Claire Hilt.



LOTS OF CANDY — Molly Gilliland was busy filling her basket on Saturday during the Easter Egg Hunt.



GOOD CROWD attended the livestock sale on Wednesday, April 4. During the sale, the heifer was auctioned off many times to raise money for the tornado victims near Bird City.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Donated heifer raised around \$8,500

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Livestock Commission had one of the larger sales on April 4. However, this sale not only sold cattle to buyers but one yearling heifer was sold over and over again.

Donated by Skip and Betty Petersen, along with their chil-

dren, Robin and Brett and grandson Preston, the heifer brought \$740 the first time, going to the high bidder. Then the bidding began again and each time it stopped, the buyer donated his bid to help Bird City families who lost almost everything in the tornado which hit the area on March 28. When the last bidder raised his

hand and some after-the-sale donations were made, the total was nearly \$8,500.

The Petersens, who own Western Auction and Real Estate, once owned the sale barn. They knew these families and wanted to help.

"We wanted to support the entire community and we saw a need," Mrs. Petersen said.

The money will be donated to the Nick Ketzner, Lynn Glasco and John Kamla families.

Big sale

Lloyd Wilson, owner of the sale barn, said the April 4 sale was a big sale with about 1,300 head. He had combined the cow/calf sale with the feeder

See \$8,500 on Page 8

Signs knocked down in county

By Karen Krien

Since February, between 30 and 40 road signs have been knocked down on county and state roadsides. In the last week, almost every sign along U.S. 36 between McDonald and the Rawlins County line was taken down.

Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County Sheriff, said that if someone is killed because a sign wasn't where it was supposed to be, those removing the signs can face manslaughter charges.

It may seem like a fun sport but it could cause a serious accident, he said.

The cost to the county and state to replace the signs is around \$50 apiece and that doesn't include the labor to put them back up.

If anyone saw the vandals in action or saw suspicious activity and can identify a person or a vehicle concerning the removal of the signs, they are urged to call the sheriff's office at 785-332-3330.

Meeting draws many to discuss food cooperatives

An eclectic group of about 30 people attended the organizational meeting of the High Plains Food Cooperative on Thursday, March 28, at the Aberdeen Steakhouse in Atwood.

Reporter Mary Holle, Atwood, in an article written for the Rawlins County Square Deal, reported those attending included producers, food services personnel, consumers and the local grocery store owner. The communities of St. Francis, Bird City, Atwood, Oberlin, Jennings Selden, Hoxie, Colby, Haxton, Colo., Holyoke, Colo., and Kanorado were represented.

"We believe the nature of agriculture is changing," Bob Mailander, director of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative Development Center, said. "More producers are looking at alternatives and asking what can we do to expand our operations?"

Mr. Mailander explained that forming a food cooperative can help producers make a transition from commodities-based agriculture to production-based agriculture, which is where the producer directly markets to the consumers.

Some benefits of having a food See FOOD on Page 8