

# April is Child Abuse Awareness Month



**JOEL GILLILAND** was helping grind horseradish when some of the Community Garden people met Thursday afternoon.

## ART

Continued from Page 1

the trees, etc.  
 "I like your bright, intense colors and all the patterns," the judge said about Hanna's work. "It is very eye-catching; but not too busy - nice, tidy craftsmanship. Good job!"

Others earning honors at league were:

### Senior high

Shelby Cassaw, three mixed pieces; Randy Grover, acrylic; Bailey Merklin, sculpture; Matt Tygart, three marker pieces; Allison Grice, two mixed/ceramic pieces; Lennin Olivares, ceramic; Foster Grant, scratchboard; Caleb Frink, scratchboard; Mikey Leibbrandt, pencil; Lalia Radwan, sculpture.

### Junior high

Carl Fabre, three pencil drawings; Jakob Church, two woodburning/scratchboard; Kattie Jenik, two pencil; Francisco Fernandez, scratchboard; Payton Beims, pencil; Kayla Reed, fiber; Justin Pacheco, two ceramic/fiber; Blake Meyer, scratchboard; Hannah Wolff, ceramic; and Journey Lee, pencil.

### Elementary

Coy Cassaw, marker; Garin Cooper, chalk; Jesse Baxter, chalk; Rylan Doyle, chalk; Hannah Zimbal, sculpture; Brayden Kaup, mixed; Brady Dinkel, watercolor; Martin Beikman, fiber; Mason Schmid, oil

pastel; Kattie Wurm, chalk; Teagan Landenberger, oil pastel; Hailey Robben sculpture; Emileigh Dinkel, marker; Brody Kaup, chalk; and Audrey Meyer, sculpture.

### State art show results

At the Fort Hays State University exhibition, students' work was judged. Students were able to tour the Department of Art and the annual student honors exhibition, and viewed several mini workshops in ceramic, printmaking, interior design, graphic computer and metal casting.

Those receiving recognition at the state art show were: Martin Hnizdil, fiber art; Matt Tygart, four items in abstract; Allison Grice, four items including ceramic, necklace, mixed and acrylic; Bailey Merklin, sculpture; Gavin Cooper, mosaic; Stephanie Perry, string art; Shelby Cassaw, three items including two mixed and one marker; Lucas Carmichael, acrylic; Laura Brunk, pencil; Foster Grant, scratch board; Trista Orth, mixed; Blaine Guggenmos, marker; Krissy Harris, chalk, and Derek Queen, scratch board.

Judges were Kathleen Kuchar, Darrell McGinnis and John Thorns, all professors at Fort Hays State University; and Cal Mahin, Colby Community College.

April is National Child Abuse Awareness Month.

The Western Auction and Realty staff has just recently come back from conducting an auction supporting the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. Based in Scott City, the center serves all of north-west Kansas including Cheyenne County.

In an article which appeared in the *Dodge City Daily Globe*, it referred to the coaches at Penn State University and Syracuse University where young boys were allegedly molested by coaches. However, in the midwest, many think "this could never occur here."

"We've had five cases in Western Kansas where coaches have been involved in similar situations," said Kelly Robbins, executive director of the Advocacy Center.

Because she has seen the impact on young lives first hand, Ms. Robbins, in the article, said she isn't surprised at the intense pressure on people when they do step forward, whether they are young people or adults who are revealing events from years earlier.

"Society promotes the secrecy and the shame," she said. "It's ironic that sex is sold and marketed in our society but, at the same time, we refuse to acknowledge the impact that it can have on people's lives. When we're talking about the situations that we read about occurring at Penn State and elsewhere, it's very rare that kids would make this up."

Instead, she said, it's something they live with for years. She referred to one youngster in northwest Kansas who lived with his secret of sexual abuse by a teacher for eight years. It could have been avoided, she said, but people were worried more about protecting the reputation of a known pedophile.

"The individual was a former sheriff in Gove County who had been accused of similar charges years earlier. He was allowed to walk away if he would resign as sheriff," Ms. Robbins said. "So he became a teacher."

