—Student News—

Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University has announced the fall 2007 semester honor rolls. Among those named are three Cheylin graduates and six St. Francis graduates.

Cheylin students include Anne Hengen, Aubrey Kehlbeck and Brittany Kehlbeck.

St. Francis students on the university's honor roll include Schuyler Coates, Lori Beth Faulkender, Danielle Flemming, Dallas Friedli, Darrell Reed and Jonathan Roelfs.

Kansas Wesleyan University

St. Francis students Amy Grace and Lauren Ross have been named to the Kansas Wesleyan University's dean's honor roll for the fall 2007 semester. Students who have a semester grade point average of 3.25 to 3.74 and who have no incompletes are listed..

- Club Clips

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club

The January meeting of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club was held on Monday, Jan. 7, at the clubhouse. President Heidi Yonkey called the meeting to order.

Caitlin Northrup led the club in the flag salute. Allyson Northrup led the club in singing the "Itsy, Bitsy Spider." Roll call was answered by "How late did you stay up on New Year's Eve?"

Fourteen members were present. The minutes were read by Dale Northrup. Alan Archer reported on the 4-H Council meeting and Ericka Weick gave the club's leader's report.

Under old business, officers' training was discussed. It will be at the next meeting if Cindy Burr can be there.

In new business, the model meeting was talked about.

Heidi Yonkey gave a project talk on quilting. Gaten Cooper gave a demonstration on how to make sand paper transfers.

The announcements read. Tristan Archer led the 4-H Pledge. The Yonkey family served refreshments.

Valerie Wurm, reporter

–St Francis News –

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Betty Jean Winston attended the Kids Wrestling Tournament in Colby. She met her granddaughter, Corrine Gugelmeyer of Lakin along with her family, husband, Jared and boys, Colby, Logan and Dylan. Two of Betty's greatgrandsons, Colby and Logan participated in the tournament with Logan placing first and Colby second.

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CINTIANAVARROhas a coming out party for her 15th birthday. It was celebrated by her family and friends. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Bird City Hispanic community gathers for girl's Quinceanera

By Linda Schneider dublinls@hotmail.com

All Hispanic girls look forward to this day. For most, their parents have been planning the day since their birth. It is the 'Quinceanera," the coming out party for a 15-year-old girl.

The Quinceanera is ceremony that the Hispanic community brings from Mexico to the United States which celebrates a young girl's journey from childhood to maturity. On Saturday, friends and family were invited to celebrate the transition with Cintia Navarro and her family in Bird City.

In the weeks before her party, there were many preparations. While most of the planning was done by Cintia's parents, Ramon and Maxima Navarro, many relatives were earnestly involved with providing special gifts, helping with food preparations, and helping with expenses.

The Quinceanera celebration starts with a Catholic Mass and ends with a dance. Nevertheless, it is more than a celebration; it is traditional and every gift she receives will have some way of saying she is turning 15 and is

no longer a child. The Catholic Mass was the

renewal of her baptismal and confirmation. The priest blessed her forthcoming adult life which included the continuation of her dedication to the church. Following mass, Cintia and her court went to the American Legion hall for the reception and dance.

Cintia's chose her court from her closest friends and consists of seven young girls called damas and six young men called chabemlán, and Joe Aquirre, her escorte was dressed in a white suit. Including Cintia, there were 15 in the group and they were all dressed elegantly in evening dresses and suits with ties.

After the dinner, celebration continued with members of her family giving her items to represent her passage to maturity. There was a necklace given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Aguirre; a tiara; a ring to symbolize the circle of life given to her by her Uncle and Aunt Ramirez; a doll to represent the last of the things of a child; and the changing of

The ceremony of the changing of the shoes was done by her father, Señor Navarro, and he changes her flat shoes to her first

high heels. This tradition has changed over the years, since young girls are wearing heels sooner; but its symbolism was still part of the ceremony.

After all the gifts were given and shoes changed, Cintia and her court danced a waltz called "Mariposas," which means "Butterflies." The first dance was reserved for her father, then her escort, then all the young men in her court. After her first dance, Cintia left the floor and the rest of the night was filled with music from a live band and much dancing.

During the evening she was called, Quinceanera Cintia Yanet Navarro. However, after the party she will be addressed as Señorita Cintia Yanet Navarro.

"I feel a little different right now, but I expect to feel more different from now on," said Cintia. Her mother, Señora Navarro, will continue to have talks with her daughter about purity, marriage and children.

Señorita Navarro expects to be more concern with growing into a mature woman of strength and letting go her childhood games, and she carries with her the gifts to remind her of the day she made that transition.

- Introducing –

Georgia Iris Gutsch

Georgia Iris (GiGi) Gutsch was born Jan. 18, 2008, at 7 p.m. at Rose Medical Center in Denver, Colo. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20-inches long. Her parents are Lance and Annie Gutsch of Denver. She was welcomed home by big brother Gatsby, who is 2-years-old.

Grandparents are Larry Gutsch of Goodland, Dr. Linda Gutsch of Englewood, Colo., and Charles and Ruth Mattingly of Wichita. Great-grandparents are Wilma Lampe of St. Francis, Mildred Gutsch of Goodland and Nancy Mattingly of Florida.



County Health Talk-

Can your child see to learn?

By Susan Roelfs

Each year, Kansas children enter school with vision problems. Unable to read well or see the chalkboard clearly, these children may advance slower

Wrestlers compete

Three St. Francis wrestlers attended the Kids Wrestling Tournament in Oakley this past weekend. Results include:

10 and under: Garrett Brunk placed third at 85 pounds.

12 and under: Lane Hoffman placed fourth at 80 pounds; Logan Lampe placed first at 84 pounds. On Friday night when the

Rawlins County/St. Francis high school match took place, St. Francis had several young wrestlers match up with wrestlers from Atwood's Kids Wrestling club. 6 and under: Jake Luke met

Tanner Hays; Shadryon Blanka met Tanner Hays; Brady Dinkel defeated Shayne Pettijohn; Connor Keller defeated Dalyn McFee. 8 and under: Wyatt Hilt met

Cauy Hays; Tiernan Poling met an Atwood opponent.

10 and under: Justin Pacheco defeated Dylan Dulaney; Garrett Brunk defeated Matthew Pieper. 12 and under: Logan Lampe

met Clay Griffith; Lane Hoffman met Clay Griffith. "This is a fun yearly event that we do with the Atwood's Kids

Blanka, parent. The next action for the Sainty wrestlers will be on March 1 when St. Francis holds their own

Wrestling club," said Shawna

than their peers, and even one day be hindered from pursuing a career of their choice.

The eye Care Council's "See to Learn" program alerts parents and educators about the warning signs of vision problems in children and encourages parents to have their children's eye examined before entering school. Three-year-old children can receive a free vision assessment through the program.

Call today to schedule an appointment for your 3-yearold at 1-800-960-EYES for the nearest location. Brochures, stickers and book markers are available at the Cheyenne County Health Department.



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