

# Governor visits county, enjoys tour

By Karen Krien  
karenk@nwkans.com

Governor Kathleen Sebelius toured Cheyenne County Wednesday morning, Sept. 5.

The weather was warm but there was a breeze which helped make the rare visit of a governor very pleasant. Three farms were toured and, before coming back to St. Francis for lunch and the governor's speech, the tour buses swung by The Arikaree Breaks with Tobe Zwegardt, local historian, telling about the "little Grand Canyon" located in the county.

The tour was sponsored by the Kansas Farm Bureau and the county Farm Bureau. However, the governor and her committee, after narrowing down the selection to three counties, chose this county. They visited the farms of Melvin and Louise Schlepp and sons, Spencer and Mitch, Roger and Melissa Zwegardt with daughter, Samantha, and the Douthit farm, with Steve and wife Melva, Roger and wife Myra, and Walter Douthit.

The governor and a group of invited guests started the morning with breakfast at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Steve Douthit, the county's Farm Bureau president, gave the welcome. Tom Keller, chairman of the Cheyenne Initiative Association and vice president of the St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation, showed a video of those who had taken the Leadership-Cheyenne County class and some of the activities.

A panel comprised of Shawna Blanka, representing the Farm Bureau Board; Gordon Ross, owner of Ross Manufacturing; Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II Foundation director; and Kody Krien, owner of Krien Pharmacy, St. Francis, talked to the group about rural developments in the

county and some of the solutions. Mrs. Blanka, who is one of the eight core members of the Community Builders program, told that rural communities such as those in the county, need to keep educating themselves and youth, then bring those youth back to the county. Mrs. Blanka and her husband, Shawn, came back to the county to farm and raise their two sons.

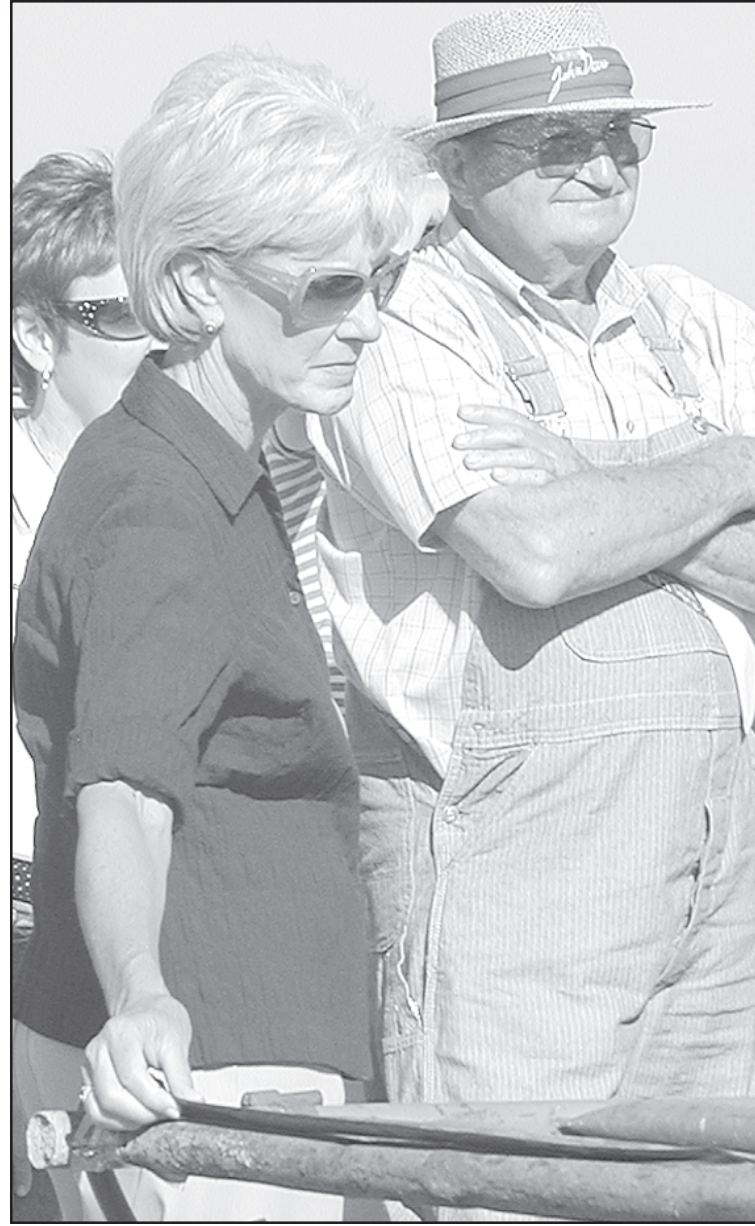
Mr. Ross told about how the manufacturing of cattle castrating bands went from a crew of two (his wife, Carol, and himself) to 30 employees. He said that they now manufacture parts for No-Bull and send them all over the world.

