



# The Saint Francis Herald

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## 4-H Day is fun!



THESE COUNTY 4-H'ERS obviously liked what they were doing Monday afternoon at Cheyenne County 4-H Day held in St. Francis at the high school. Hadleigh Hilt, left, had her song and dance number down pat and entertained the audience as well as the judge. Above, Kattie Wurm gave a presentation on making chocolate dream cups with brownies, pudding, whipped cream and strawberries.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Farmer receives daughter's kidney

By Karen Krien

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In April 2005, only 5 years ago, Kenny Bracelin, rural St. Francis resident, was having medical problems with the creatinine in his body that kept going up.

That was the beginning for our journey, said his wife, Gloria. And, 5 years later, Kenny is doing very well with a kidney donated by his daughter, Sherri.

When Dr. Mary Beth Miller sent him to Denver in 2005 to have his kidneys checked, the doctors found cancer in the left kidney.

A month later on May 16, he underwent surgery to remove the cancer along with some of the kidney and a couple pieces of ribs. The surgery was followed up with checkups. In these checkups, the doctor suggested getting on the national kidney donor list and that he would probably need to be on dialysis.

In May 2008, he was referred to nephrologist, Dr. Dennis Ross, Wichita. He told him that he needed to be on dialysis and suggested a new type of dialysis, NXStage One Hemodialysis.

This is a home dialysis and it is easier on the person than in clinic dialysis three times a week. The best option was to have a living donor.

It was necessary to have a committed caregiver to proceed with it and that person was Gloria. At that point, Gloria said, it was OK — let's do what we need to do so that Kenny can continue to work. "We can manage that!"

And, for the next 17 months, she repeated the scripture, Jeremiah 29:11, over and over.



FOLLOWING THE TRANSPLANT, daughter, Sherri Stang, left, and Kenny Bracelin took a walk down the hospital hallway.

Photo courtesy of Darin Stang

After surgery to create a fistula in Kenny's arm, they were ready for training. It was Aug. 13 and for the next three weeks, the training was held in Wichita at the Fresenius Home Center.

Gloria learned how to run the machines and how to stick the needles. One went to the arterial site and the other to the venous site. She then learned how to hook Kenny up to the machine, get it going, monitor blood pressure, blood-flow rate, ultrafiltration rate, dialysis rate and then, she said, I prayed there were no alarms that

would go off! The NXStage system uses dialysis to help clean the blood as it runs through a filter on the machine.

Mrs. Bracelin explained that the arterial site pulls the blood from the arm and runs it through the machine's cartridge and back in the arm through the venous site.

The procedure usually took about 3.5 hours. This was from getting set up and primed, to the end. The dialysis process was done six days a week with one

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## Commissioners, city council agree to work together

By Karen Krien

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The city of St. Francis leaders and Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to meet together every two or three months to discuss mutual problems. The agreement came at the Monday, March 15 meeting.

Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, and Roger Jensen, city council

member, had attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of meetings. They felt that it would be better to sit down and discuss issues or ideas rather than using letters to communicate. They pointed out that the county and city share parks, the recycling center and the emergency building. They noted that it would need to be a meeting which is open to

the public and there should be a quorum.

In months past, there has been communication, not face to face, about the St. Francis Emergency Building. The commissioners were concerned that they were paying above the costs for utilities and other expenses since the county uses about two-thirds of

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JODIE HILT, left, in the drama, "Ax of Murder," talks to Colin Chamber (Trent Raile) about the haunted theater. Looking on are Amber Smull and Emily Mullins.

## Drama set for Monday, Tuesday

The St. Francis High School's drama production, "Ax of Murder," is set for 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium on Monday and Tuesday. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The production is about a haunted house. Everyone has heard of a haunted house — but a haunted play?

Could it be haunted by the spirit of a man who died recently in the theater?

No...it's not possible! At least,

that's what theater director Bonnie Bagwell (Jodie Hilt) tries to convince the other members of the troupe as writer Colin Chambers (Trent Raile) hints at the trail of horror that has cursed his script, Ax of Murder.

Unfortunately, curiosity gets the best of the actors and, despite Colin's adamant warnings, they open the script and start reading the play. It soon becomes apparent the play is mirroring their theater and even the specific actors.

"The play changes with each performance," Colin intones, though he's not taken seriously. But when a police sergeant (Terrence Lamb) shows up on cue stating he was called in on a murder, people begin to wonder — wonder turns to fear when someone is murdered onstage! And it seems as if no one could have done it. No one, that is, except perhaps a ghost.

People are urged to come be a part of the audience. They won't know who or what to believe.