



Crowning set for Friday

By Karen Krien

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Sainty's Homecoming Week started Monday with students faking an accident. Homecoming Week is always full of fun and excitement.

The homecoming candidates were announced at the end of the week. They are Cody Killingsworth, Brett Lampe, Cody Sherlock, Garrett Figgins, Tyler Lauer, Shayla Hilt, Jodie Hilt, Aly Marin, Mikaela Grace and Jalyn McCauley. Crown bearers are Matilynn Smull and Jake Rath.

The homecoming king and queen will be crowned at 2:30 p.m. on Friday in the high school gymnasium. During half time between the Sainty vs Wray football game Friday, the queen and other's candidate will be escorted onto the field by their fathers.

On Monday, the seniors painted the streets and the Booster Club served hot dogs but wind and light rain cancelled out the bonfire and ice cream feed.

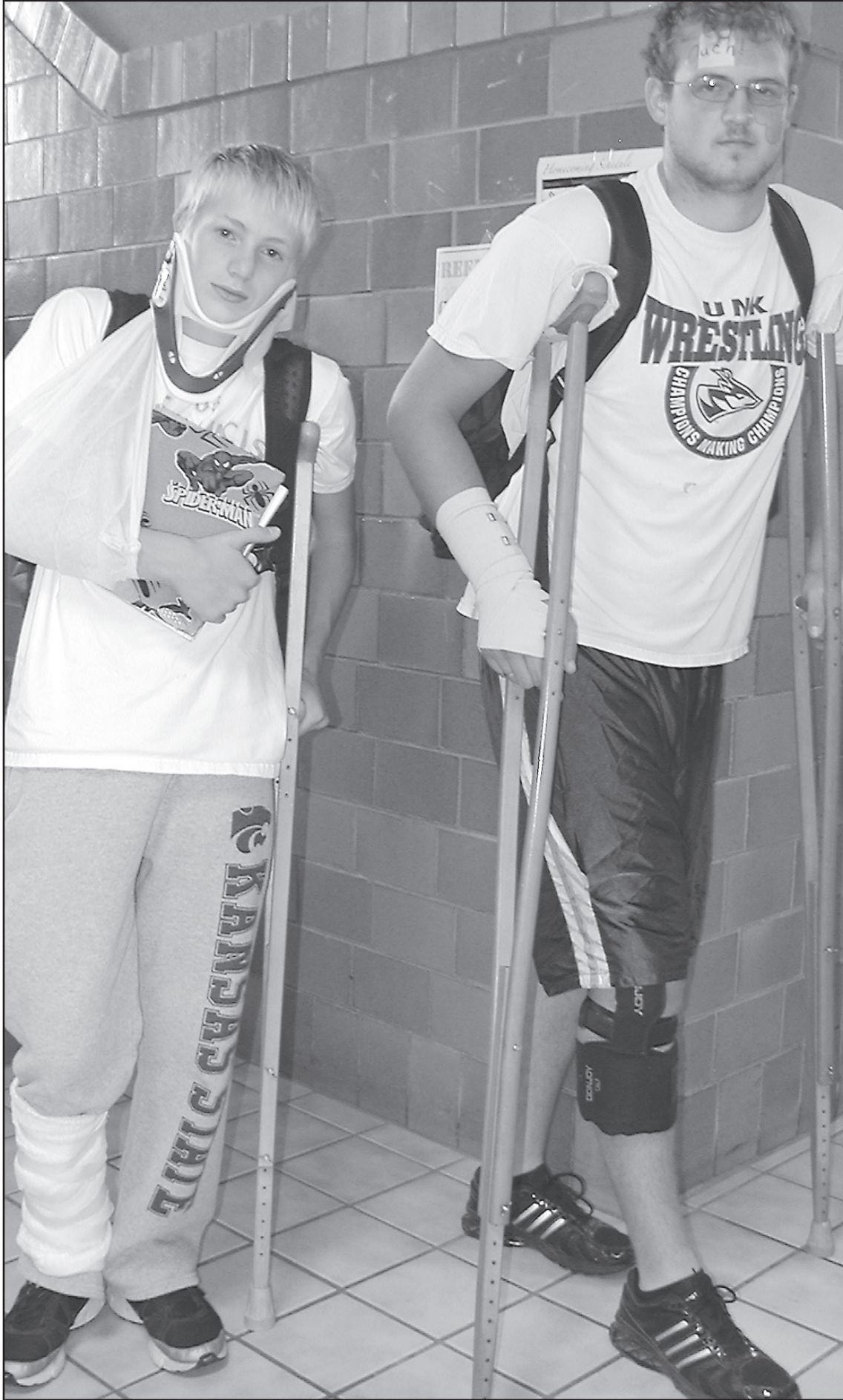
Tuesday found students signing T-shirts. Wednesday was "Twin Day."

Wednesday night, the bonfire, which had been moved because of the weather, was held. This was followed by the ice cream feed in the cafeteria, sponsored by First National Bank.

Today (Thursday), the volleyball Ladies are honored and students dressed up for the day. The Ladies travel to Benkelman to compete with Dundy County and Imperial Ladies. Starting time is 5 p.m. The junior high football and volleyball teams played Decatur Community in St. Francis. Starting times are 5:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. respectively.

Friday is Green and Gold Day. A hamburger feed, sponsored by the cheerleaders and parents, will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

A homecoming dance will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday.



INJURED, SAD FOOTBALL PLAYERS, Casey Keller and Robbie Herman, dress well for 'Fake An Injury Day' on Monday. This was part of the fun homecoming activities.

