



## Fall festival set Monday

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkansas.com

Come out and join the fun this Monday at the St. Francis Parent Teacher Association Fall Festival! The Festival will be on Oct. 7, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the grade school playground. There will be lots of activities and entertainment for the entire family.

This year the festival promises to be a good time for everyone. Several different carnival games will be there, and participants can win prizes. Some of the carnival games include: cream can toss, pumpkin bean bag toss, football toss, and lots of other fun games.

Kids will also be able to do fall crafts. The art class students will be helping children paint pumpkins.

The firemen will have their barrel train out to give rides to the children, which is always one of their favorites.

There will also be cake walks. If anyone is interested in donating a baked good for the cake walk, there will be a table outside the

grade school office on Oct. 7 to place them. Donations are always greatly appreciated.

All of the events, games and crafts are available with ticket purchases. Tickets are only 25 cents each. The cake walk, barrel ride and pumpkin painting with the art students are only 2 tickets each.

Parents that have already paid their membership dues will receive four free tickets that will be sent home on Oct. 7 to use that night.

The sophomore class will be serving a sloppy joe meal at the Fall Festival starting at 5:30 p.m. Those not interested in playing games can stop by for a plate of sloppy joes and chips.

This is the main event to raise money for PTA activities throughout the year. Supporting the PTA also supports the students in the school.

Plan to stop by and enjoy watching the kids play games, eat supper and maybe even win a cake on the cake walk!

## Horsemen to ride north of McDonald

By Karen Krien  
karenk@nwkansas.com

The 23rd Cheyenne County Trail Ride has been set for 2 p.m. sharp on Sunday, Oct. 13. The ride, which will last about 2.5 hours, will start at the Knapp family north pasture, 10.5 miles north of McDonald.

To get to the Knapp pasture, follow the road north from McDonald to Road Z, then turn east for 3/4 mile. From Benkelman, go 2 miles south on K 161 to Road 702, then, 9 miles east on Road 3, 5 miles south to Road Z, and 3/4 miles east. The pasture is located on the north side of the road.

The ride is always planned for the second weekend in October. It is generally a little cooler and the trees are turning colors.

Last year, the ride was at the Dou-thit farm, northwest of St. Francis.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said this ride will be a something anyone who rides a horse will be able to enjoy.

Following the ride, the Cheyenne County 4-H'ers involved in the horse program will be hosting a barbecue.

Mr. Cooper has been coordinating the annual ride for the last 23 years. Another coordinator, Sharon Olofson, has been helping with the ride for 21 years.

Mrs. Olofson is also responsible for raising money to help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She will be accepting donations for the hospital after the ride.

For more information, contact Mr. Cooper, 785-332-2904, Mrs. Olofson, 785-332-2248, Frank Tracy, 308-423-2646 or Rob Jensen, 785-734-7026 (2437).



HEAD START teacher, Sara Betz, shows students A.J. Arensdorf, Mairyn Yanez, Caiman Jensen and Manuel Calderon how a bug jumps.

Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller

## New head start teacher begins the year

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkansas.com

The head start program welcomed a new teacher and teaching team to Saint Francis this year.

Sara Betz is the new head start teacher, and Trista Orth is her aide for the school year. Megan Gilliland and Eileen Porubsky are serving as para-educators and there is also an interpreter, Lina De la Torre, that is assisting.

Mrs. Betz is replacing Marian Ochsner, who was the program's teacher last year. Mrs. Ochsner is now substituting for the Saint Francis Grade School.

This is Mrs. Betz's second year teaching for head start. Last year she taught in Wheatland for the preschool program. Saint Francis needed a new program teacher, so the Service Center in Oakley assigned her to Sainty.

Although she has only taught head start for two years, Mrs. Betz

has been teaching for 14 years total. Prior to head start, she taught at the Triplains School District for three years and at Sacred Heart School in Colby for nine years.

