

# Benefit to raise awareness held



**THE FIRST REFLEX SYMPATHETIC Dystrophy syndrome benefit to raise awareness for the disease was held on Saturday at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Music groups came from Nebraska and Kansas and included: Blu Simon, top left; counterclockwise, A Life Led Lucid (these two guys played twice); Shantell Leitner, and Fresh Picked Parsley; Ron Loudon with the Shriner's Candy Wagon took a break while Clay Zimelman and daughter, Alexis, placed their order; runners, Connie Jenkins, Penny and Kody Krien.**  
*Herald staff photos by Karen Krien*

## Entertainers, vendors participate in first-year benefit

**By Karen Krien**

*karen.k@nwkansas.com*

The Kansas Walk, Run and Rock for a Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome cure was held on Saturday at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. It was the first year for the awareness benefit and unfortunately, there was not the attendance the organizers had hoped for. However, the entertainers, who arrived from far and near, presented a variety of music, several which kept the audience well entertained for over their allotted time.

One of the local radio stations had planned to cover the event but a funeral had kept them away for the day. After weeks of cold, snowing weather, many people had taken the nice weather on

Saturday to catch up on their yard work. Whatever the reason, it was an event that probably should have been better attended.

### Run-walk

The run, organized by Rev. Warren Cico started a little after 8 a.m. at Captain Hook's parking lot. They then ran north, then turned west to run the old Wheeler Highway with the run ending at the fairgrounds.

Kattie Wron won first in the Fun Run Mile with a time of 10:02. In the 2-Mile Walk, Neil McCumber placed first in the men's division and Cynthia Fiedler was a first placer in the women's division.

In the 5.5 Mile Run, Grady Bonsal, Goodland was the champion in the men's

division with a time of 40:44; Penny Krien, St. Francis, won the women's division with a time of 53:50.

Other placers were: Women - Alexis Geocaris, 20 to 29 age division, 54.52; 30-39 age division, Penny Krien, 53:50; Christine Glenn, 83.50; 40-49 age division, Tammy Sherlock, 62.22; Deonn Wiese, 83.50; Kelley Milliken, third place; 50-59 age division, Connie Jenkins, 57.05.

Men division: 20 to 29 age division, Mike Geocaris, 52.59; 30-39 age division, Lonnie Smith, 42.58; Kody Krien, 52.05; Eric Lipsey, 52.06; 40-49 age division, Grady Bonsal, 40.44; 60-plus, Warren Cico, 45.02.

### Booths

There were several booths selling jewelry, candles and other items. The 4-H'ers opened up the booth in the 4-H building and were selling hamburgers, cheeseburgers and other sandwiches. While the line at the Methodist Church Funnel Cake booth wasn't as long as it is during the fair, there were a number of people enjoying the cakes. The Shriners had brought their Candy Wagon and they were selling lots of cotton candy and popcorn. New to the fairgrounds this year was the Fresh Seven Coffee. They were selling coffee and, as the day warmed up to 80-plus degrees, they were selling iced coffees and Mexican Coke, just to name some of the iced drinks.

Next year plans, said Joe Caldart, who

suffers with the disease and is one of the organizers, have already begun. The performers, he said, were very impressed with the town and the friendly people. They all said they would like to come again.

Even though there were not a lot of people, Mr. Caldart said, we felt it was a success because we were able to pay the bills and still had some money to send off to the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy organization. We felt like we were able to help a little bit. He added that many people had donated in many ways to help the benefit and he appreciated all the support.