

Classroom garden



LAURA KREJCI
Sacred Heart second grader Kamrynn Elling prepared her as her classmate Samantha Diederich watched. They were learning about planting fruits and vegetables in science class.

Sprayer workshop set for next week at county 4-H building

Thomas County and Rawlins County Extension plan a sprayer calibration workshop from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County 4-H Building.

Robert Klein, University of Nebraska cropping systems specialist, will lead the workshop, designed to help farmers do a professional job of pesticide application. Choosing the right nozzle is critical for correct particle size to comply with the label and Environmental Protection Agency

rules, to be effective and to manage drift, he says. The sprayer must be calibrated correctly to ensure efficiency as well.

Today's farmers increasingly view sprayers as vital to the efficiency of their operations, Klein said. The list of products to be applied has gotten longer and each product - fertilizer, herbicide, fungicide or insecticide - has its own application window. By owning the sprayer, farmers can target the application for the right mo-

ment.

The meeting is sponsored by Farm Implement and Supply Co., American Implement, Colby Ag Center, Lang Diesel Inc. and BASF, the Chemical Company.

There is a \$10 registration fee payable at the door. Register by Friday by contacting the Thomas County Extension office, th@listserve.ksu.edu or 460-4582, or the Rawlins County Extension office, ra@listserve.ksu.edu or (785) 626-3192.

Hall of fame jockey completes first 50,000 thoroughbred horse races

ALBANY, Calif. (AP) - Hall of Fame jockey Russell Baze has ridden the 50,000th thoroughbred race of his career.

The 54-year-old rider finished third in his historic race on Friday at Golden Gate Fields near San Francisco, although he was allowed in the winner's circle afterward to pose for a photo.

Baze notched 11,839 victories from his 50,000 mounts, and both totals are North American racing records, according to Equibase.

Baze said he thinks he's riding as well now as he ever has.

"I don't think my physical skills have diminished any at all," he said. "I get the odd ache and pain here and there but it's manageable."

Baze said he doesn't plan to quit racing anytime soon.

"I'm the kind of guy that likes playing games and winning," he said. "And when I can do it against the younger guys, it kind of adds a little extra thrill to it. I figure in 2016 I'll have 40 years in, and so that might be enough. But I'll cross that bridge when I get there."

Equibase, horse racing's official recordkeeper, determined the distance of Baze's races total

more than 42,924 miles and the total elapsed time of those races equals nearly 48 days. Equibase's stats show that Baze has raced around the world 1.72 times.

New kind of loan for farmers being offered by the Farm Service Agency

New and beginning farmers and ranchers in Kansas now have an agricultural microloan credit option to consider. The Farm Service Agency has a new program to offer a microloan designed to help farmers and ranchers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application and a simplified qualification process to help newer, smaller producers.

"This innovative offering will be more customer-friendly

than our larger, more traditional loan programs," said Adrian J. Polansky, director of the state office. "Farms and ranches seeking a smaller loan for start-up or operational needs now have a great new tool to consider."

"For those selling at farmers' markets or through community-supported agriculture operations, a microloan might serve their needs perfectly," Polansky continued. "And the reduced paperwork associated with the

new Microloan will help expedite the process for everyone."

"The interest rate of 1.25 percent ... is also a great benefit for farmers and ranchers who are just starting out, in need of capital and on a tight budget," according to Polansky. Interest rates are adjusted monthly and repayments terms are one to seven years.

For information contact the local office at 915 E. Walnut, 462-7671, or at www.fsa.usda.gov/ks.

Lions Clubs in west Kansas plan meeting in Dodge City

Members of the 67 Lions Clubs of western Kansas will gather for their annual district convention Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Magouirk Conference Center in Dodge City. International Director Dave (Marie) Hajny of Ennis, Mont., special guests of the lions, will be representing the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The convention is to renew long-time friendships, and refresh important skills that will help prepare them for serving the needs of their hometown communities.

The Lion's Club's ongoing programs of Sight Conservation, Diabetes Awareness, youth projects and other individualized activities selected by the clubs will be review and refreshed.

The new Lions Mobile Screening Unit will be on site for tours all day Saturday. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free screenings will be offered to the community for sight disorders, hearing testing, blood pressure checks and blood sugar readings for diabetes testing.

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