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Fall festival offers fun prizes, food

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

Fun, games and prizes will be found at the St. Francis PTA Fall Festival and Carnival starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the grade school playground. Everyone is urged to attend as it is open to the public.

There is something for everyone.

Jo Rogers, PTA president, said the Amusement Authority donates the use of some of their games for the festival and carnival. Games will include Plinko, Sinko, skeet ball and the new golf game. Other activities are the cupcake walk, ring toss, pumpkin bag toss, lawn darts, basketball free-throws and the football toss.

The St. Francis firemen will be giving rides on their train. There will also be hayrack rides throughout the evening for adults and kids.

The Lions Club members, junior-senior high school students and grade school staff will help the PTA run the games and booths that evening.

All games and rides will cost one to two tickets. PTA members will receive four free tickets to start the evening.

The high school cheerleaders will be providing the concessions to help raise money for their trip to Orlando.

There will be a bake-sale table. Parents and friends of PTA

are asked to bring one or more baked items throughout the day and leave them in the cafeteria. Items can also be brought at the beginning of the festival.

Mrs. Rogers reminds those bringing baked goods during the day that they must enter the school through the northeast door near the principal's office.

In year's past, there has been a pumpkin painting booth but, because of the late gardening season, there isn't enough pumpkins. So, Tracy Neitzel has been diligently working on another craft idea for the kids. It will be a surprise but it promises to be fun!

The prizes have been picked out by PTA board members and, as the kids win at the games, they will be given tokens and these tokens are good to redeem at the prize booth just inside the east school doors.

"We have everything from Hot Wheels, soccer balls, footballs, Molly-n-Me items, stuffed animals, necklaces, crayons, colored pencils, gum and fruit snacks," Mrs. Rogers said.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the evening with the kids.

"Preschoolers to senior citizens, neighbors and friends will have a good time just watching the kids," Mrs. Rogers said. "If you liked the Cheyenne County Fair, you'll love this event!"



I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET — Jack Loyd told Ward Cassidy, left, his family had a new baby.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Care packs needed

It is time once again to be thinking about Operation Supporting Our Soldiers (S.O.S.). Donations for the Operation will be taken through Oct. 10.

Founded in 2002 by the families of the 388th Medial Logistics Reserve Unit from Hays, Operation S.O.S. has sent over 9,600 packages containing a wide range of supplies such as pillows, and over 6,500 dozen homemade cookies.

Last year, 1,000 care packages were sent for the holidays. If funding permits, there will be 1,000 packages sent this year.

Operation S.O.S. is an organization with the goal to provide support to the troops serving the United States overseas. In partnership with National Make a Difference Day sponsored by USA Today, Operation S.O.S. is putting on an event to pack boxes to send to soldiers in time for the holiday season.

This is a program of remembering the soldiers with packages of food and toiletry items that we take for granted here in the U.S.

The needs are the same as they have been the past few years: personal care items, heat and eat food, candy, gum, and paperback books, just to name a few. A complete list of needed items is on display at the post office and grocery stores.

People will also find boxes to put those items in. The Lawn Ridge 4-H club will pick up the boxes on Saturday, Oct. 11. The club will also be taking money donations at the home football game on Oct. 10 to help with the postage for sending these packages overseas.

If anyone has questions, contact Christy Wurm, Lawn Ridge 4-H Club leader.

Exploring the need for a new gym

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis Board of Education, at the August meeting, agreed to see if the taxpayers would want to build a new gym on the south side of the junior-senior high school on College Street. At the Nov. 4 general election, voters will be asked if they will agree to levy a \$2.5 million bond.

At the present time, B-team and C-team volleyball and basketball games are held in the grade school gym. Practices are also held in the facility.

The grade school gym is small, especially compared to today's gyms. The grade school gym 7.5 feet narrower and 11.5 feet shorter. It is confined by bleachers, a wall

and stage, making it seem even smaller.

While players can get by without a 3-pointer, the main concern is the safety of the kids. These days, the speed of the athlete is greater as is the size and force of the players on the court. There is no place to go if a player goes after an out-of-bounds ball or the momentum is so great that the player cannot get stopped before hitting the walls. A blow to the head could leave a player injured or paralyzed for life.

Temperatures in the winter are cold and could be dangerous when players are walking from the grade school back to the high school after practice or a game. Sometimes, the roads are snow packed and

players are hurrying up the streets on layers of ice.

When games are played at the grade school gym, players dress in the old dressing rooms. These small rooms are geared for the young kids. The shower facilities at the elementary school are inadequate so athletes then go back to the high school soaked in perspiration.

When the new gym bond is passed, the grade school gym will no longer be used for junior-senior high sporting activities. It will be freed for the grade school activities.

The new gym will have a collegiate-sized gym and adequate seating for supporters and the opposing team's followers. When tournaments are scheduled in St.

Francis, there will be two gyms under the same roof to accommodate the teams and crowd.

But, the new gym isn't just for students. There will be a walking track running around the gym floor. There will be a commons room, concession stands and rest rooms.

Those who still have questions, talk to a school board member or attend the public forum which is set for 7:30 on Oct. 16 in the high school auditorium.

Question for the week

This week, the question was asked, "I am a farmer — I pay taxes on my land. Do I still have to pay the same taxes on my house that residents living in St. Francis pay on their house?"

Public forum set

There will be groups and individuals speaking about the proposed new gym. People have been talking to the city and county leaders as well as senior citizens and other groups.

Starting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, in the high school auditorium, a public forum will be held. There will be

speakers who will tell about the proposed gym, the costs and how the funds are planned to be raised. People will be allowed to ask questions and there will be people there to give educated answers.

Everyone is encouraged to come so they can make an educated vote on Nov. 4.

The answer is "yes." If the farmer's house is valued at \$100,000, his taxes, like the person's house in town, will be above the taxes paid on the land.

When the bond is passed, his taxes on his house will be \$71 higher a year than they were. However, broken down to what it costs more each day, that would be 20 cents

or less than the price of a soda, candy bar or cup of coffee.

Have a question? Send it to *The Herald*, Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756, and the staff will try to find the answer.

Listed on Page 11 of this issue, there is a public notice which gives more details on the costs of the proposed gym.



SCOUTS' POPCORN SALES have begun. Cody Baxter tells Bob Modrell about the selection and prices of the popcorn.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Nature walk is nearby

By Casey McCormick

scmccormick@nwkansas.com

Traveling costs are at an all time high, but there is a scenic getaway that is close to home. The St. Francis River Walk is a nature walk just a few blocks from your drive.

Milton Lampe acts as the caretaker for the location. He makes sure the paths stay mowed and the area is always accessible.

"With the cost of gas so high, people still want to get out," said Mr. Lampe. "This is a place where they can smell the grass and hear the water."

The River Walk is located on River Street just before the road goes over the Republican River bridge. The entrance has a circle drive with picnic tables in the center.

A path allows people to walk among the many cottonwood, hackberry, green ash and red cedar



MILTON LAMPE parts the grass along the River Walk to look at the river.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick