



LANETTE NOLAN, fifth grade teacher, had her students working on an art project. Busy gluing pieces of crepe paper are Kyla Bandel, left, and Mariah Beikman. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

318 students start school

By Karen Krien
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The school bell rang and doors to the St. Francis schools were open to students on Wednesday, Aug. 22. There are a few changes including 11 less students. At the beginning of school, there were 318 students compared to 329 at the official enrollment last year.

However, there were 30 students in the first grade so part-time teachers, Gloria Cassidy and Sandy Smull were called in to share duties with Joyce Faulkender, the full-time first-grade teacher.

"We are so fortunate to be able to bring in this experience and expertise to the students," Scott Carmichael, principal, said.

Now with two classes of 15, Mrs. Faulkender will be teaching reading and spelling to both classes while Mrs. Cassidy will be teaching math and accelerated reading and Mrs. Smull will teach handwriting and English.

Fourth, fifth and six grades will be "departmentalized." The three teachers in those grades each had, what Mr. Carmichael said, "their own strengths in teaching."

This year, Becky McAtee, fourth grade, will be teaching reading to the students in the top three elementary grades. Lanette Nolan, fifth, will be teaching science, and Julie Wolters, sixth grade, will be teaching math.

Susan Dinkel, who has taught business in the junior-senior high school, will be spending the mornings at the grade school teaching computer classes to the fourth, fifth and sixth graders. She will still be teaching business in the junior-senior high school.

Mr. Carmichael said he had met with the elementary teachers eight months ago and they began working on a schedule. He said it was changed over and over again until they could work

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Wind power proposal made to city council

A representative for the wind-power company was at the St. Francis City Council meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 21, with a new proposal. However, the city decided to do more investigation and then call a special meeting later before making any decisions.

Dan Rasure, Goodland, a representative of Sunflower Wind, had been at the last city council meeting. He said the firm was seeking to build a 50-megawatt wind farm in Cheyenne County. It would be supplemented with a 4-megawatt hydrogen generation plant with a 5- to 25-megawatt generator powered by methane to be added.

Plans were to be started with the project by June 1 and to be in full operation Jan. 1, 2009. If up and running prior to Jan. 1, Sunflower Wind will offer the city the electricity at the current market rate at that time or negotiate a rate.

Intentions are to sell most of the power locally and then open it up to others.

At this meeting, attorney, Kevin Berens, representing Sunflower Wind, gave the city council a new contract proposal at the Tuesday meeting. The proposal includes a higher rate for power but permits the city to keep its existing contracts.

The big incentive locally for approving the contracts is economic development with long-term land leases and construction crews to accomplish installation. Mr. Berens answered questions from the council for Sunflower Wind. He explained that although the technology is not new, the concept as proposed is.

The company, headquartered in Goodland, plans to lease land near St. Francis and Oberlin to build a wind farm to generate power. The wind power will be backed up by a hydrogen system.

The new contracts will request the city to give Sunflower Wind the right to match any offers the city receives from suppliers before they sign new contracts. Sunflower Wind representatives plan to pursue long-term contracts but the new proposal will expedite the process in obtaining commitments from the city.

Roger Jensen, council member, commented, "We're a little gun shy on this since it is so new and we want to take a closer look before jumping in."

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Injuries from cow accident takes St. Francis man's life

By Karen Krien
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Wednesday afternoon, an angry cow came through the pens at the St. Francis Livestock Sale Barn, knocked down one man and head-butted another. Because of the injuries sustained, Jerdene Barnhart, 76, St. Francis, died in a Denver hospital on Saturday.

Ed Morris, 86, Goodland, also an employee of the sale barn, was the first man knocked down by the cow. Mr. Morris was taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital with minor injuries and a bump to the head, then released.

After the cow knocked Mr. Morris down, it went through another gate which Richard Walters had tried to shut. Jim Dunn, who was working in the same area, yelled to Mr. Barnhart, "Barnie, there's a cow coming down the alley — watch out!"

Mr. Dunn didn't think Mr. Barnhart heard him nor did he see the cow. The cow cornered him and began to butt him with its head.

A call was made to 911 and emergency medical techs contacted the hospital, saying that they thought the emergency medical flight plane should be contacted to stand by. Shortly after being taken to the Cheyenne County Hospital, Mr. Barnhart was flown to Swedish Medical Hospital in Denver where he underwent several surgeries, one to remove the spleen and repair a kidney, then another to stop the internal bleeding.

