



Rural America needs all the friends in can get

Good news for rural America is a new U.S. Department of Agriculture program to help states lease land and improve habitat for public access.

Called the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, the effort is authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. It offers states and tribal governments up to \$50 million in grants through 2012 to expand or create public-access programs for hunting and recreation.

"We believe that encouraging outdoor recreation activities in rural communities represents a real opportunity," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

The number of hunters and fishermen has been declining for years as America becomes more urban and less rural. Once, hunters could knock on the door and expect to be welcomed by a farm owner. Today, with many farmers living in town or miles from their fields, it's increasingly difficult to get permission to hunt or fish. Private leases take more land out of the pool.

But \$50 million isn't much money in this day and age, so why is this important?

First, with much land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program, farmers maybe can use a little cash. The federal money might preserve some habitat that would otherwise be lost to the plow.

Second, rural America needs all the friends it can get. Face it: there aren't many of us compared to our brethren in the city. We don't vote in numbers anymore. So anything we get from Washington will be the result of partnerships with city folk.

We need them on our side. We need them to understand our positions, our needs. We need them to care. And hunters who visit the farm and get to know farmers are just the type of supporters we need.

We should make them our friends.

What we loosely call the Farm Bill today really is a welfare bill. Most of the money goes to urban programs. We've seen what happens when city-bred environmental interests get their hands on this money: Conservation Reserve cut, ethanol programs under attack, cheap food always in the forefront.

Rural Americans, as few as we are, cannot go to Washington and force anyone to do anything. Not enough of us. Farmers are fewer still. So we need all the allies we can find.

Third, hunting, fishing and recreation are big business. Secretary Vilsack estimates and people using public lands under his department spend \$12 billion a year in nearby towns, creating a quarter-million jobs. The department sees a chance to spread that around, and those of us surrounded by private land could use some of that business.

Kansas officials, knowing how little public land we have in this state, welcomed the new program. Kansas already has 1 million acres under lease and might be able to do more with some federal money.

We wouldn't say \$1 million per state was enough to change the world, but it's a start. To really help us, this program needs to grow and expand. But anything Washington does to help us is welcome.

- Steve Haynes



News From the Past

50 years ago - 1960

John Wolbach, manager of the St. Francis Equity Grocery, announced that the grocery is now a "Valu-Mart" store.

Linda Keller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Keller, was second place individual at the District Home Economics Judging School at Colby. There were 177 girls participating.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Huffman have been hired by the city as managers of the swimming pool this summer.

Mrs. L.E. Turk will open a fabric shop soon in the building being vacated by Zimbelman's Jewelry. There will be a grand opening in the near future.

40 years ago - 1970

Enjoying a week at Rock Springs 4-H Camp were James Armknecht, Patti Busse, Spencer Schlepp, Tim Armknecht, Mike Rogers, Delia Pianalto, Cindy Curry, Jeana Waters, Sandra Rath, La Rae Wilson and Yvette Schroek. Larry Henry was the leader.

Five older Cheyenne County 4-H youth were named this week as delegates to Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C. The five are Penni Raile, Clarissee Roberson, Dick Keller, Stephen Douthit and Jörn Keller.

25 years ago - 1985

Junior Miss candidates include Dixie Forsythe, Theresa Williams, Melissa Bunjes, Emma Brunswig, Julie Straub, Stacy Sweazy, Christy Curry, Cynthia Orth and Jeanette Voorhies.

After 20 years of service to

the judicial service, Ena Zimbelman will officially retire as of July 1. Sixteen of the years have been spent as the clerk of the district court for Cheyenne County. The other years she served as judge protem and worked in the register of deeds office.

The new Honored Queen for Job's Daughters, Bethel 52, is Sherri Bracelin. The Senior Princess is Kari Milliken and the Junior Princess is Shauna Schultz.

As a program of renewal, Father Gregory Beyer of the St. Francis Catholic Church, St. Francis, and St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bird City, left Kansas on April 26 for Italy to participate in the Capuchin Heritage Program.

Bird City was bursting with pride and people Saturday as close to 3,000 people from 23 states and one foreign country took part in the town's Centennial activities.

The St. Francis Community High School Alumni Reunion was held the third weekend in June. Attending from the class of 1925 were Henry Rieb, Lucille Stephenson and Elizabeth (Henry) Upton.

