



BURTON PIANALTO (above right), Sherman County Deputy Sheriff, gives hay to some very hungry horses found at Tim Armknechts, northwest of Goodland. The horses were taken to the Prairieland Veterinary Clinic for treatment. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Sherman County couple charged with animal cruelty

**By Pat Schiefen**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
 A Sherman County man and his wife are charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty for neglecting their horses after a report to the sheriff Feb. 28.  
 Derek Nichols, who works for Mueller Grain, Kanorado, reported the animal cruelty to the sheriff's office. Deputy Jason Showalter and undersheriff Roger Studer investigated the report at the residence of Tim and Shaunna Armknecht, about five miles north of Goodland.  
 Deputy Showalter found 10 horses with no food and water and the said from their appearance the horses had no water or food for several weeks. He also found four other horses dead including a mare and her foal.  
 He saw four corrals with different number of horses in each with no food and water. The horses had

eaten the weeds and grass to the ground outside the pens as far as they could reach. Live horses were in with the dead ones. One particularly bony horse just paced the fence line.  
 Some of the horses just milled around and a few had energy enough to try to escape the men who were trying to load them in a horse trailer.  
 It took officers awhile to find enough hose to get water to the horses, said Sheriff Butts. One of the water tanks had the plug out and water was hauled by bucket to another horse.  
 Deputy Showalter said when he went in to give one some water the horse thought he was going to take the little water he had and tried to bite him.  
 In a couple of the corrals where the horses were in better shape there were bales of hay. When officers

checked, the hay was moldy, said Sheriff Butts, and horses will not eat moldy hay.  
 "From the way two of the dead horses were sinking into the ground they appeared to have been dead from three to four weeks," Deputy Showalter said.  
 The Armknechts had moved from the house across from the corrals to a new modular house on top of the hill looking down on the corrals.  
 Sheriff Butts ordered the arrest of Tim Armknecht when he came home and was in the Bastille on Wednesday. Deputy Showalter said he expected County Attorney Bonnie Selby to charge the Armknecht's each with 14 counts of animal cruelty. The Armknechts made their first court appearances Thursday afternoon.  
 Tim Armknecht told Sheriff Butts the horses were sick and he had no money to feed them.  
 The horses were taken to Prairieland Animal Clinic.  
 Deputy Showalter said he had been interviewed by KBSL and ABC-TV.  
 "We've had calls from all over the state," said Sheriff Butts. "Citizens have been offering from pasture land to food for the horses."  
 Dr. Gary Smith said he expected the horses to recover. They were very malnourished but not injured.  
 "Three of the horses were in good condition, four were in fair condition just slightly thin and three were in poor condition," Dr. Smith said. "I am most concerned about two yearlings."  
 Sheriff Butts said the county will pay the vet bill and hope to recover the costs. They will petition the court for restitution.

## St. Francis News

On Feb. 25, Edna Roesener received a call from her daughter, Cathy and husband, Larry Atkins of Edgemont, S.D., that Larry's youngest sister, LeAnn Christy (Stasser) Johnson was killed in an automobile accident near her home in Hayes Center, Neb., and her 17-year-old daughter, Ashley was taken to McCook, Neb., hospital with injuries. LeAnn's families hurried to McCook.  
 Monday, Feb. 27, Michelle Stasser and daughter, Orion of Cushing, Okla., Keith and Bethany Stoney and daughters, Tierra and Kaitlyn of Great Bend, were guests with their grandparents, Paul and Edna Roesener of McDonald until

Wednesday.  
 Tuesday evening Larry and Cathy Atkins of Edgemont, and Mike and Danelle Rush and baby, Michael of Cushing, Okla., were overnight guests of Paul and Edna Roesener. Other guests for supper were Roy and Karen Shrader, Colleen and Grant.  
 Wednesday all families attended the memorial services for LeAnn at the First Christian Church in St. Francis. Burial was in St. Francis and Hot Springs, S.D.  
 Saturday afternoon, Paul and Edna Roesener's guests were Lewis and Audrey Evins of Oakley, J.L. and Carrie Evins, daughters, Avery and Emma from Great Bend.

# DEADLINE

for the Country Advocate for the Week of March 20 will be noon on Thursday, March 16. This is one day early; our staff will be at a training session on Friday.

The Saint Francis Herald  
 Bird City Times



# Farmer warned not to wait to apply nitrogen to wheat

**K-State Research and Extension Multi-County Agronomist**  
 Moisture over the winter has been marginal to nonexistent, which is causing many farmers to scratch their heads and wonder whether it is worth topdressing nitrogen on their wheat fields. If nitrogen is not applied, potential wheat yields will likely be reduced. Spring could have normal rainfall and temperatures, but the wheat will be unable to achieve higher potential yields due to lack of nitrogen.  
 Typically, the biggest yield response to nitrogen with wheat is where the nitrogen is in the root zone before jointing, according to Dale Leikam, soil nutrient specialist with K-State Research and Extension.  
 According to Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist, if nitrogen is delayed until moisture is received, sufficient nitrogen may not be available to wheat at jointing. If the wheat does not have enough nitrogen, it will abort some tillers while promoting other tillers; therefore, decreasing the amount of tillers in the field.  
 So when is wheat going to joint? There is no one specific date for the area. Initiation of jointing is related to the weather, wheat variety, and when it was planted. A bitterly cold winter and cool spring will delay jointing, while in a mild winter and spring, jointing will likely start earlier than normal.  
 As for wheat varieties, some varieties, like Jagger, tend to start jointing earlier than others. Real-