This is a crime that won't go away, she said. During the past year along, the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center has dealt with 245 cases of sexual abuse.

On a national basis, every one-in-four girls has been sexually abused by the time they are 18 and the same is true of every one-in-six boys.

In far too many instances, Ms. Robbins said, children aren't told

how to respond or where to turn, when they are being abused. If a youngster feels threatened in public, they are told to scream for help, but, she said, if it is happening in their own home, where do they run? "Kids don't know where to turn because it's a family member or a coach who they trust."

"Some youngsters, she said, may grow up thinking it's "normal" because abuse has been a part of their life from a very young age. Until they learn differently, they may view it as love and affection.

Since the Advocacy Center opened the office in 2005, the agency has seen a steady increase in the

number of sexual abuse cases.

"At first we thought part of the reason was the addition of the mobile unit because we were able to extend our services in a larger area," Ms. Robbins said. "But we believe it's a situation where more people are aware that there are people who care and can help. They are more willing to step forward.

"We do interviews with young people just about every day."

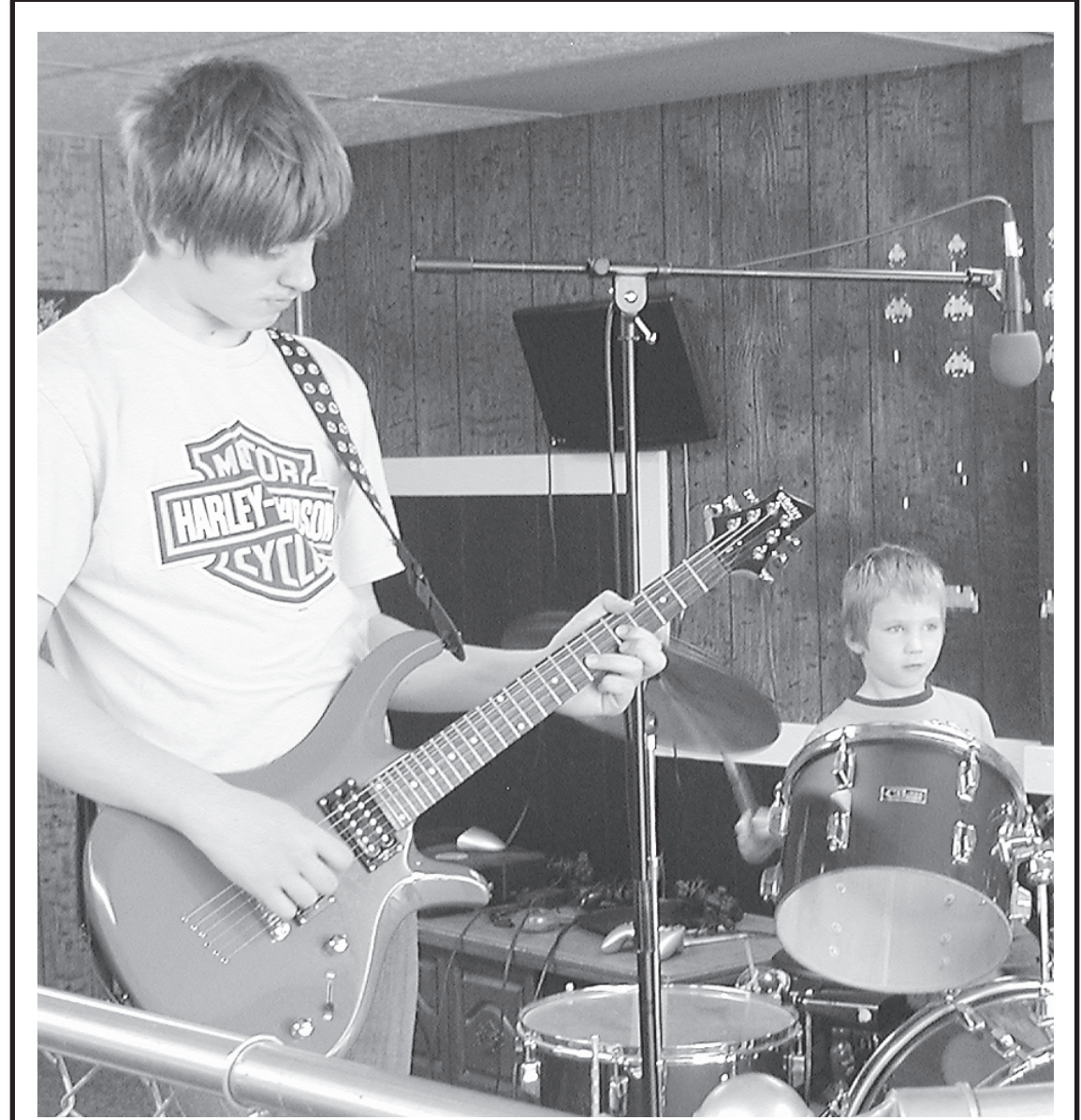
After confronting abuse, families can spend years getting therapy, which is available through the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. It's not uncommon, Ms. Robbins said, for adults who are 30-, 40- or