Mary Margaret Jewell, St. Francis weatherperson, retired as of May. Replacing her as weatherperson is Jack Maupin, owner of the Homesteader Motel and Trailer Court.

A brand new X-ray machine is one of six new pieces of equipment at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

10 years ago - 2000

Michelle Young and Tyler Raile brought home the gold from the 2A State Track and Field Meet in Wichita and the Saintry boys did a great job by receiving the third place trophy. Young placed first in the long jump while Raile took the gold in the 110-meter hurdles. Raile also took second in the 300-meter hurdles and fifth in the triple jump. Chad Raile placed second in the 100-meter dash and fourth in the long jump. The boys 4x400-meter relay team placed third to give the boys team third place. Members included T. Raile, Mike Wolters, Aaron Lindsten and C. Raile.

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator, and his son, Ben will be biking across Kansas starting at the Kanorado line on June 10.

Michael Dorsch received his Eagle Scout Badge at a Court of Honor held on May 27.

The maintenance supervisor at the junior-senior high school has retired with his last day being June 15. Harvey Forsythe is probably best known throughout the Northwest Kansas League for his care in producing one of the best conditioned football field.

A St. Francis lawyer will be locking his door for the last time on June 30 when he retires after 42 years. Floyd Jensen, who has had his own office at 114 East Washington Street for 12 years began practicing law after graduating from Kansas State University in 1958.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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At my age it is a kick to try something new. Last weekend Lezlie's folks needed some help with the harvest. Next thing I knew I was driving a 1970 GMC beast-of-a-machine, loaded with over 300 bushels of wheat headed to the grain elevator.

For locals the dance of maneuvering a dump truck from a scale to the grain pit and back for reweighing is like a well practiced country square dance. For me there were some toes stepped on, but we got through it and my partner was only a little black and blue. Luckily I had my coach/wife along to lead me through the process.

What it brought to mind is, what seems a routine, necessary evil for the farmers is a pretty amazing gift. Even though, year after year, they fight the odds, the work is the same. Plant, wait and harvest. But a bountiful harvest awaits.

The odds being drought, flood, hail, pestilence, disease, mechanical breakdowns and the uncontrollable commodities market. Yet they labour to feed others.

When this area is called the bread basket, they aren't kidding. Driving along in that old seed truck, we passed field upon field of wheat, either cut in golden brown patterns or waving anxiously for the chugging combines to take them. Other grounds hold crops that are waiting their future turn: corn, sunflower and beans.

All will go to nourish people who don't have a clue what it takes to move these seeds from the field to the sliced loaves in their local store. Without the farmer's product, how else would we have our daily bread?

Thanks Kurt and Margaret for letting me be a part of something much bigger!

Great Tips

Whenever I purchase a box of S.O.S pads, I immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves. After years of having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally decided that this would be much more economical. And now a box of S.O.S pads last me indefinitely! In fact, I have noticed that the scissors get sharpened this way!

Opening brand new jars can be a feat in itself. Well, I have found a way to make it the easiest thing to do. Instead of banging a jar of

jam, pickles, etc., with a knife until it loosens up, I simply reach into the drawer and pull out the handy nutcracker. It adjusts to the size of the jar and I simply give it a good twist and off pops the lid!

Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. It works every time!

Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Keith Reichert, Boise, Idaho.; Mike Miller, Goodland; Beth Maifeld, St. Francis; Elmer Brunswig, St. Francis; Alan Russ, St. Francis; Nike Keller, Mooresville, N.C.; Perry Keller, St. Francis; Karen Engle, Madison; Shawn Warren, Colby; Steve Golden, Oakley; Mrs. Dorelene Doddridge, Kirk, Colo.; Gary Wickwar, St. Francis; Oscar Watson, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Kenneth Dearthoff, Peoria, Ariz.; Steve Jenkins, St. Francis; Nathan Boyer, St. Francis.

GOD SAYS Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Matthew 23:24, 25

The Saint Francis Herald (USPS 475-960) A Century of Service to Cheyenne County P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050 Published each Thursday by Haynes Publishing Co., 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050. Entered as periodicals matter at the post office at St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050, and at additional offices. Official newspaper of Cheyenne County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association and Inland Press Association. Subscriptions: One year \$38 (tax included) in Cheyenne and adjacent counties; \$42 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$48 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$28 extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-1050

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