Mrs. Domsch told about Bird City's Century II Foundation and what it has done for the community. The latest and largest project of the Foundation is helping establish the Bird City Dairy. Helping start Heartland Child Care and remodeling Van Doren Park were also on the list.

Mr. Krien told how he and his wife, Penny, wanted to have a pharmacy and raise their family back in Cheyenne County because they both had family living here. He talked about how there are different things to do and, while the zoo in the city costs money, kids in rural areas can enjoy going to the farm and seeing the animals for nothing. He said the crime rate is low and children are safe.

If people wanted more entertainment such as the opera, he said that it was only two and a half hours away.

The loaded buses then headed southwest to the first stop, the Schlepp's corn field, where the governor and others heard about how they went from ditch irrigation, to irrigation pivots to drip irrigation. People were able to see how the drip system worked and Spencer told



**GOVERNOR SEBELIUS visits the Schlepp farms and listens to Spencer Schlepp tell about his change from ditch irrigation to irrigation pivots to drip irrigation. She is standing by Melvin Schlepp.**  
Herald photo by Karen Krien

that the system is water saving but yet, yields are very good.

At each of the farm stops, the governor mingled and talked with those there, especially the farm families. Her casualness was and an appearance of genuine interests drew people to her.

Roger Zwegardt talked about precision farming opportunities and his daughter talked about her calf operation. Mr. Zwegardt, who is also a member of the Groundwater Management District, is very concerned about water usage, noting that years of drought has been difficult. The governor noted that managing water is a sensitive, complicated matter but a very vital, important matter.

At the Zwegardt farm, the governor climbed into one of the tractor pulls as well as the other activities. Besides winning the trophy, she also took home a T-shirt. She only has one more year before she will be too old to compete.

Jacy is 11-years-old and a sixth grader at St. Francis Grade School. She is the daughter of Mary Walz and Stanley Hilt, both of St. Francis.

there is the rising costs to deal with. Steve said he has two daughters who have indicated they may come back to the farm someday and he hopes this can work out.

The day ended with a roast beef dinner at the fairgrounds and the governor giving a short talk.

## Fun Facts

- The International Red Cross organization was founded in Switzerland in 1863 by the philanthropist Jean Henri Durant.

- The cranberry sauce of the first Thanksgiving was known as fenberry sauce, since the cranberry was known in England as the fenberry.

- A worker who regulates the fires in a glass-blowing factory is called a teaser.

# Reunion attended; birthdays enjoyed

Descendants of Paul and Lena Schultz gathered in Lincoln, Neb., over Labor Day weekend for a fun reunion. They spent visiting, getting re-acquainted and celebrating the birthdays of Mildred Kroeger and Rueben Schultz.

Among those attending were Mildred Kroeger, Lyle and Karen Kroeger, Scott and Julie Hesterman and family, Lincoln; Stephanie and Patrick Kerscher, Colorado Springs; Kari and Jason Peterson and family, Idaho; Ken and Danny Kroeger, Las Cruces, N.M.; Dana Kroeger, Los Angeles, Calif.; Rueben and Valjean Schultz, Scott and Nancy Schultz, Daryl Schultz, Rose Mary Bierig, Mary Lou Douthit, Tammy and Allison Grice and Eddy and Sherry Schultz, St. Francis; John and Darlene Schultz and Darla Graue, Neosho, Mo.; Ron and Marilyn Schultz, Joplin, Mo.; Margaret Schultz and Sandra Schultz, Tricia and Rachel Paulson, Matt and Kelli Githens and Megan Gartland, Denver area; Janice Schultz, Duvall, Wash.; Sharon Schultz, Bridgeville, Del.; Paul and Chris



Mildred Kroeger

Hefner, Brush, Colo.; Leona and Robin Schultz, Tim and Cindy Burke, Iowa; Danielle VanVoorst, Minneapolis, Minn.; Steve and Susan Schultz, Bird City; Geoffrey Peter, Dallas, Texas; Shauna and Jack Hausback, Shawnee.

Royce Rambat of Bird City also attended the birthday party for his Aunt Mildred.

# Organization sponsors student for a grant

Chapter U of P.E.O. in St. Francis recently sponsored Kathy Hilt for a Program for Continuing Education grant.



Kathy Hilt

Kathy Hilt is studying diagnostic medical imaging at Pueblo Community College in Colorado and plans to be an ultrasound specialist upon graduation in December.

