



The Saint Francis Herald

\$1 (Tax included: 73¢ delivered at home)

12 Pages

Thursday, March 4, 2010

126th Year, Number 9

Call before starting fires

By Karen Krien

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Spring is just a couple of weeks away and, with the warm days, people are thinking about cleaning up yards, ditches and windbreaks. Much of the time, that also includes burning thistles and other burnable materials.

At the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday, the commissioners discussed how some people in the rural areas are not calling in these burns. Firemen reported they had been called to put out a fire which was a controlled burn but had not been called in to the dispatch office.

The problem is, the commissioners said, while the farmer may have the fire under control, people seeing the smoke will just assume there is a fire that is not under control. When the dispatch is notified that a farmer is going to have a controlled burn, then, when a call of a sighting is reported, they will automatically know that it is a controlled burn and the firemen will not be dispatched.

The commissioners discussed the fact that there is a resolution which was passed in February 1996 that states, if the fire department is called to put out a fire and it is a controlled burn which has not been reported, the person starting the fire is liable for repayment for all the expenses with a minimum charge being \$300.

People starting a fire, whether it be a trash fire, or a thistle fire, or burning an old shed, need to notify the dispatch office by calling 911 or be prepared to pay for the expenses of having the firemen come to put out the fire.

rested for making methamphetamines and spent time in prison. On Feb. 24, he was charged in Cheyenne County District Court on three counts: 1) Manufacturing methamphetamines, a Level 1 Non-Person Felony; 2) Possession of Ephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamines, a Level 2 Non-Person Felony; and 3) Possession of drug manufacturing paraphernalia, a Level 4 Non-Person Felony. Bond was set at \$50,000.

He was taken to the Rawlins County Bastille, Atwood. His next appearance for preliminary court is set for 2 p.m. on March 10 before Robert Van Allen, District Magistrate Judge. However, this date may be moved until lab reports are complete.

Meth lab busted in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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An arrest was made and a large methamphetamine lab was uncovered on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Raymond DeAragon, 48, was arrested by Cheyenne County Sheriff, Craig Van Allen, at 12:30 p.m. and a methamphetamine lab was uncovered at his house at 408 S. College Street, St. Francis. The house is also within the 1,000-foot limit of both the St. Francis grade school and high school.

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation and St. Francis City Police, along with sheriff's officers were at the scene. The HAZMAT clean up team arrived later that evening to clear out the lab and materials.

DeAragon was previously ar-



EARN A PURPLE — Kylie Sherlock and Kayla Reed, sixth graders, received a purple award on their science project, 'screaming cups.'

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Fishing contest set for Sunday

By Karen Krien

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The annual trout fishing contest sponsored by the Cheyenne County Wildlife organization is set for Sunday at Keller Pond, northwest of St. Francis. Teams need to report to the clubhouse, south of St. Francis on Rd. 14, at 7:30 a.m. Coffee, juice and donuts will be served as the rules are announced.

The weather is supposed to be in the 50s and just right for a fishing contest. To add to the enjoyment of the contest, the pond is now bigger as the edges were excavated where years of silt and sand had blown in, filling in around the pond. The west edge has also been worked on so there is more room for the fishermen.

Hal Sager, one of the coordinators, said the tournament is for two-man teams. Fishing licenses are required for those over 16 and under 65. However, no trout stamp is required as this is a tournament where the trout were stocked just for the contest.

Last year, there were 18 teams of fishermen participating. There were 99 trout caught and the total weight was a little over 247 pounds.

Taking first place were Ted Trumbo and his dad, Tim, of St. Francis, with a total of 22.25 pounds of trout.

Second place went to Matt Tygart and Keegan Sherlock, St. Francis with 22.125 pounds of fish. Jacob Baxter and his dad, Slim, St. Francis, took third with 22 pounds. Fourth place went to Cody Baxter and Mike Hanson, St. Francis, with 20.75 pounds.

Keller Pond has been closed to fishermen since it was stocked in December so all the fishermen will have a fair chance of bringing in the winning fish.

Census forms to arrive

Every 10 years, the Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States. On March 1, census forms were mailed out.

Residents are urged to fill them out and return them. Those who do not mail them back will have a census taker knocking on their door who will ask the questions from the form.

The form has 10 questions about the individual's age, date of birth and whether or not he/she owns a home. The person's Social Security number will not be asked for. The

bureau uses it strictly for statistical purposes. By law, personal information cannot be shared with anyone including other government agencies.

By giving the necessary information, the bureau can provide a portrait of the population through the decennial census which helps determine the number of seats states, including Kansas, has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census also helps communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things

like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, and other public works projects and emergency services.