On Friday, he was reported to be in critical but stable condition. However, his vitals kept fluctuating so the doctor went back in on Saturday, cleaned up the wound and did some exploratory surgery. He reported to the family that Mr. Barnhart had come through the surgery fine but, shortly thereafter, his heart quit beating. He was brought back only to have his heart quit again.

All of his life, Mr. Barnhart had loved working with horses and cattle. Over the past 40 years, he had worked at sale barns in the tri-

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Barnhart

Senator comes to Sainty

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts was in St. Francis Tuesday, Aug. 21, to meet with about 35 residents. He was on a 3,300-mile listening tour, talking in 33 town hall meetings. The senator talked about everything from immigration to the farm bill, rural health to the war in Iraq.

Norman Morrow, St. Francis, opened the meeting asking about sealing the Mexican border. He said Senator Harry Reid was not going through the regular order — that it was a "passionate" issue. There is \$3 billion to extend the fence and for agents but sealing with electronic means will take several years. He talked about amnesty for those in the country but was not in favor of it.

He said the bill presented didn't deal with human behavior. He said that people are not going to declare they are illegal, to be sent back to their country and wait in line for years.

Senator Roberts noted that there is a need for support for law enforcement here. Illegals are stopped and then released as there is no funding for holding them. He didn't see a reform bill happening soon.

Archie Archer, McDonald, was concerned about a regulation from the department of transportation which forbids grain trailers to be over 28.5 feet long. The senator said he would check with the state to see if there wasn't some flexibility in the matter.

Ernie Ketzner, Bird City, asked about the farm program. Senator Roberts said the proposed farm bill is



SENATOR PAT ROBERTS spoke to about 35 county residents at a town hall meeting on Aug. 21. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

"a worry." He said the first bill was written by outsiders and members of the Ag Committee were not even invited to testify.

"It is a good thing farmers out here had a good crop this year," he said. "It does nothing to help drought problems."

"It's a lousy bill in the House," Mr. Roberts said.

The current farm bill doesn't help farmers if you don't have a crop and northwest Kansas hasn't had a crop in six years, he said.

What the farmers need is crop insurance, he said.

But the House bill has cut that out to put in specialty crops produced in California, the area Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi represents, he noted.

"There's nothing in there for the High Plains," he said.

The crop insurance program has been cut \$6 billion and the Senate Ag Committee will try to change this. He said much of the money does not even go into agriculture.

Tom Keller, St. Francis, asked about the health care reform. Senator Roberts said there are 83 critics

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'FOREVER BLUE JEANS' placemats were on sale at the Relay for Life held Aug. 18. Judy Vaughn, middle, shows Mila Bandel some of the different mats. Mrs. Vaughn made 351 placemats and the proceeds were donated to the Cancer Society. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sister team wins the 'gold'

By Karen Krien
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The Schlepp Team at the Cheyenne County Relay for Life on Aug. 18, earned the "gold" for raising over \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society.

The team is comprised of sisters, Judy Vaughn, Cope, Colo., and Susie Walz, St. Francis. They have been touched and devastated by the loss of their mother, Tillie, and sister, Pam Gerver, along with their father, Harry, an aunt and Mrs. Vaughn's mother-in-law.

Each year, they have a money-making project to bring in money for cancer research. Last year, Mrs. Vaughn made aprons from pairs of jeans. The sisters and family can also be seen at different activities with the chocolate fountain, selling dips of fruit, marshmallows and other goodies, again, with all proceeds going to the cancer society.

This year, "Forever in Blue Jeans," as they call their crafts, had placemats made from blue jeans. Mrs. Vaughn said she had made 351 placemats and used approximately 24,375 yards of thread.

"People, friends and neighbors, were so good to support us," Mrs. Vaughn said. "And we reached our goal."

They didn't stop with the placemats. They also put together baskets of items to sell at the auction. There were three baskets: one for their mother, one for their sister, and one for Krissy Barnhart, a young girl who died of cancer in 2002.

"The basket we made for Mom was special," she said.

It was filled with baked goodies, a cooling rack and placemats but, the real prize was their mother's recipe and a poem. It read:

In special memory of our mom Tillie Schlepp

She raised her kids Clinton, Linda, Judy, Susie and Pam. The Herefords came along hand

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