It was a big change switching from teaching first and second grade students to the preschool age children in head start, she said. Especially because the head start class this year is so young. Many of the students are three years old, although the class is for three, four and five year olds. However, she said she really enjoys the younger children, and likes the family-style teaching approach of the program.

Sara went to college at Fort Hays State University. She said she always knew that she wanted to be a teacher. After graduating she taught at Triplains, and this is where she met her husband, Travis. He was also teaching in the school district.

Sara and Travis moved to Colby,

where she is originally from. This is where the couple currently lives with their children Mya, 10, and Zane, 7. Her husband teaches English and special education at Colby High School.

Mrs. Betz said she really enjoys teaching the children in Saint Francis and has had a wonderful time meeting everyone in the community. She said she would love to stay here as long as she is needed. The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is the deciding force for who will be the head start teacher in Saint Francis. The Service Center then rents a room from the grade school to teach the preschoolers.

Sara says she loves teaching for the program. What she enjoys most about teaching is watching the children grow and learn. Hearing their stories, she said, makes her day.

This year the class has 16 stu-

dents. There are nine children that speak Spanish fluently, and some of the students do not speak English. To assist with the children that are learning English, an interpreter was brought on to the teaching team. Lina De la Torre assists whenever she is needed.

With several children that do not speak English yet and the class being exceptionally young, the class could be considered a little more difficult to teach. But Mrs. Betz welcomes the challenge.

Her teacher's aide Ms. Orth, and assistants Mrs. Gilliland and Mrs. Porubsky are also a big help.

It is obvious that Mrs. Betz has gained the love and respect of her students already. The little preschoolers file into the classroom every morning, excited to start the day.

"I really look forward to this school year and watching the kids grow," Mrs. Betz said.



UNIQUE UNION SQUARE fills the spot of one of St. Francis' empty buildings. Kale and Heidi Dankenbring officially moved in Sunday. See more about the business on Page 5 of this issue.

Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller



## Homecoming activities begin with street painting

By Amanda Miller  
amiller@nwkansas.com

The Saint Francis Indians will be wearing their school spirit proudly next week for their annual homecoming celebration. Starting Monday, there will be activities and fun planned for every day of the week. The festivities will culminate on Friday when the homecoming king and queen are announced and the football team takes the field to play Oakley at 7 p.m.

Like previous years, each day students can dress up as part of one of the following theme days: Monday is Superhero Day; Tuesday is T-shirt Signing Day; Wednesday is Redneck Day; Thursday is Throwback Day; and Friday is Green and Gold Day.

In addition to getting dressed up in fun for the week, there are activities every day to keep the students busy.

Homecoming week kicks off

on Monday with the seniors taking to the streets with brooms and white wash. Starting at 6:30 p.m. they will paint Main Street from the high school down towards the city park.

Tuesday, the varsity Lady Indians will travel to Oakley to play volleyball at 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 10, at 4:30 p.m., the junior high football and volleyball teams will play Goodland. The big homecoming bonfire is also set for Thursday evening at 8:15 p.m. After the bonfire, everyone is urged to go back to the cafeteria where First National Bank will be sponsoring an ice cream social.

The highlight of the week is Friday. At lunch, the football, cheer, pom, volleyball, and band seniors all go to the grade school to eat lunch with the younger kids. The kids get to view the football player's pads and helmets, which gets them excited for the game that night.

The homecoming pep assembly begins at 2:30 p.m.

The homecoming queen and king will be crowned at this time. This year's homecoming queen candidates are Rande Grover, Bailey Merklin and Aly Schlepp. The homecoming king candidates are Gaten Cooper, Derek Queen and Mason Schiltz. Maci Workman and Carter Wilson will be the crown bearers.

The eighth grade is sponsoring a soup supper from 5-7 p.m. Enjoy some warm soup before heading out to the football game! Come support the Indians on Greene Field that evening. The Sainty Indians will take on Oakley at 7 p.m. Don't forget to wear green and gold!

Look for pictures and details about the homecoming activities and the name of the homecoming king and queen in Oct. 17 issue of *The Herald*.