Starting March 22, visitors to the census web site will be able to track how well their communities are participating in the census on a daily basis. Communities will even be able to embed a web-based tool on their own web sites that automatically updates the daily rates.

The Census Bureau is challenging all communities to improve their 2000 mail participation rates in 2010.

Counselor opens office

By Karen Krien

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Rachelle Moore, licensed professional counselor, has opened Capstone Counseling at 112 E. Spencer St., St. Francis.

Capstone Counseling is a generalist practice working with children who are 3 to 18 years, adults, individuals, couples, families and groups. Christian counseling is available through the office as well as traditional counseling services.

The office has a fully-equipped play therapy room, an art-therapy room, a sand-tray therapy room, group/family therapy room and individual therapy room. Upgrades have been made to the building including a bathroom on the main floor and a physically-challenged accessible entrance. Parking is available by the office through the alley or on Spencer Street in front of the building.

Mrs. Moore is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School and after graduating from Colby Community College, took time off to raise her family. When the last child went off to college Mrs. Moore returned to college. In 2005, she graduated from Excelsior College, Albany, N.Y., with a bachelor's degree in psychology. In May 2009, she graduated from Fort Hays State University with a master's degree in community counseling. She will graduate this month with a Bible diploma from Rhema Bible Training Center, Broken Arrow, Okla., and in May, from MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, with a certificate in play therapy. Next year she plans to become certified in Emotion Focused Therapy, a highly successful marriage therapy modality.

Mrs. Moore said she became interested in counseling when she was in her 30s and received help for depression through counseling.



CAPSTONE COUNSELING is open at 112 E. Spencer. Counselor, Rachelle Moore, checks over some records.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

"Now, in my 50s, I am enjoying helping other people with the same help I received," she said.

Everyone encounters problems in life, she said. Sometimes, we just need someone else to come alongside us and walk through them with us.

"As a holistic counselor, I believe people are designed to heal," she said. "My vision is to give people hope and to use my counseling skills to help clients determine their own paths toward healthier living."

Mrs. Moore goes to Colby on

Tuesdays where she is a counselor at Heartland Rural Counseling Service, working under Elaine Ptacek, licensed clinical professional counselor, registered play therapist-supervisor; and on Wednesdays, she is at the Heartland Rural Counseling Services in Goodland, where she works under Deanna Vogler, licensed clinical professional counselor, national certified counselor.

Capstone Counseling is an approved provider for Medicaid and Healthwave 21. Scholarships are also available.



CHECKING THE ASSOCIATED Press Stylebook for a fine point of journalistic writing are juniors Aly Marin, Mikaela Grace and Aubree Schlepp. Students are allowed the style book, a thesaurus and a dictionary in writing contests. The students received first placings at the Kansas Press Association's Regional Contest on Thursday.

Photo courtesy of Brenda Day

Sainty journalism students qualify to compete at state

Students on the St. Francis Community High School Wigwam staff competed at Kansas Scholastic Press Association Regional Journalism contest held in Hays on Thursday. Of the 23 students competing, 20 placed with 31 entries. Students of Brenda Day, these journalists will compete at the state journalism contest on May 1 in Lawrence.

The placers were as follows: Seniors: Ben Neitzel-second, Photo Illustration, honorable mention, Theme Development and Graphics (team with Aubree Schlepp); Dale Northrup-honorable mention, Editing; Amber Smull-second, Newspaper Sports Writing; Kaycee Williams-honorable mention, Advertising.

Juniors: Mikaela Grace-first, Editing, second, Yearbook Layout; Cody Killingsworth-honorable mention, Editorial Cartoon, honorable mention, Yearbook Layout; Aly Marin-first, Feature Writing, honorable mention, Headline Writing; Jalyn McCauley-second, Yearbook Sports Writing, third Academic Photography; Aubree Schlepp-first Yearbook Copy Writing, honorable mention, Theme Development and Graphics (team with Benjamin Neitzel); Sarah Trembly-honorable mention, Infographics, honorable mention, Photo Illustration; Zach Zweygardt-third, Editorial Cartoon, honorable mention, Newspaper Sports Writing.

Sophomores: Tilyn Bell-third,

Feature Writing; Allison Grice-honorable mention, Newspaper Design; Jon Hilty-honorable mention, Newspaper Design, honorable mention, Yearbook Copy Writing; Caitlin Northrup-second, News Writing, second, Sports Photography.

Freshmen: Lucas Carmichael-third, Editorial Writing, third, Theme Development and Graphics (team with Casey Keller); Thomas Douthit-honorable mention, Advertising; Casey Keller-third, Theme Development and Graphics (team with Lucas Carmichael), honorable mention, Cutline Writing; Clarice Neitzel-honorable mention, Yearbook Sports Writing; Ally Northrup-second, Editorial Writing.