



SOPHIE WHITE, who is having lunch at Head Start, thinks French fries are so good. **Kike Yanez** had a smile also.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Loans for conservation set

Patty Eckhardt, Farm Loan Manager with the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds farmers and ranchers that the Agency will make and guarantee Conservation Loans (CL) to producers who want to promote conservation on their land as well as conserve the country's natural resources.

Many farmers who need and want to implement conservation measures on their land do not have the "up front" funds available to implement these practices.

"I encourage producers who want to conserve natural resources and need a source of financing to implement conservation measures to apply for credit through this program," said Ms. Eckhardt. "It is a great opportunity for producers to remain good stewards of the land," she said.

Producers can apply for conservation loans to improve or implement conservation practices

on their land, as long as the practice is approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

According to Ms. Eckhardt, producers who do not currently have an existing conservation plan should visit Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop one prior to requesting Conservation Loan Program assistance.

Examples of conservation practices include the installation of conservation structures, establishment of forest cover, installation of water conservation measures, establishment or improvement of permanent pastures, implementa-

tion of manure management and the adaptation of other emerging or existing conservation practices, techniques or technologies.

Direct Conservation Loans are available at your local Farm Service Agency office with loan limits up to \$300,000. Guaranteed Conservation Loans with limits up to \$1,119,000 are available from lenders who participate in Farm Service Agency's guaranteed loan program.

For more information on the Conservation Loan program, contact the Sherman County Farm Service Agency office at (785) 899-3070 or visit the agency's website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Beecher Island News

By Bessie Dent

There were 79 at Sunday school. Cindy Stroh gave the special number. Katie Parker gave her birthday offering.

Marilyn Bruffett spent a few days with Harry and Beulah Ekberg.

Darlene Strangways and Trudi Wiese visited Nettie May Welton Thursday afternoon.

June Yost and Rose Wagner visited Bessie Dent Wednesday morning.

Visitors this past week with Bill and Ellen Mansfield were Steve and Jo Ellen Goodman, Greg, Charlotte and Lucy Goodman, Brian, Weston and Amya Goodman, Mike, Ingrid, Megan and Alex Goodman, Todd, Jennifer, Cade and Brittany Novak, Ron, Jill and Braxton Scott, Ron,

Jeanne, Ragan and Jake Jackson.

Tyson Brown and Roxan Siegrist visited Violet Brown Friday evening.

Andy Osmus spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus. Joining them for lunch Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Kock and family.

Walt and Janet Smith, Matt and Linda Johnson and family had Sunday dinner with David and Debra Smith in Burlington. Hannah and Dale Johnson spent a few days with Walt and Janet Smith during Christmas break.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mudd and family and Won Kim, an exchange student, are spending part of their Christmas break with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen.

City council holds final meeting of the year

By Karen Krien

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The last St. Francis City Council meeting of the year, held on Monday, Dec. 27, was short. Both the city superintendent and city attorney were unable to attend and there was little business.

Councilman Roger Jensen talked about the next e-waste pick up to be held in January and the unfunded mandate to change road signs across the nation. The federal unfunded mandate will require all street signs to be changed from all upper-case letters to upper and lower case fonts by 2018. The Federal Highway Administration says that will be easier to identify the words, thus safer for drivers. It will cost millions of dollars to change the signs. In New York City alone, the cost, which will be paid in taxpayer money, is \$27.5 million.

Mr. Jensen said Dave Flemming,

county road and bridge supervisor, said there was also a mandate for signs to be more reflective and legible.

The federal government has temporarily delayed as legislators wait for more public input.

Police chief's report

Shane Guggenmos, city police chief, had information on a dog to be used in search and rescue as well as drugs. He said the dog he had previously talked would not work out. However, he had found another dog which is a labrador. He said the dog would cost \$6,000 which would include the training. He will be looking for some grant money.

Generally, he said, the dogs cost around \$10,000. There isn't a drug dog in the area and, if they had a dog which would help with a drug confiscation, the city would share in the money from the drugs.

The dog would be another con-

trol factor, he said, adding that it is amazing what the dogs can do.

Property cleanup

The council briefly discussed the property cleanup of the Smith house on the 400 block of E. Emerson. When a house is condemned, the council is informed that it will need to be either cleaned up or razed. The matter was tabled until Mike Day, city attorney, was present.

In other business

In other business:
• Cereal malt beverage licenses were approved for Cheyenne Bowl, Diamond R Bar and Grill and Majestic Service.

• Dale Weeks, councilman, commended the Theater Committee

on their successful fund drive. The mayor, Scott Schultz, also recognized the committee.

• Bruce Swihart, councilman, said he is on the Long-Term Village Committee. He, Dale Patton, commissioner, and Kevin Berens, Village Advisory Board member, will be investigating the possibilities of a county-owned vs privately-owned nursing home.

• Mr. Swihart also noted that it is time to start thinking about the swimming pool help.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the city council has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Monday at city hall.

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Recap Of Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011

Heifers:	1053# — \$79.50
300-400# — \$118.00 - \$132.00	Steers:
500-550# — \$123.50 - \$124.00	300-400# — \$144.00 - \$148.50
622# — \$111.00	400-500# — \$133.00 - \$139.50
700-750# — \$103.00 - \$109.00	500-600# — \$136.50 - \$139.00
800-900# — \$100.50 - \$104.00	650-700# — \$114.00 - \$118.50

Weigh cows: high yielding \$60.25 - \$66.00; low yielding \$53.50 - \$58.00

Tuesday, Jan. 11: Special calf and yearling sale. 300 blk steers & heifers, 400-600#; 107 blk steers & heifers, 450-700#; (source & age verified); 90 steers, 650-700#, 160 blk heifers o.c.v. (AI or out of AI cows, fancy); 140 blk & xbred steers & heifers, 550 - 700#, 70 blk & red steers & heifers, 250-450#, 21 blk & red heifers, 600 - 700#. More by sale day. To consign, call 970-332-4873.

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"Happy New Year" to
Danny & Marti Schlittenhardt,
Joe, Jen & Lane Hoffman,
Carl & Connie Williams!
Thanks for all you do every year!
We hope "2011" brings you much happiness,
laughter & joy! Thanks for everything
and have a Great New Year!
Love,
Shannon, Kristin & Taylor Stevens

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