50-years-old to still be impacted by what they experienced as a youngster.

The lifetime impact is mixed, she said. About one-third of the victims will continue to have difficulty dealing with the emotional and physical trauma. While the remainder will never be the same for their experience, they have moved on.

In order to confront the problem of pedophiles and sexual abuse, Ms. Robbins said, "believe the kid!"

"There are too many people in society who want to believe this can't happen - that it doesn't happen," she said. "As we've seen, it happens too often."



**9'INE FOOT SQUIRREL** band members, Austin Patton, left, and brother, Jason Caldart, were setting up for their equipment for an upcoming concert. The band recently won \$500 for coming in first in an online Battle of the Bands.

Herald staff photo by Natuan Fiala

## —Spring Creative Essays—

### Football

By Clay Cassaw  
 Eighth grade

Football is a sport where you can hit people and not get in trouble. I love football! It isn't number one, but it's up there in my rankings.

I have been playing football for five years now. I started playing when I was in third grade and haven't stopped since. I played three years in Colby and two in St. Francis.

I got hurt my fifth grade year pinching a muscle between two joints in my knee. I was still able to play through the pain, although. Then, the next year I hyper extended my shoulder from a hit I took. I was also able to play with that injury.

I played running back for three years in Colby. Then I moved to St. Francis my seventh grade year. It has always been my

dream to be a quarterback. So I tried out for it and got second string.

I intend to play football as a freshman and all through my high school career. I also hope to be playing quarterback. Although, it's up to the coaches when and where I play on the field.

My eighth grade year I was starting quarterback, which I had always wanted to play. I passed for 125 yards in two games and ran for six touchdowns altogether. Our team finished four and three on the year, which I felt was amazing.

That is my football career so far. I hope to get a scholarship to play college football in Division I or II Football. Now do you want to pay more attention to junior high football?

## Attention Gardeners!!

There will be a Community Wide Garden Meeting & Plant Swap set for Friday, May 4, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cheyenne County Clinic Conference Room

We will plan work nights at the garden and ask for local businesses and organizations to help plant, pull weeds, water and gather produce. Bring your extra plants to swap with someone else that night.

For more information contact Mila Bandel, RN, County Health Nurse 785-332-2381

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## Fundraising Steak Fajita Dinner

St. Francis Community Church Will Be Serving Steak Fajitas, Homemade Refried Beans, Spanish Rice & Desert.

Free will donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of sending eight people from the community to Kenya, Africa and also the purchasing of supplies to build a classroom for the children of Kenya.

Please Come Join Us On Sunday April 29th From 11:30 A.M. -2 P.M.

At the St. Francis Community High School We Will Also Have Live Entertainment All Donations Are Tax Deductible

Please Make All Checks Out To SFCC, Put In The Memo: Africa You Can Mail Also Mail Any Donation To: St. Francis Community Church 114 E Washington St. Francis, Ks 67756

Thank You For Blessing Us And The People Of Kenya, Africa



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