



COMPUTER LAB — First graders Jade Ketzner and Kobe Tice have fun while learning on the computers.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Former student tosses sand bags along the Red River

Former resident, Lucas Raile, son of Jeff Raile and Lori West, was pictured on the MSNBC website. The caption read "West Fargo high school sophomore Lucas Raile, tosses sandbags to Garrett Irwin while they position them on a 40-foot dike along the Red River on Tuesday.

The rising Red River had passed the "major flood" stage on Wednesday, the article said, as thousands of volunteers, many students, as well as National Guard troops worked furiously to build clay dikes and top existing ones with ever more sand bags.

The stage was reached when the river that dissects this part of North Dakota and Minnesota, topped 30 feet above flood stage. So far, the dikes and sandbags have prevented flooding except for a few parks and low-lying areas with no significant structural damage.

The article went on to state that the volunteer corps are the region's youngest citizens. It's a job that elsewhere might be reserved for emergency workers or at least, their parents.

Some children in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., are lugging sandbags that weigh more than

they do.

Determined youths showed up just after dawn with groups of friends ready and willing to shovel.

The student push started Tuesday with new groups of kids arriving by the busloads. They are being excused from class with their parents' permission, joining the hundreds of adults filling and then placing 1 million sandbags.

They have pretty much saved the community said David Stark, Fargo resident, who worked besides hundreds of student volunteers.

Department accepts comments

Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director of US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Kansas has announced that the department is accepting comments on the Final Environmental Assessment for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

On Sept. 26, 2006, a legal settlement was signed between the National Wildlife Federation and the Farm Service Agency that limited the frequency of haying on Conservation Reserve Program lands to once every 10 years and grazing to once every five years in Kansas; with a suspension of

haying and grazing during the primary nesting season (April 15 to July 15). The settlement stipulated that if a change to the frequency of haying and grazing or the primary nesting season (PNS) dates is desired, then an Environmental Assessment would be prepared that identifies the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of such a change.

The Farm Service Agency proposes to change the allowable frequency of managed haying and grazing to once every three years on certain Conservation Reserve Program lands in Kansas. The Farm Service Agency has deter-

mined that the alternative frequency will not have significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and therefore will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Farm Service Agency is accepting comments on the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a period of 30 days from March 1. A copy of these documents can be obtained at <http://public.geo-marine.com> or www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

Comments may be submitted online at <http://public.geo-marine.com>, emailed to kansasmhg@geo-marine.com or written comments sent to Kansas MHG EA, Geo-Marine Inc., 2713 Magruder Boulevard Suite D, Hampton, VA 23666. Further information can be obtained from Matthew Ponish, phone 202-720-6853 or email Matthew.Ponish@wdc.usda.gov

Conservation Reserve Program is a voluntary program that supports the implementation of long-term conservation measures designed to improve the quality of ground and surface waters, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat on environmentally sensitive agricultural land. In return, Commodity Credit Corporation provides participants with rental payments and cost share assistance under contracts extending from 10 to 15 years. Conservation Reserve Program is a Commodity Credit Corporation program administered by the Farm Service Agency with the support of other federal and local agencies. Kansas currently has 2,778,824.9 acres enrolled on 45,464 Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

Loans available to qualified producers

The Farm Service Agency is making emergency loans available to help qualified producers recover from production and physical losses due to natural disasters according to Adrian J. Polansky, state executive director for US Department of Agriculture's Kansas Farm Service Agency.

Presidential Disaster Declaration M1885 for severe winter storms and snowstorm on Dec. 22, through Jan. 8, made counties in Kansas eligible. Cheyenne and Rawlins are some of the primary counties eligible.

These contiguous counties in Northwest Kansas are also eligible: Sherman and Thomas. In addition, there are some contiguous counties eligible in Colorado and Nebraska.

Producers in the above listed

counties have until Nov. 9 to apply for an emergency loan.

Eligible loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property and pay production costs associated with the disaster year. Applicants can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses not to exceed \$500,000. The current rate for these low interest loans is 3.75 percent.

Producers must meet eligibility requirements and not be able to obtain credit from a commercial lender. The Farm Service Agency will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

Contact the Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Office at 785-899-3070 for more information.

Planning committee changes aging Expo to this spring

The Full Circle...An Aging Expo Planning Committee is making a change.

