

# Program sign-up ends on April 15

A general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began on March 14, and continues through April 15. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminds landowners and producers. During the sign-up period, farmers and ranchers may offer eligible land at their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. The 2008 Farm Bill authorized US Department of Agriculture to maintain Conservation Reserve Program enrollment up to 32 million acres.

"For 25 years, this program has generated significant environmental improvements," said Vilsack. "Sound conservation practices encouraged through this enrollment preserve the soil, clean our water and restore habitat for wildlife. I encourage all interested farmers and ranchers to contact their local Farm Service Agency office to learn more about this opportunity."

Conservation Reserve Program is a voluntary program that assists farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to use their environmentally-sensitive land for conservation benefits. Producers enrolling in this program plant long-term, resource-conserving covers in exchange for rental payments, cost-share and technical assistance. By reducing water runoff and sedimentation, the program also protects groundwater and helps improve the condition of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. Acreage enrolled in the program is planted to resource-conserving vegetative covers, making the program a major contributor to wildlife population increases in many parts of the country.

Land may be enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program provided all eligibility requirements are met. Additionally, current

program participants with contracts expiring this fall covering about 4.4 million acres may make new contract offers. Contracts awarded under this sign-up are scheduled to become effective Oct. 1.

Farm Service Agency will evaluate and rank eligible Conservation Reserve Program offers using an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) for environmental benefits to be gained from enrolling the land in the program. The EBI consists of five environmental factors (wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits) and cost. Decisions on the EBI cut-off will be made after the sign-up ends April 15 and after analyzing the EBI data of all the offers.

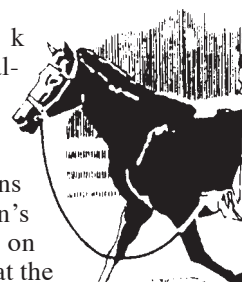
In addition to general sign-up, Conservation Reserve Program's continuous sign-up program will be ongoing. Continuous acres represent the most environmentally desirable and sensitive land. For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp) or call the local Farm Service Agency Office at (785) 332-2183.



**ART ON DISPLAY** — Left, Avery Jensen and her dad Travis discuss the photo; above Mallory Knodel gets organized for her art show.

# Horse day is planned

Mark your calendar for the fourth High Plains Horseman's Day on April 16 at the Logan County Fairgrounds in Oakley. The day begins with registration at 8:30 a.m.



This year the sessions include: Jumping-Form over Fences, Trailing-From Nose to Tail Lights, Animal Chiropractic Care, Feed Supplement Savvy, and Introduction to Versatility Ranch Horse.

Animal chiropractic care is often thought of as something "new." Those attending will better understand animal chiropractic care. Chiropractic care is an alternative approach to life-long health and performance of the horse. Chiropractic does not replace traditional veterinary medicine and surgery, but provides an alternative method of care.

Chiropractic adjustments have proven to be invaluable in detecting and treating gait abnormalities and other performance-robbing problems in the athletic horse.

To learn more about animal chiropractic care, join Dr. Kristy Booker of Oakley Veterinary Service at the 2011 High Plains Horseman's Day program. For more information or to make a reservation for the 2011 High Plains Horseman's Day program contact the Thomas County Extension Office at 785-460-4582 or check it out online at [www.thomas.ksu.edu](http://www.thomas.ksu.edu).

## The Gardener

By Kay Melia  
[vkmelia@yahoo.com](mailto:vkmelia@yahoo.com)

I'm not sure why I'm sitting here writing about potatoes (while listening to some fine old Big Band music that I grew up with in the 40s...Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Bennie Goodman, etc.) when 95 percent of those who plant potatoes in their gardens have their own precise ideas about how to plant, nurture, harvest and store, and whatever I say about growing spuds will result in extreme boredom.

