**6** Saint. Francis Herald

Thursday, May 22, 2008



GARRETT BRUNK works with his heifer before the spring show to be held on Saturday at the Cheyenne County fairgrounds.

## **Students** attend festival

Fifth-grade students from St. Francis and Cheylin learned about the High Plains water cycle through science, art, creative writing and history during a twoday event. The students were accompanied by their teachers, Lynette Nolan, St. Francis, and Judy Poore, Cheylin.

Dr. Darryl Birkenfeld, executive director of Ogallala Commons, explained to the students the the High Plains water system isn't always easy to see. Students visited a dry playa lake basin outside of Wheeler; a small artesian spring 3 miles north of St. Francis; a creek and the River Walk, in order to learn about the High Plains - Ogallala Aquifer.

Julie Boatright, conservation educator, Lubbock, Texas, and a session on Global Water Situ-Andy Wilkenson, artist-in-residence, Lubbock, Texas, presented a session on bird identification and one on creative writing,

DR. DARRYL BIRKENFELD talks to the students about the high plains water system.

ations. Some situations hit very close to home.

The presenters took the students on a visit to the local water which included song and poetry. treatment plant where they hap-Bob Meiyer, Hendon, and Dr. pily discovered a lack of odor Nick Parker, Lubbock, presented and many close encounters with

geese and other birds they had learned about the previous day. That afternoon students traveled to a local spring; to a Republican Valley watershed area; and visited other examples of the Ogallala Aquifer.

"I think students will defi-

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

nitely encourage the residents of this area to learn about the Playa Lakes and how they are needed to recharge the water systems," Mrs. Nolan said.

This is because, she said, they learned that as they grow up and live on the High Plains or in distant places, water use and conservation will be one of the greatest challenges they will face.

Tentatively

The Kansas Barn Alliance is begin at 1:00 and will feature might just help pay the restorasponsoring a free workshop, a roundtable discussion: "Help 'Old Barns-New Ideas," on Sat- pay the restoration bill. Find new uses for your old barn." urday, May 31, at the Stan Car-

free workshop on May 31

Barn alliance is sponsoring

Barn Alliance president, Sally Hatcher, writes, "Many of the wonderful old barns across Kansas are a resource for memories and not much else. The goal of our May 31 workshop in St. Francis is to share ideas about ways these barns can be used again."

According to Ms. Hatcher, some old barns in Kansas are reviving as owners try unusual niche agriculture enterprises. One farmer is raising tilapia in concrete tanks in his old barn. Another is milking sheep for travel 2.5 miles west on Road G: cheese making.

The St. Francis workshop will house.) Please call Stan at 785 offer participants the opportu- 332 3569 by May 24 to reserve nity to discuss some of these a spot. niche agriculture ventures that

tion bill!

This workshop is for those who have an old barn and don't know what to do with it.

"If you have an old barn and have done something with it, come and share your story!" said Janet Carman.

"We are pleased that the Kansas Barn Alliance chose Cheyenne County for this workshop. We want to give them a warm welcome,"said county Historical Society president, Lea Keller.

The Stan Carman's farm is located at 1625 Road G, from St. Francis, travel 7 miles south of U.S, 36 on Road 16. From K-27, (Look for the two story farm-

Semler removes the animal.

It was also noted that people are

Justin Barrett, county attorney,

asked if the city has an animal con-

and the city police will continue to

take care of domestic animals that

Mrs. Gamblin said she was con-

cerned that, if wild animals are al-

lowed to run in the city limits, there

could be a rabid animal which could

bite someone. Who will be liable?

as a city taxpayer, wondered what

he was paying them (city officers)

Andy Beikman, commissioner,

Craig Van Allen, sheriff, was

present at the meeting. After discus-

sion, the commissioners agreed that

when there is a wild animal call, the

sheriff or one of his officers, will

take care of the animal.

are loose or being a nuisance.

## **Animal control** is topic at meeting

By Karen Krien karen.k@nwkansas.com

not allowed to fire a gun within the The county 911 dispatch director city limits so they can't shoot the had a letter from the St. Francis City animal. If they do shoot a skunk, Police concerning animal control there is a smell. to present to the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Thursday. trol officer. Their answer was yes,

Carol Gamblin, director, wanted to know what the dispatchers are to do when a call to remove a skunk, rattlesnake or other wild animals comes in. The letter stated that the city police would not be removing these animals due to limited resources and asked that the dispatch should limit the requests for these calls.

The letter suggested that the dispatcher call the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks or local resident Cliff Semler.

Mrs. Gamblin said she had contacted Mr. Semler and he traps for a charge of \$45 to \$100. She felt like if a person called in, they should be told they will be charged if Mr.



to do?

Visitors of Noami Holliman on len and Dorothy were graduat- Witzel, special friends. Friday, May 16 were Colleen Renk ing, Allisha, Gabriel, and Karma of Bismarck, N.D; Beth, Zach and Weeden. Joel Schiel of Ellis.

Gavlen and Dorothy Weeden May 10, from the University of Kansas City, Mo: Dustin and Lau-

**St. Francis News** 

Others attending were Terry and Rachel Weeden of Estterville, Kyle Weeden had graduated on Iowa; Kyle and Katie Hahn of

man farm, south of St. Francis.

There will be a morning and

afternoon session. The morning

frame specialist from Ness City,

will talk about the construction

of old barns and renovation pos-

sibilities. Special recognition

will be given to the 4-H photog-

raphy group members who docu-

At noon the Cheyenne County

Historical Society will provide

lunch. Donations for the meal

will benefit the Cheyenne Coun-

The afternoon session will

mented several area barns.

ty Museum.

Robert Metzmer, a timber

session will begin at 10.



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