Because of weather and time concerns in the fall, the committee will move this year's expo to spring in the hopes of more daylight hours for traveling and less threat of poor weather conditions.

To celebrate the move to spring, the planning committee wishes to announce that the next Full Circle...An Aging Expo, will be held Friday, April 23, at the Colby United Methodist Church from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The expo is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension - North West Area and Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging

Pre-registration information is available at any Northwest Kansas County or District Extension Office by calling the area extension office at 785-462-6281 and ask for Libby or Becky. Pre-registrations are due Thursday, April 15, to receive an early bird reduction in price. However, walk ins will be accepted at the door with no guarantee of lunch.

For those needing continuing education units should contact the area extension office at the number above so that arrangements can be made to get the units.

Dr. Tana Goering, MD and KSN television personality, will be back by popular demand as the key note speaker. She will, however, be changing her discussion to "How do you know when a trip to the doctor is necessary?"

Some other speakers will remain the same, but there will also be new topics to help with answering your questions about aging. Some of the new topics include Mindbody Exercises by Tina Harris, Physical Therapist. Tina will explain exercise for strength, flexibility, posture and balance.

A representative of the office of Kansas Securities Commission, Beth Victor, will discuss making investments, what you need to know to make those investments, and learning how to avoid being a victim since seniors are targets for fraud. SHICK Counselor and district extension agent, Connie

Bretz, will be discussing getting extra help paying for your prescription drugs.

By request some topics are the same, so if you missed one of your favorite topics at the last expo, you have a chance to hear them once again. These topics include Elder Law by Randy Clinkscales, P.A.; Vitamin D by Glen McNeil, R.D. from Fort Hays State University, Mind Aerobics by Kathy Sikes, Alzheimer's Association, Enjoying Beautiful Eye Health by a Vision Source Representa-

tion; When a Loved One Passes by Marilyn Cooper, LMSW; Drug Interaction by Mike Larmer, Pharmacist and Affordable Kansas Travel by Jennifer Haugh, Travel/Tourism, Kansas Department of Commerce.

For further information on Full Circle...An Aging Expo, contact the local K-State Research and Extension Office, the Northwest Area Extension Office at 785-462-6281 or e-mail Tranda.Watts@ksu.edu

Program to be held on driver safety

The AARP Driver Safety Program will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a break for lunch on Wednesday, April 7, at the St. Francis Senior Center.

This is the nation's first and largest classroom refresher course, said Elmer Kellner, AARP member and senior citizen. The course, he said, is geared especially to fit all people's safety needs. Everyone would gain from it.

Some of the issues discussed will include:

- How to compensate for changes in vision, hearing and reaction time.

- How to handle problem situations such as left turns, right-of-way, freeway traffic, trucks and blind spots.

- What to do if confronted by an aggressive driver.

- When to use a car phone.
- How medications may affect driving.

- How to properly use anti-lock brakes, air bags and safety belts.

- How to assess one's own and others' abilities via a "Personal Driving Capability Index."

Those taking the class will learn defensive driving techniques, new traffic laws and the rules of the road. They will find out how to adjust their driving to age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time and, best of all, there is an insurance discount for AARP class graduates. People are urged to talk to their insurance agent.

For more information, contact Ken Quigley, 785-332-3475, or Mr. Kellner, 785-332-2950. Or call toll free: 1-888-227-7669.

St. Francis News

Debbie Grizzell of Macksville was a guest of her parents, Milton and Betty Lampe, from Tuesday, March 17, until Sunday, March 21. Travis Grizzell of Hays joined them on Thursday and both returned home on Sunday.

On Wednesday evening, March 18, guests helping Betty celebrate her birthday were Debbie Grizzell,

Elmer and Dorothy Kellner, Ginger Bouza of Tonganoxie, Glenn and Lois Erber of Jackson, Mich., and Donna Hass of Topeka. Cake and ice cream were served.

Guests for supper on Saturday evening were Debbie Grizzell, Travis Grizzell and Larry, Ginger and Andrew Bouza of Tonganoxie.

Don't Take Chances. Call Before You Dig.

Remember to call **811** at least two working days before you begin any digging. This free service coordinates local utilities to mark underground pipes and wires before you start your project.

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