

The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

28 Pages Including Special Section

Thursday, April 24, 2008

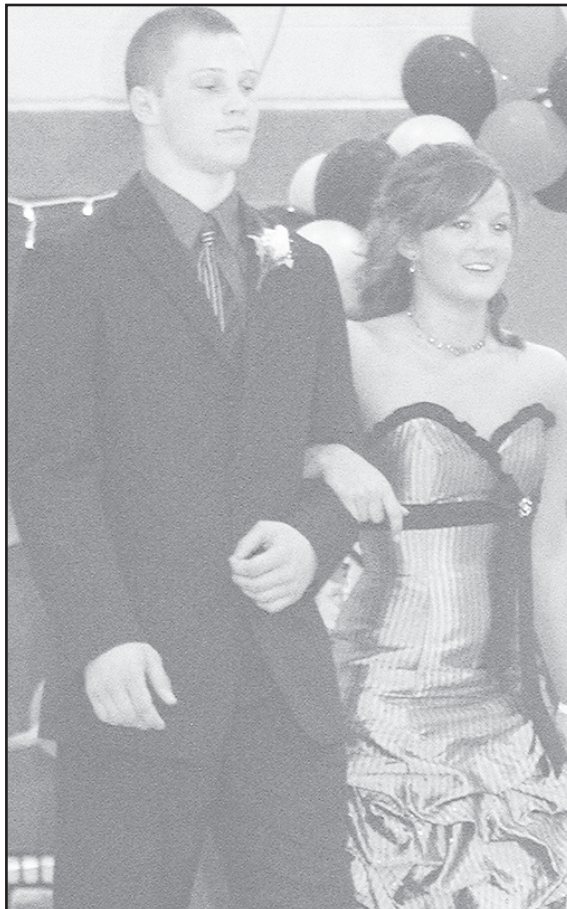
124th Year, Number 17



PROMENADE COUPLE Justin Sherlock and Mallory O'Leary were having a good time at the prom held Saturday evening in St. Francis.

Herald staff photos by Lezlie McCormick

Puttin' on the Ritz



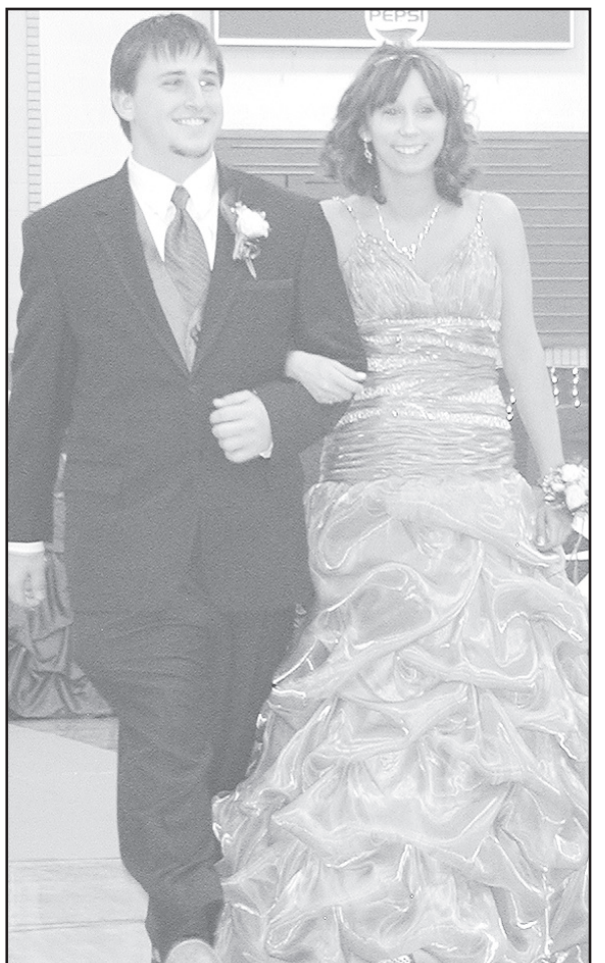
Scott Ford and Joni Pevler



Chase Barnhart and Ada Fong



David Guthmiller and Candice Wiese



BJ Killingsworth and Megan Gilliland

Recent rainfall is helping wheat and pastures

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

Spring appears to have finally arrived. The temperature on Tuesday, April 15, was 89 degrees; almost to the 90 mark which is typical for summer. Lawns are greening up, daffodils and tulips have poked their heads out and trees are blooming, as are the

dandelions.

