

Farmers market program grants now available

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking grant applicants for the Farmers Market Promotion Program.

Approximately \$10 million is available for marketing operations such as farmers markets, community supported agriculture and road-side stands. The grants, which are administered by department's Agricultural Marketing Service, are available through a competitive application process on www.grants.gov. The grants aim to increase the availability of local agricultural products in communities throughout the county. They will also help strengthen farmer-to-consumer marketing efforts.

"These grants will put resources into rural and urban economies, and help strengthen efforts to provide access to nutritious and affordable foods," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. "This program not only supports the health and well-being of local communities but also the economic health of their farms and businesses."

Projects that expand healthy food choices in food deserts or low-income areas (where the percentage of the population living in poverty is 20 percent or above) will receive additional consideration. The department of agriculture, in coordination with the departments of the treasury and health and human services, seeks to increase access to fresh, healthy and affordable food choices for all Americans, while expanding market opportunities for farmers and ranchers.

Information on applying for a Farmers Market Promotion Program grant will be published in the April 6, Federal Register and available online at www.ams.usda.gov/FMPP. Applications will only be accepted via grants and must be received by May 21, 2012. Applications that are incomplete, hand-delivered, or sent via U.S. mail will not be considered. Applicants should start the grants.gov registration process as soon as possible to meet the deadline. Contact Carmen Humphrey, Program Manager, by phone: (202) 720-8317, or e-mail: usdafmppquestions@ams.usda.gov for more information.

Authorized by the Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing Act of 1976 and amended by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (the Farm Bill), the Farmers Market Promotion Program is in the seventh year of funding direct markets that benefit local and regional economies.

The Farmers Market Promotion Program is part of Department of Agriculture's commitment to support local and regional communities. These investments are highlighted in department's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Compass. The Compass is a digital guide to the United States Department of Agriculture resources related to local and regional food systems. The Compass consists of an interactive U.S. map showing local and regional food projects and an accompanying narrative documenting the results of this work through case studies, photos and video content.

Club Clip

Cheyenne County Hospital Guild

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild met on Monday, April 2 at the Senior Citizens building and 20 members were present. President Betty Loudon returned from Texas and presided at the meeting. Betty thanked Anita Miller, Vice President, for taking over the duties as president during her absence.

Guest speaker, Lois Morelock, was introduced by President Loudon. The subject was Dementia and Alzheimer's diseases. This was a very interesting talk. Mrs. Morelock told of being on committees to help write laws concerning these diseases. In the earlier years there was very little information to be had. She explained the "Division of Assets" which may help some

families. Check with S.R.S. If you need financial help. Don't forget that you may need legal assistance also. There was a discussion period also.

President Loudon reminded members that club dues are to be paid at the October meeting plus a donation for the food sale. Next meeting will be on Monday, May 7 at noon. This is a salad luncheon, please bring a salad to share and your table service. The hostesses will be Joan Richard and Elaine Owens. Janet Mahlberg will be the speaker.

Meeting was dismissed. Refreshments were served by the hostesses Carol Rogers and Nola Burrus.



OVERSIZED LOAD travels through the area on U.S. Highway 36 on the way to Canada.

Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez.

Electricity shut off in Bird City on Friday

The town of Bird City was without electricity for 15 minutes on Friday.

Residents were forewarned by Midwest Energy that it would happen sometime during the week. When it did happen, several residents congregated along the main turn off from U.S. 36, not as a protest but to observe the cause of this temporary inconvenience.

Steve Shark Transportation from Texas was coming through with an extra tall and long load heading to the oil fields in Canada.

Dan and Nate (last names unknown) from Oakley's Midwest Energy's A team escorted a big oversized load from the Scott County line to Bird City's Main Street. Their job was to disconnect and reconnect the

main power lines and raise them up for a boiler that was 23-feet tall with added trailers making the caravan 200 feet long.

They were able to accomplish this task in the allotted 15 minutes time so no one was without power very long.

The wide load made it's way to St. Francis. Because the equipment and trucks could not

travel into Colorado at night, they stayed overnight in the old Windmill Restaurant lot.

Moving the equipment onto the lot caused traffic to be blocked so the rear end of the rig could be backed into the area. The equipment caused a lot of people to stop and look at it before it moved on the next morning.

Kansas Lions Mobile Screening Unit

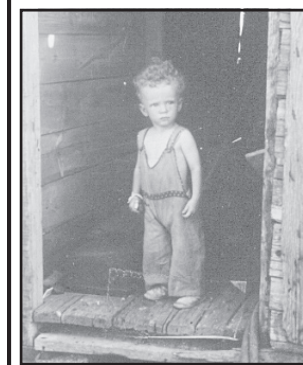
will be in St. Francis

Tuesday, April 17.

Cheyenne County Clinic - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

See article for more information

Brought to the area by the St. Francis Lions Club



You've come a long way Dave.

Happy 70th

Send cards to:
David Meyer
603 S. Lorraine
St. Francis

Wedding Registry

Emily Rehmer & Dylan Loyd
Wedding - April 28

Rachel Schmidt & Steven Morris
Wedding - April 21

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Coming Soon:

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Congratulate Your Graduate

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times are now planning the Senior Graduation Supplement and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for \$20 extra. This feature is optional. Senior pictures will be sponsored by parents, grandparents, individuals and/or businesses for \$40 each or three for \$100. Deadline for baby picture and message is Friday, April 27.

Garrett Figgins

I am planning to begin my life as a farmer after high school

We are so proud of you Garrett. You have been a joy to raise up. We love you and wish you all the blessings that God has for you!

Parents:
Brad Figgins
Leeanna Windell

For more details, contact Tim Burr at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

Bird City Times
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