Maybe it's the music. Those wonderful old Big Bands were dominant in the pop-music world when I was a kid down in Ford County 70 to 75 years ago when almost every family planted at least a half acre of spuds each spring, and stored them in the root cellar for the winter. About the first of March each year, my dad would hitch up the two-row lister (with power lift) to the old 10-20 International tractor and list about 15 rows, 50 yards long. Then we would go to J.M. Maricle's Grocery and pick up a 100-pound sack of white Irish Cobbler seed potatoes, and another 100-pound gunny sack full of Red Warbas. We saved the gunny sacks (and many others) for fall storage. It would take almost a week to cut the potatoes into seed pieces, let them cure for a few days, and then plant them about St. Patrick's Day in those previously prepared lister rows.

After the spuds emerged, the work began. My parents appointed me to walk up and down the potato rows with a coffee can half full of kerosene (we called it coal

oil) flicking the hoards of Colorado Potato Beetles into the can, one at a time. Failure to do so would of course result in crop failure. Today, a light sprinkling of 5-percent Sevin dust does the job. At harvest time, out would come the lister and the 10-20 and the spuds would be dug, cleaned and stored in the gunny sacks in the root cellar. The next year, the process would be repeated. Everybody ate lots of potatoes in those days!

That was in Ford County, many miles south of Goodland, Colby and Norton, where it made good sense to plant potatoes on St. Patrick's Day because their season is about two weeks ahead of us and the soil temperature is always close to 50 degrees while ours is closer to 40. Other garden crops such as peas, onions radishes and spinach enjoy cool soils, but potatoes, which are slow to emerge anyway, will kinda just lie there.

I'll plant my potatoes about the 15th of April, maybe even the 10th if the soil has warmed a bit. Just as soon as the plants emerge, I'll be on red alert for the beetles, which are almost sure to raise

their ugly heads. When they are 6- to 8-inches tall, I will mulch heavily, almost to the point of covering up the plants, with many bags of leaves that I saved from last fall. A deep mulch in the potato patch is the most important step to a bumper crop!

Today's best seed potato varieties are Kennebec (white), Yukon Gold (yellow), Red Pontiac, Norland (red), Dakota Crisp (white) and Norkotah Russet. Always buy Certified Seed at your favorite garden center. And if the proprietor can provide you with an album of Harry James or Tommy Dorsey music, I guarantee you that your potato crop will thrive, beetles and gunny sacks notwithstanding.

## Student News

### Central Community College

Madeline Knodel of St. Francis, was among the 125 students and 40 health care representatives who attended the 21st annual Job Fair for Nurses on March 3 at Central Community College in Grand Island.

The event gave the college's nursing students enrolled in its associate degree in nursing program in Grand Island and its practical nursing programs in Columbus, Grand Island and Kearney an opportunity to meet representatives from hospitals, nursing homes,

college and other institutions.

The nursing students were able to compare the health care institutions' facilities, clientele and employee benefits and the colleges' four-year nursing degree programs while the representatives were able to meet and recruit potential employees and students.

Knodel is in the practical nursing program.

## Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

### A Sister's Test

By Wanda E. Brunstetter

Ruth is the second oldest sister in the Hostetler family, and she has one burning desire-to marry and fill her Amish household with children. Life seems to be falling into place when Martin Gingerich starts to court her and she befriends a motherless child. But her dreams are suddenly shattered in one horrific moment, putting Ruth's faith to the test. Finding herself spiritually adrift, Ruth's only real prayer becomes a desperate "God, why?" Will Ruth find the faith and strength to rise above the ashes?

*Wedding Registry*

**Natalie Rogers & Jerry Stahlecker**

Shower April 9

Wedding May 14

**Schultz's Ltd.**  
114 W. Washington  
St. Francis  
785-332-2833

**YOU COME TO OUR DANCE AND WE'LL COME TO YOUR FIRE!!**

The St. Francis Fire Department will be selling tickets for the Annual Fireman's Ball, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., April 30th at the Riverside Recreation.

Ticket Sales: April 4-5

Proceeds to be used for the St. Francis Fire Department

**FREE Oral Cancer Screening**

April 13 • 1:30 - 5 p.m.

Please call to schedule an appointment  
Dr. Melvin Dunn 785-332-2062

300 N. College Street, St. Francis

**PTA Talent Show**

Sunday, April 10 • 3 p.m.