She is the wife of Rodney Hilt and daughter-in-law of Billie and Henry Hilt. Kathy and Rodney

live in Colorado Springs and are parents of five sons.

At a coffee on Sept. 1, the members of Chapter U presented Mrs. Hilt with a check for \$1,200 to help with her educational goals.

Among those presenting the money were Louanne Isernhagen, Lea Keller, Kathy Hilt, Fleeta Raile, Billie Hilt, Joan Wellman and Ruth Milliken.

P.E.O. is an international Philanthropic Educational Organization that supports the education of women through loans, grants and scholarships.

# Youth qualifies for Nationals at Mitchell

By Karen Krien  
karenk@nwkans.com

Jacy Hilt was beaming with pride Sunday evening as she displayed her trophy with a miniature tractor on the top.



Jacy Hilt

Jacy had just returned from the kid's Colorado State Pedal Tractor Pull held at the Thresher Show in Yuma, Colo., where she had taken second place. Placing second qualifies her to compete at the Nationals in two weeks at Mitchell, S.D.

Jacy had taken first place at the Beecher Island Reunion on 2006 to qualify for state competition. The competitor has to be in the top three places to go on to Nationals.

Jacy has been 'pedalin' in the tractor pulls since she was 7-years-

old. She said she likes to compete but she also enjoys the ride to the tractor pulls as well as the other activities.

Besides winning the trophy, she also took home a T-shirt. She only has one more year before she will be too old to compete.

Jacy is 11-years-old and a sixth grader at St. Francis Grade School. She is the daughter of Mary Walz and Stanley Hilt, both of St. Francis.

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# BEECHER ISLAND 108th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 15th

Quilt show presented by the Beecher Is Helping Hand Club

6 a.m. ☐ Breakfast available from the Idalia FCE Bicentennial Club

9 a.m. ☐ Black Powder Shoot with the Idalia Gun Club

10 a.m. ☐ Pedal Tractor Pull

Wray Lions concessions available throughout the day.

"The Swinging Seniors" Musical Entertainment

1 p.m. ☐ Games & races begin.

Also dryland turtle race registration.

The BEST TURTLE RACES following other races.

7 p.m. ☐ CALL OF THE WEST - Performing together with Tex and Mary Schultz in a concert of Western Country Gospel and Comedy Music.



Sunday, Sept. 16th

6 a.m. ☐ Pancake Breakfast with the Idalia Lions Club

9:45 a.m. ☐ Flag Raising by area Boy Scouts.

10 a.m. ☐ Sunday Services with guest speaker and music

1 p.m. ☐ History presentation by Jeff Broome

Singing of Arikaree

Loretta Thompson, master fiddler, accompanied by Tom Broderick on Guitar.

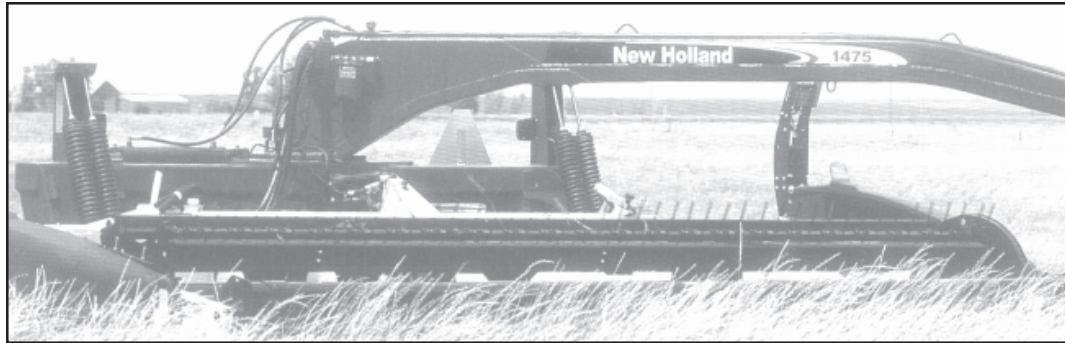
Raffle drawing for quilt and baskets by Beecher Island Helping Hand Club.

Handmade Items will be on display in the Old Sunday School all Weekend.

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**Wedding Registry**

**Clay & Erika Zimbelman Reception**  
Sept. 22, 2007

**Cassandra Barnett and Blake Krien Wedding**  
Sept. 29, 2007

**Kacey Raile and Eric Harper Wedding**  
Oct. 27, 2007

**Schultz's**  
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**Bridal Registry**

**Clay Zimbelman & Erika Lehman**  
Married: Aug. 25, 2007  
Reception: Sept. 22, 2007

**Blake Krien & Cassandra Barnett**  
Marriage: Sept. 29, 2007

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