istically, however, we suspect jointing will start earlier than normal.  
 Therefore, farmers need to apply additional nitrogen to wheat no later than mid-March for northwest Kansas. An additional 30 to 40 pounds per acre of nitrogen topdressed has the potential to increase wheat yields by 15 to 25 bushels per acre.  
 So what happens if we apply nitrogen now and don't get a rain for a while to get the nitrogen into the soil?  
 If rains do not come until after the wheat has jointed, will the topdressed nitrogen still have impacts on yields?  
 Leikam said that in most cases the answer is yes.  
 "Even though we would prefer to have the nitrogen into the root zone before jointing, nitrogen can still increase yields on nitrogen-deficient wheat, if it is taken up as late

as the boot stage."  
 About half of the total nitrogen used by wheat is in the plant by the early boot stage. Nitrogen taken up at the boot stage will not increase tiller numbers or maximum potential head size, but can increase kernel weight and help maintain potential kernel numbers per spikelet.  
 Many producers like to wait as long as possible to apply a nitrogen so they can add a herbicide with it. This combination is a good way to minimize trips across the field.  
 However, by waiting to put herbicides on wheat in mid-April, the opportunity to maximize wheat yields with additional nitrogen will have slipped away with only a marginal increase in yield received from the additional nitrogen.  
 For more help with topdressing wheat or fertilizer rates, please contact your local Extension office.

# Producers reminded of agriculture safety

Ag safety week is March 5 through 11 and Farm Bureaus across the nation are making safety a priority this spring through the Agricultural Safety Awareness Program.  
 In Cheyenne County, Farm Bureau is reminding agricultural producers that, in a rush of completing their tasks on farms and ranches, they need to take time to act safely. They need to also repair or replace safety devices that protect them, their family members

and employees from injuries and fatalities.  
 Nolan Ryan, Hall of Fame pitcher, rancher and Farm Bureau member, joins the effort nationally by asking everyone in agriculture and rural communities to make safety a part of their spring training.  
 The 2006 theme, "Step Up to the Plate for Farm Safety," celebrates the many positive steps the agricultural community is making in creating safer farms and ranches. Like spring training in baseball though, preparation prior to the season and practice are essential in creating a more successful year.  
 In celebrating this annual event, Farm Bureau recognizes the rich tradition of the farming culture in producing the safest and most abundant food in the world and the involvement of all members of the farm family in age appropriate tasks.  
 The American Cancer Society recommends wearing sunscreen with a sun protection factor, or SPF, of 15 or higher, sunglasses with 99 to 100 percent UV absorption and a wide-brimmed hat instead of a baseball cap.  
 Earplugs are also an essential personal protective item when working in agriculture, due to prolonged exposure to loud noises from tools, equipment and animals.  
 For more information, contact the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau for more information at 785-332-3312.

## Student News

**Cleveland Chiropractic College**  
 RW Stuart of St. Francis has been named to the 2005-06 fall dean's list at Cleveland Chiropractic College.  
 Students are recognized for this academic honor while carrying a minimum of 12 new trimester hours and earning a trimester grade point average of 3.4 or higher.  
 Stuart is in Trimester Eight and is due to graduate in August.  
**Northwest Kansas Technical College**  
 Troy Zwegardt, Joshua Walters, Lannie Robbins, Trevor Henderson and Kelly Zwegardt of St. Francis are among the students named to the fall semester honor roll at Northwest Kansas Technical College.  
 T. Zwegardt is enrolled in the second year of auto body repair; Walters is enrolled in the second year of carpentry; Robbins is enrolled in the first year of diesel technology; Robbins is enrolled in the second year of electronics and com-

puter technology and K. Zwegardt is enrolled in automotive technology.  
**Colby Community College**  
 One hundred seventeen students earned their place on Colby Community College fall semester honor rolls, according to Betty Kruse, college registrar.  
 The dean's honor roll lists 44 students, while the resident's honor roll lists 73 more.  
 To earn a place on an honor roll, students must earn 15 or more credit hours and have no failing grades. The dean's honor roll includes students with grade point averages of 3.75-3.99. The president's honor roll includes only students with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.  
 Among those students named to the presidents honor roll are Andrea Carpenter and Sara Moore of Bird City and Rachel Hnizdil of St. Francis.

**FORMER GOLDEN WHOLESALE/HARDWARE** Sun., March 12  
**INVENTORY LIQUIDATION AUCTION** 10 a.m. CT

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First National Bank employees will be attending a Spring Conference on March 15, therefore we will be closing early on that day. Please note the following closing time on your calendar:

Wednesday, March 15, 2006  
 FNB will close at 2:00 pm CT.

Thank you!

First National Bank  
 www.fnb.com