



PLAYING IN THE RAIN— Cade Bracelin and Valerie Wurm were having fun riding their bikes through the water on Spencer Street. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

\$18 million approved for farmers

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns recently announced that 1,156 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts covering nearly 436,000 acres of farm and ranch land were approved for limited resource farmers and ranchers in fiscal year 2004 for a total of \$18.3 million.

“Farmers and ranchers are the best stewards of the land and the Bush Administration is committed to helping limited resource producers implement sound conservation practices as part of their agricultural operations,” said Mr. Johanns. “I encourage all eligible producers to participate in the programs the department of agriculture offers to assist in building strong farming operations, especially minorities and women.”

Environmental Quality Incentives Program is a voluntary conservation program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It offers financial and technical assistance to producers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. The funds may be used to reduce soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and protect grazing land.

In 2004, nearly one out of every two limited resource producers ap-

plying for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program were funded compared with only one out of every four for the rest of the program’s applications. Limited resource farmers and ranchers received 2.55 percent of the total Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds in 2004.

In Kansas, there were 10 contracts approved for a total of \$48,538 cost-share funding for 2,757 acres. There were 35 contracts approved in Colorado for

\$519,556 cost-share funding; 2,278 acres. Nebraska had 13 contracts for \$171,73 cost share; 4,248 acres; Oklahoma had 40 approved contracts for \$452,394 cost share funding; 5,561 acres; Missouri had 46 contracts approved for \$1,182,123 cost-share funding; 9,729 acres.

Mississippi had the most contracts in the states with 171 approved for \$946,720; 17,009 acres. However, New Mexico had only 52 contracts approved but the total was \$1,136,385; 68,256 acres.

There was a total of 1,156 contracts approved for \$18,313,110. Farm and ranch land acres under the contracts for the 2004 year was 435,799.

Additional information on Environmental Quality Incentives Program, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/equip> and on assistance from NRCS for small, limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_farmer.



THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL— The kindergarten students enjoyed a ride on the fire truck. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*



NO INJURIES— The driver of the semi truck took a ride in the ditch just on the other side of the Colorado line. The driver was not injured. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

St. Francis News

Wilma Lampe was a guest of her daughter Linda Gutsch in Denver for an evening dinner on Mother’s Day. Other guests were Chris and Lara Firman, Lance and Annie Gutsch and Leah Gutsch and her friend Mike, all of Denver.

Wilma flew to Austin, Texas on May 10 where she was a guest of Bill and Barb Stevenson for the week. Linda Gutsch joined them on Thursday and they all attended graduation ceremonies Friday

morning at Texas State University in San Marcos where Barb received her doctor of philosophy in education degree. That evening a delicious barbecue steak dinner which had been prepared by Bill, was enjoyed at Stevenson’s home. The house had been decorated in graduation decor, flowers and balloons and some fun “doctor cuts,” “doctor’s pills,” and other such things.

The three ladies did some Texas

sightseeing on Saturday and enjoyed lunch in Burnet, then had that evening at the Oasis restaurant overlooking Lake Travis at sunset. This was the celebration of their three birthdays which are all in May as well a graduation celebration.

Linda and Wilma flew back to Denver Sunday morning and enjoyed a family-style chicken dinner at the White Fence Farm in Englewood. Wilma returned to her home Monday.

Cancer Card-o-Rama ends season

Pinochle
The 2004-05 Pinochle Card-O-Rama ended with a potluck supper at the Cheyenne Manor on May 6 for the mixed couples and a salad supper on May 7, also at the Manor, for the two ladies groups.

Bonnie McQuillen and Carol Rogers, team captains for the groups of card players, reported that all had a fun year of playing pinochle and will play again starting in the fall. They also wish to show their appreciation to the St. Francis Equity for the use of their copy machine.

Ladies Couples Group One
Members of the group include Esther Confer, Bethany Bartlett, Jo Hagney, Betty Miller, Marge Fossett, RoseMary Bierig, Carol Rogers, Bonnie McQuillen, Gerri Lampe, Raedell Winston, Helen Burnham, Gladys Cook, Charlsie Rogers,

Mickey Smith, Wilma Lampe, Elsie Cook, Dorothy Schield, Pam Christian, Rachael Keller, Dulcie Henderson, Ethel Whitten, Hertha Kelley, Janice Krien, Bernice Zweggardt.