"The rain we have been catching has done the wheat a world of good," said Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist. "With the warm temperatures this week and the moisture last week, the wheat entered a growing spurt."

She went on to say that the wheat is jointing and entering the

reproductive phase, when many factors that affect yield are being determined.

"All in all, the wheat is in fairly good condition."

Even through there are irregular stands in some fields, there are not many diseases or insects in the wheat.

"Producers need to keep an

eye on their wheat for potential problems," she said. "If we continue to catch moisture and avoid diseases, the wheat should be on a path for the rest of the season."

Joe Leibbrandt, county Extension agent, reported that pastures are also looking good after the moisture. While some

pastures are still catching up from years of drought, the moisture last year and this year has made a big difference.

"However, they are a little slow to green back up," he said.

Pre-emergence products should have been put on lawns by now but, Mr. Leibbrandt notes that if it hasn't been applied, try

to get it on between now and the first part of May. He also recommends starting a regular weed control program.

"For more information on your lawns, whether there is a problem or a question, contact the office, 332-3162 and I will be glad to make a visit," he said.

See WHEAT on Page 9

Students participate at Colby

Five St. Francis piano students attended the annual Music Progressions in Colby on Saturday.

Jenna Confer, Sophie White, Mariah Beikman, Valerie Wurm and Kyla Bandel each performed two solos. They were also tested in several areas including music, understanding and vocabulary, rhythm and pulse, sight-reading, scales, chords, written theory and listening.

Judging the event were Cheryl Metcalf, Kathy Jamisen and Carol Hickel.

Jean Ann Confer, kindergarten through sixth grade music instructor, entered the students.

"The students did extremely well," she said.

Musicianship auditions are a comprehensive program set up to promote well-rounded musicians. It provides a musical format for evaluating the progressive growth of the student.

Mariah and Kyla are piano students of



YOUNG MUSICIANS attended the Music Progressions on Saturday. Pictured: seated, Valerie Wurm; standing (l to r) Mariah Beikman, Kyla Bandel, Jenna Confer and Sophie White.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sandy Bandel; Valerie is a student of Ruth Milliken; Sophie is a student of Tema Trumbo and Jenna is a piano student of

Lila Whitmore.

The event is sponsored by the Kansas Music Teachers Association.

911 Dispatch Board sets meeting dates

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

The 911 Dispatch Board was again on the agenda when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 15. The date of Thursday, April 17, was set for the first meeting of the board.

Carol Gamblin, dispatch supervisor, presented a call count report for the office. The dispatch communication board was discussed. After talking to the trainer/auditor for the Kansas Highway Patrol, Chairman Andy Beikman had reported at a previous meeting that a board of five with three sub-committee members was recommended. The three sub-committee members were to be the highest law officers.

Appointed to the dispatch board were: George Harper, St. Francis fire chief; Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director; Gary Rogers, emergency manager; Mr. Beikman, county commissioner; and Natalie Knodel, St. Francis City Council.

Appointed to the sub committee were Deborah Farland, St. Francis Chief of Police, Craig Van Allen, sheriff; and Justin Barrett, county attorney.

Because of the position and a matter of confidentiality, all committee members were required to fill out a form. Mr. Biekman reported that Chief Farland had removed her name and put in the name of Jim Walters, a city police officer. A background check was also made on all board members.

The board met on Thursday. They will meet again on May 1. Legal council will also be present to help the board establish some guidelines.

Mrs. Gamblin asked for five minutes of executive session so she could discuss personnel. When they returned, Chairman Beikman announced that no decisions would be made.

Ambulance report

Ambulance director Jannelle Bowers presented write-offs in the

See 911 on Page 9