

Sheriff's department sponsors library trip to Nebraska



Photos provided

ABOVE: Colby middle school students visited the Great Platt River Road Archway Monument in Kearney, Neb. **RIGHT:** The students posed in front of a sculpture of an American bison on their trip Saturday, April 8. The trip was sponsored by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

By Jeff Friesen
Pioneer Memorial Library

Thank you Thomas County Sheriff Department for sponsoring our "Library in Motion" trip! Twelve middle-school students and two Pioneer Memorial Library staff members to Kearney, Neb., Saturday, April 8 for an "Amazing

Journey." They managed to get to Holdrege before asking if we were there yet. The first stop was at Cabela's to view the exhibit of mounted wildlife throughout the store to get them in a prairie state of mind (and to do some shopping). The ravenous group was then

hurried to Skeeter Barnes for great barbecue. From there the highlight of the trip was a visit to the Great Platt River Road Archway Monument. Visit it virtually at www.archway.org. The group toured the exhibit where headphones were provided for a "guided" tour through time. The



exhibit hall is in an archway which spans I-80. The students thought the special effects were pretty neat. The museum educator, in period dress, met the group for the "Trailblazer" program and presented several concepts regarding the trails. Important trails covered in the program included the Oregon, Mormon, California, Pony Express, telegraph and railroad. She also presented an oral history account of a woman who settled early along the trail in the area. We then learned that the pioneer was an

ancestor to our guide's husband and that the stories were based on family history. To wrap up the program, the kids released their energy by navigating the "TrailBlaze Maze" on the monument grounds. If you ever want to get from point A to point B in the quickest way possible, Kalyn Clark is your gal!

Of course, any physicist will tell you that expended energy leads to increased appetites. So the group was treated to decorated cookies from Eileen's Colossal Cookies. YUM! With that, the students let the library staff go home and call it a day — a great one at that. Happy Trails to you...

'Beat' generator author's cabin for sale on eBay

LAWRENCE (AP) — It's a 568-square-foot cabin with narrow concrete stairs, outdoor shower and an incinerating toilet in the bedroom — not the first place a home buyer might want to drop nearly \$160,000.

But what makes the place outside Lawrence special is that it once belonged to Beat Generation writer William S. Burroughs, author of "Naked Lunch" and "Junkie." Burroughs, who died in 1997 in Lawrence, mentioned the cabin in his book "My Education."

Owner Carol Dengel listed the cabin on eBay on March 22 as a collector's item with an asking price of \$159,950 and received more than 1,600 hits on her page.

Dengel first came into contact with the cabin in 1999, when she and Diane Fry, an old high school friend from Ottawa, decided to buy a place near Lone Star Lake where they could spend weekends with their families.

"I used to come here as a kid, so I wanted a place near the lake. When we found out who it belonged to we bought it for the asking price right there," Dengel said.

She declined to say what she paid, but the county appraiser lists the current value as \$66,100.

As part of the purchase agreement, Dengel and Fry had to buy the cabin as it was.

"It was in major disrepair," Fry said.

Dengel said she didn't think Burroughs used the cabin much in his later years but that many of his acquaintances did.

"It was unbelievable. I mean, we

hailed I don't even know how many truck loads of junk. It was nasty when we bought it," she said.

Among some of the items left were old bathing suits, garbage and dirty dishes. Some of the more valuable items, such as a desk and Burroughs' boat, were removed by the sellers.

Over the years, the friends with their families and help from others made about \$40,000 in repairs, adding new features, including a deck near the house and next to the water, new windows and new appliances.

Three years ago, Dengel bought Fry's half of the house, while Fry and her husband bought two bigger cabins up the lane.

But the cabin had its downside. It was small enough that only she her husband and two children could sleep in it.

Dengel said she would keep the cabin up for bid until May 1. If no one has purchased the cabin by then, she said she would sell it to the current renters for an undisclosed sum.

This isn't the first time items once belonging to Burroughs have made their way to eBay. In April 2000, the Lawrence Journal-World reported stolen items from Burroughs' estate were being sold on the online auction site.

The items included identification cards, credit cards and prescriptions. After Burroughs' death, his estate went to James Grauerholz, a longtime friend and editor.

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Festival funds slated for music education

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Artists and celebrities at this year's CMA Music Festival will donate their share of proceeds from the June 8-11 event to support music education in Nashville's public schools.

"Music education in the public schools is where it all begins," Tammy Genovese, chief operating officer of the Country Music Association, said Wednesday.

The expected \$300,000 will be donated to the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, a private group that seeks to improve education for the city's 73,000 public school students. All the money will be used for music education.

The donation is part of an initiative started by the CMA in 2001 on behalf of the artists, who appear and perform at the festival for free. The organization donates half of the net proceeds from the festival to charities selected by the artists.

To date, the CMA has donated more than \$800,000 to 100 different charities.

Genovese said the organization decided it could accomplish more by focusing on one charity. Last year, the Nashville Alliance for Public Education was the artists' No. 1 choice for funding and seemed the perfect fit for this year's donation, she said.

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