Having the high score were Wilma Lampe and Elsie Cook while Ethel Whitten and Hertha Kelley had the low score.

Ladies Afternoon Group Two
Members of this group include Dorothy Carpenter, Jean Loyd, Nola Burrus, Hattie Terry, Darlene Feikert, Wanda Gienger, Mildred Warner, Bonnie McQuillen, Nina Raile, Grace Zweggardt, Mary Lou Munn, Jo Hagney, Betty Miller, Ilene O’Leary, Deloris Wiley, Pam Christian, Mickey Smith, Pat Confer, Ilone Keller, Wilma Lampe, Donna Boll, Carol Rogers.

Having the high score was Betty Miller with Bonnie McQuillen having second high.

Mixed Couples Group Three
Members of this group include Billy and Geri Lampe, Kenneth and DeEtta Knorr, Lenard Schlepp and Dave Roberson, Raymond and Bonnie Armknecht; Tim and Margaret Poling, John and Bethany Bartlett, Alice Isernhagen and Thelma Raile, Bernard and Ethyle Roelfs, Roger and Myra Douthit, Eddy and Sherry Schultz, Dolores Kincheloe and Betty Jean Winston, Bert and Nancy Follett.

Bridge Ladies
Arlene Walz and Lois Leydig organized the end-of-the season salad luncheon, which was held on Monday, April 25, at the Cheyenne Manor.

Members of this group include Betty Jean Winston and Dolores Kincheloe, Lois Leydig and Arlene Walz, DeEtta Knorr and RoseMary Bierig, Sherry Schultz and Sondra Bracelin, Gladys Cook and Joan Wellman, Margaret Shay and Elaine Kehlbeck, Nola Burrus and Martha Schultz, Betty Loudon and Eilene Nolan, Kay Shay and Ella Mae Keller, Ethyle Roelfs and Joyce Thompson, Bethany Bartlett and Margaret Poling, Raedell Winston and Bonnie McQuillen.

Placing first were Lois Leydig and Arlene Walz while Bethany Bartlett and Margaret Poling were second.

Team captains were Betty Jean Winston and Dolores Kincheloe.

Couples
The couples held a potluck on Thursday, May 26, at the home of Tim and Margaret Poling to finish off the year and announce the winners of the Bridge-O-Rama.

Members of this group are Billy and Geri Lampe, Tim and Margaret Poling, Dolores Kincheloe and Betty Jean Winston, Rick and Linda Rogers, John and Bethany Bartlett, Bernard and Ethyle Roelfs, Lenard Schlepp and Joyce Thompson, Dale and Mary Rath, Ken and DeEtta Knorr, Floyd and Helen Frisbie.

Winning first place were Billy and Geri Lampe while Dolores Kincheloe and Betty Jean Winston placed second.

Margaret Poling is the team captain.

Public Health Talk

Healthy Vision Month

By Susan Roelfs
In the United States, an estimated 80 million person have potentially blinding eye disease, one million are blind, and 3 millions have low vision. Visual impairment is an important cause of developmental disability among children. Eye conditions, if undetected or untreated, can have substantial long-term implications for the quality of life of the child and family which can place a burden on public health resource. The national health objectives include three vision goals for children: 1.

reducing visual impairment and blindness, 2. increasing the proportion of preschool children who receive vision screening and 3. increasing the use of protective eyewear in recreational activities and hazardous situations around the home. Collaborative efforts of all relevant agencies, health professional, educators, and the public are needed to achieve the national healthy childhood vision goals. The Cheyenne County Health Department participates in the iSee To Learn sponsored by the Eye Care Council.

Cookbooks available

A handful of celebrities and a host of employees, foster parents and friends of The Farm, Inc., are among the contributors to a cookbook published recently by the child welfare agency. The cookbooks contain approximately 300 recipes and will be sold at The Farm offices across the state.

The book includes favorite recipes of Governor Kathleen Sebelius, country singer Martina McBride, Senator Pat Roberts, the Reverend Billy Graham, former President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, Nancy Reagan and the late President Ronald

Reagan, as well as a unique flower pot cake from Emporia State University President Kay Schallenkamp.

A shipping-and-handling fee will be added for books that need to be mailed.

Proceeds from sales in Colby and the surrounding area will be used to provide holiday gifts, special events and enrichment items for foster children in this area.

Cookbooks are available from Vicki Belser, Foster Care Social Worker in Brewster at (785) 443-0813.



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