Grade School Gym

Adults — \$5

Students — \$3

Contestants and children under 3 free

Concessions will be available by Jobs Daughters

*The Classic Rose*  
FLORIST

Come celebrate our grand opening

Thurs., March 31 & Friday, April 1.

Refreshments & Door Prizes

The Classic Rose  
785-332-2200  
RoseMary

**Specials**

Each Friday during Lent a fish option is available

**Friday**  
Chicken Fried Steak

**Sunday**  
Smothered Pork Chops

**Monday**  
Fried Chicken

**Tuesday**  
Beef Pot Pie

ATM Available

**Majestic Service & Truck Stop**

510 West Highway 36  
St. Francis, Ks.  
785.332.2905

2011 SFCHS Drama Production

Proudly Presents ~ **HILLBILLY HANKERIN'**

April 3 & 4 ~ 7 p.m.

St. Francis High School

\$5 Admission ages 3+

Tickets at the door, open at 6:15 p.m.

You are invited to a Come & Go Bridal Shower for **Natalie Rogers**

Saturday, April 9  
2-4 p.m.

United Methodist Church  
512 South Scott

Natalie & Jerry are registered at: Owens True Value, Schultz's Ltd. and Stuart's Jewelry

**Ranchland Livestock Auction, Inc.**

P.O. Box 53, Wray, Co. 80758  
Office 970-332-4873

Stocker-Feeders 12:30  
Followed By Weigh Cows

Dave Walters • 970-332-0628  
Dennis Walters • 970-332-3557

**Recap Of Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2011**

<b>Steers:</b>	<b>Heifers:</b>
333# — \$176.00	300-400# — \$152.00 - \$154.00
400-500# — \$158.00 - \$170.00	400-500# — \$146.00 - \$149.00
500-600# — \$152.00 - \$160.00	500-600# — \$132.00 - \$144.50

**Kid Horse:** \$775.00

**Weigh Cows:** High yielding \$74.00 - \$79.75  
Lower yielding \$65.00 - \$69.25

**Tuesday April 5: NO SALE**

**Tuesday, April 12: Regular Sale, selling all classes of cattle. 80-90 Blk & Red Angus hfrs 650-725#, O.C.V. & Pelvic measured, 30 -40 Blk cow/calf pairs (tentative).**

To consign phone 970-332-4873

Seventeen loads of C.M.E. Cattle delivered last month.

Please Vote for Norman Morrow, USD 297 School Board Position 2

Let me tell you what I didn't and won't do: I did not have anything to do with the poster saying anything against another nominee. I won't deal in character assassination and I won't intentionally deal with things that are not facts or are not any of my business.

Not for the positive: I have served on boards for quite a number of years. I have served and am serving on a board that deals with helping children and families. I also serve on the board of a four year liberal arts, Christian college and have for more than twenty years. What is all that worth? You must decide. I only promise to do my best to be part of a team that tries to make public education as good as we can make it in the west half of Cheyenne County. Please vote on April 5.

(Pd for by Norman Morrow, candidate for USD 297 School Board position 2.)

The Constitution of our Republic does not allow Government to be engaged in free Enterprise. Even though our Federal Govt. has gone off the deep end in debt; due to people not getting out to VOTE and elect responsible people, does not mean we can continue in this same INSANE path!

The only source of revenue for the Government: whether National, State, County, or City, is to take it from us in taxes! Then it is up to us to get out and VOTE! Elect people who will best spend our money for our safety and well being! You know electricity, waste removal, pot holes in streets, water and etc. Tax money is not meant to make and keep us all warm and fuzzy!

We are all responsible for keeping the town a nice clean place to live and raise our families. My pledge to all taxpayers that I will do my utmost to spend your money wisely! I do not know if the Mayor Position has any Salary, but if it does it will all be Donated back to our area—Amusement Authority—Theater---Food Pantry—Scouts---Etc. Your tax dollars helping everyone!

It's Time to get out and VOTE!

Larry B. Wilson for Mayor

Pd for by Larry B. Wilson, candidate for Mayor