



# The Saint Francis Herald

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**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** and Jake Faulkender, sixth grader, had a pile of books waiting for him to put his name on. School started Monday. See more photos and article on Page 12.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Discussion on books scheduled

The St. Francis Public Library is offering a three-part book discussion series September through November. The theme is "Westering."



Klaus

Members of the community are urged to attend the free programs which will take place at the library at 121 N. Scott.

The first meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Marilyn E. Klaus will lead a discussion of *A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains* by Isabella L. Bird. The book describes a Victorian woman's horseback journey through the Rocky Mountains.

Ms. Klaus is a lecturer with Religious Studies and African and African American Studies at the University of Kansas.

thers and the existence of a frontier of settlement in the last century played an important role in shaping the country's character. The "Westering" series examines, through fact and fiction, the American West and its enduring role in American life.

The series continues with *A scattered People: An American Family Moves West* by Gerald McFarland (Oct. 18) and *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck (Nov. 2).

To check out books and for more information about the reading series, contact the library at 332-3292.

The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, as part of its "Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK)" program. The center is furnishing the books and discussion leaders for the St. Francis series. For more information about the Humanities Council, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

The westward movement of set-

## Gun shop now open

By Karen Krien

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Frontier Arms Company is one of St. Francis' Main Street newest business. It opened on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Owned and operated by Kent Allard, the fire arms business is located at 116 E. Washington.

The shop will carry new and used fire-arms, ammunition, scopes, holsters, cleaning supplies as well as muzzle loading accessories. Mr. Allard will also be doing gun smithing which includes cleaning, scope mounting, trigger jobs, along with any other gun smithing needs.

Mr. Allard said he had always had an interest in firearms. What was once a small interest, he said, has grown.

He likes to hunt deer, turkey and pheasant with firearms, however, he picks up the bow and arrow when he goes to Canada to hunt bear.

He enjoys pistol shooting and, in the future, plans some pistol shooting training.

Kent was born and raised in the Kansas City area. He and his wife, Rebecca, moved to Salina while she was doing her medical residency.

They moved to St. Francis in 2007 where Rebecca is a doctor at the hospital and clinic. They have two daughters, Sidney and Sara.

When they have time, Dr. Allard likes to hunt with her husband.



**KENT ALLARD** has a supply of guns, new and used, as well as all the accessories in his new shop located on Main Street, St. Francis.

There will be a grand opening at Frontier Arms Company through the month of September. Check the ad in this week's Herald and Times for deals on firearms and ammunition.

Mr. Allard said his hours vary and he will be open most of the time during the week. However, if someone needs something, they can call him at 785-332-3600.

## New livestock barn owners from Oberlin

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Auction Market, operated by Jerry, Jay and Darren Fortin, held the first livestock sale on Wednesday, Aug. 24. Over 1,000 head of cattle were sold.

The Fortins have been operating the sale barn in Oberlin since 1984. When the St. Francis sale barn was available to lease, they decided they wanted to return a good, quality service back to

the Cheyenne County area.

The sale in St. Francis will start at 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Weigh cows sell first. To consign, call Jerry at 785-475-8203, Jay, 475-8303 or Darren, 470-7156.

Sally Priest will once again be running the sale barn cafe, offering breakfast and lunch. A lunch special is offered each sale day. On Wednesday, it was pot roast, potatoes and fresh green beans and she was busy.

## Lions member suggests planting a tree in the park

John Finley, St. Francis Lions Club member, said the Lions organization encourages local clubs to plant a tree each year. He thought the local group could plant a tree in Sawhill Park.

It's so hot in the band shell in the afternoon, he said. If we planted a tree between the fountain and the band shell, it would eventually give shade for people sitting and performing there.

He said he had measured the distance between other trees and the fountain, not wanting to plant a tree where roots would

disturb the fountain's foundation. If we go by these trees, planting a tree in this area would not hurt the foundation, he said, adding that there would be no cost to the city for the tree or planting it.

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, said he thought it was an excellent idea. In fact, the council thought it would be nice if there were three trees. Mr. Finley said he would talk to the Lions about planting one tree. Maybe there would be another organization interested in purchasing two other trees.

## Injuries reported after train derails

By Jason Frederick

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Benkelman Post

At about 3:30 a.m. Saturday morning the blaring sound of a train horn cut through the dark quiet of downtown Benkelman.

The train was the first to pass through town since an Amtrak derailed nearly 20 hours earlier. The accident marked the start of an unforgettable day for the train's passengers along with Dundy County and many southwest Nebraska, northwest Kansas, and eastern Colorado residents.

There were no fatalities. A total of 21 people were taken to three area hospitals for treatment. Relgene Zimbleman, Benkelman Rural Fire Chief, said on Monday that all of the injured had been released from local hospitals.

### What happened

The train, which was running on Amtrak's California Zephyr route from Emeryville, Calif., to Chicago, was reportedly running about eight hours behind schedule when it derailed west of Benkelman. The train was involved in an accident near Reno, Nev., last Thursday when it collided with an SUV that was left high centered on the railroad tracks.

Meanwhile, on Friday morning Gerald Shatler, owner of G & S Recycling, and two of his employees were continuing their work of dismantling the old Doane Elevator buildings located about five miles west of Benkelman. The three were using a truck-mounted crane that Shatler had contracted for the job.

One man was in the cab, operating the crane. Shatler and the other man were in



**UNIDENTIFIED MEN** were surveying the damage after the train wreck west of Benkelman.

Photo courtesy of The Benkelman Post

See TRAIN on Page 9