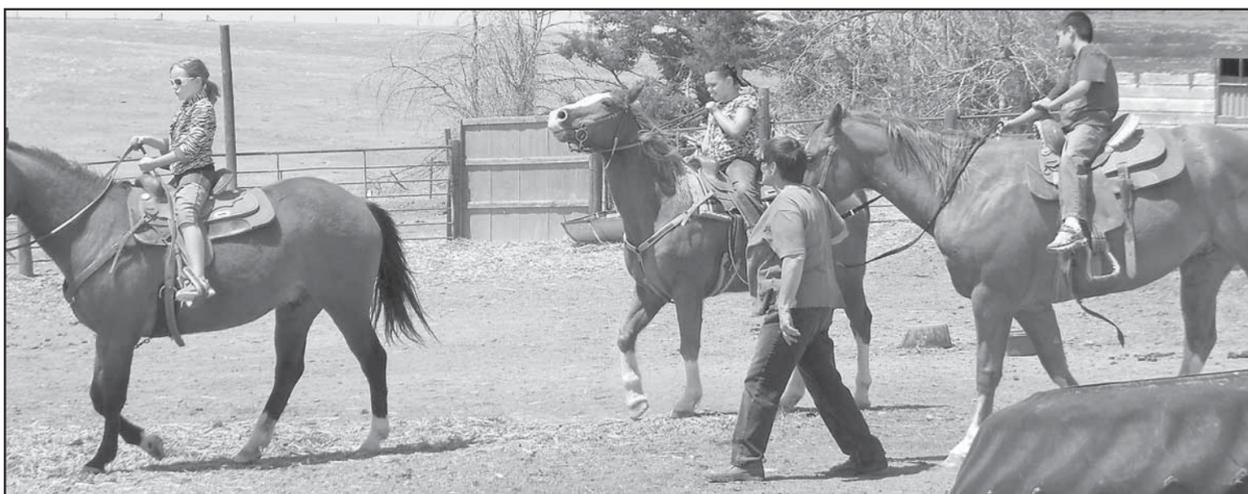


MARY SCHMIDT

Dominic Nichols celebrated while bowling at Colby Bowl.



MARY SCHMIDT

Aricka Bryant (left), Jade Hansen, and Jose Cortez rode horses with Toni Ackerman (walking).

Church hears from exchange students

The Brewster United Methodist Church held a potluck dinner and enjoyed a program by two foreign exchange students from Germany. Christian Kraemer goes to school at Brewster and lives with Stuart and Mary Schmidt. Lena Janke goes to school in Golden Plains and lives with Lane and Laura Rush.



Angie Moore

• Brewster Correspondent

Brewster's city-wide garage sale will be Saturday, June 1. Please sign up at the Senior Center or Brewster Grocery by next Tuesday. There will be a \$5 charge for each person participating to help pay for publicity. When signing up please list a few items that you will be selling along with the address of your sale. If you have questions, call 694-2825 or 694-2791.

Brewster's master gardeners, Leisha Car-

penther, Leea Juemann, LeAnne Carney and Colleen Rall, recently planted flowers on Kansas Avenue. The ladies would like to thank the following businesses for their support: S&T Telephone, Frontier Ag, Prairie Land Insurance, Shore Bumper to Bumper, Anita Coleman and many anonymous donors. Thanks to the generous donations the ladies were able to put out six planters.

The fourth graders enjoyed a bowling trip last week to celebrate everyone in the class meeting or exceeding standards in the Kansas Science Assessment. Way to go kids and teacher Mary Schmidt.

The third and fourth grade classes enjoyed

an afternoon on the Ackerman Farm last week to celebrate meeting or exceeding standards in the Kansas Reading Assessment.

The kids took time out of their day to tell me their favorite part of the afternoon on the farm. Kacey Felzein said riding horses was his favorite.

Evan Holtz liked horse back riding and the milk shakes.

Aricka Bryant liked the horses.

Dominic Nichols liked everything!

Jose Cortez liked riding Daisy and jumping on the trampoline.

Jade Hansen liked riding Socks.

If you have Brewster news or upcoming events you would like to share please let me know. E-mail angiem@st-tel.net, call 694-3008, or drop information off at the Prairie Land Insurance office.

Program signup open

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will conduct a four-week Conservation Reserve Program general sign-up beginning today and ending on Friday, June 14.

The department will also re-start sign-up for the continuous Conservation Reserve Program, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative, the Highly Erodible Land Initiative, the Grassland Restoration Initiative, the Pollinator Habitat Initiative and other related initiatives. That sign-up began last Monday and will continue through Monday, Sept. 30.

Conservation Reserve has a 27-year legacy of protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years. Currently, 27 million acres are enrolled. Contracts on an estimated 3.3 million acres will expire Sept. 30.

Offers for general sign-up contracts are ranked according to an Environmental Benefits Index. The Farm Service Agency collects data, using the following factors:

- Wildlife habitat benefits from covers on contract acreage.
- Water quality benefits from reduced erosion, runoff and leaching.
- On-farm benefits from reduced erosion.
- Benefits that will likely endure beyond the contract period.
- Air quality benefits from reduced wind erosion.
- Cost.

Rates for non-irrigated cropland were updated this year to better reflect location and market conditions. A nationwide cap was placed on the maximum amount that may be paid per acre for the general sign-up.

For information, go to the service center at 915 E. Walnut or online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

Extension crops marketing specialist starts blog

By the very nature of his work as an extension agricultural economist, Kansas State University's Dan O'Brien is used to reaching out to farmers, agri-businesses and others with the latest research-based information pertaining to grain market analysis. And he's added another tool to help disseminate that information.

O'Brien, a crops marketing specialist with K-State Research and Extension, has launched the "Focused on Grains" blog, available at www.ksugrains.wordpress.com.

It addresses everything from U.S. Department of Agriculture reports to supply and demand factors to Kansas Agricultural Statistics data - anything that's affecting or may affect Kansas grain markets, O'Brien said. The blog includes his monthly market outlook and price forecasts, as well as weekly grain market updates.

Focused on Grains also includes links to related resources, including interviews aired on the Agriculture Today radio show, production projections from the recent

Wheat Quality Council's Kansas Wheat Tour, bioenergy issues and relevant information from other state extension services.

"It's as if I have someone in my office and we're having a discussion about the various factors affecting wheat prices, for instance. But this way I can communicate grain marketing information from KSU with a lot more people via the Internet," said O'Brien, who noted that he continues to give presentations at extension field days and conferences around the

state and nationally, and posts information on the extension agricultural economics website: www.agmanager.info.

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