School gains four more students



By Karen Krien

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Monday marked "count day" or the official enrollment count for schools in Kansas and the St. Francis schools shows an increase over last year's enrollment figures.

For several years, the St. Francis schools had dropped in enrollment but, when school began, it was encouraging as there were several additional students over last year. At the St. Francis Board of Education meeting on Sept. 9, Superintendent Rob Schiltz announced that there was one more student over last year's total.

However, on Monday, three students enrolled boosting the total enrollment up to 300 students, four over last year's total of 296.

Enrollment drops, coupled with

budget cuts from the government, created some difficult times for the school. Mr. Schiltz, at the board meeting, said the increase in students won't help much this year but will help the budget next year when the three-year average can be used for setting the figures.

There are 147 students in the grade school; 47 students in junior high (seventh and eighth grade); and 103 in the high school. The number of students in the grades are listed below:

Three to 5-year-olds, 3; kindergarten, 18; first grade, 19; second grade, 24; third grade, 17; fourth grade, 26; fifth grade, 25; sixth grade, 18; seventh grade, 28; eighth grade, 19; freshmen, 24; sophomores, 26; juniors, 27; and seniors, 26.

Each party tells their side of story

By Karen Krien

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Since spring, the St. Francis City Council has been talking about property cleanup around the city. Through the years, the council has made efforts to get a number of properties into better shape and recently decided to enforce the city ordinance that requires owners to keep the weeds down, and get rid of anything that is dangerous, unsightly and a blight on the surrounding neighborhood.

This spring, the council deemed 11 properties that needed to be cleaned up. Photos were taken of the properties and letters were sent to those in violation of the ordinance. Among those receiving letters sent on May 20 was Bud Erskin, who owns property on River Street.

The letter, sent by certified mail, stated that he had 45 days to clean up the lot or to request a hearing before the council. In July, Mr. Er-

skin had not requested a hearing and J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, had taken more photos to compare the progress. Given the lack of progress, a complain was filed by the city in municipal court on July 23.

Mike Day, city attorney, said Mr. Erskin received his first letter in 1995. The condition of the property was discussed at the July and August meetings. While Mr. Erskin was making efforts to clean up, the council and city superintendent didn't think it was enough so a trial date was set for Sept. 14.

Mr. Erskin said he had been in the process of remodeling and opening Majestic Service on U.S. 36. The business has a number of different services ranging from a gas and convenience store, to a restaurant and mechanic shop. He said he was working from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

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Director retires after 18 years

By Karen Krien

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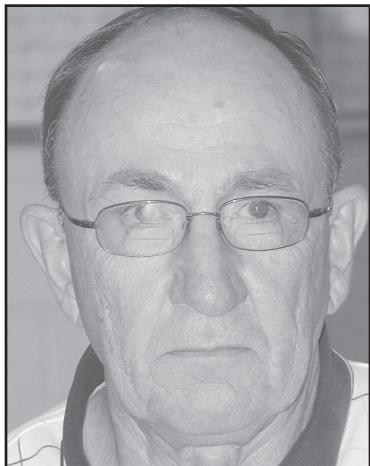
After 18 years of serving Cheyenne County as the emergency management director, Gary Rogers will retire on Oct. 1. A reception was held in his honor on Wednesday afternoon.

He said he has enjoyed meeting the different people and getting to know the people he worked with in the Kansas Division of Emergency Managers.

Last week, he and Ryan Murray, the new emergency director for the county, attended the Kansas Emergency Managers Association conference in Topeka where he was honored with a lifetime membership to the association. Denzil McNeal from Rooks County was also given the same honor.

When Mr. Rogers started, his office was a little room in the old fire station on College Street. Two years ago, he moved to the new St. Francis Emergency Building on U.S. 36. It was a building that he had helped with the planning and construction.

Every county is required to have an emergency management director so shortly after assuming the position in the county, Rawlins County needed a director so the two county commissioners worked out an agreement to share Mr. Rogers as well as share the expense. About five years ago, Sherman County was needing a director so Mr. Rogers' time was stretched a little further to include



Rogers

this county.

Starting out, Mr. Rogers compiled emergency plans for the county. While there were rules and regulations to meet, it was fairly minimal until the 9-11 attack in New York City.

Plans were then government mandated, he said. We needed to be ready for any other disasters and terrorists threats.

While it seems that rural areas such as Northwest Kansas are less likely for a disaster like the 9-11 attack, there are other threats which could happen.

Rural areas, Mr. Rogers said, are more likely to see disasters such as foreign animal and crop diseases. We were required to make the plans and then make sure that it worked for everyone involved.

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DEREK SCHMIDT, center left, visits with Perry Keller, center, and Hoagie Carmichael. Bonnie Cram looks on.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Candidate visits St. Francis

By Casey McCormick

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Candidate for Kansas Attorney General, Derek Schmidt, met with voters at the Main Street Java on Saturday in St. Francis. The Republican Senator from Independence made the stop as part of his 105-county campaign tour.

"It is important to have an attorney general who is helpful to the state of Kansas," Mr. Schmidt said. "A leader who understands Kansas and listens to what it wants."

Much of the discussion dealt with the need for a strong economy in the state and of having elected officials

who promote that growth. This was tied in to the survival of smaller schools.

Economic growth and sustainability would help attract young families with school age kids, Mr. Schmidt said.

Another priority for Mr. Schmidt is to rebuild confidence in the attorney general's office as well as getting the best lawyers in their field below him.

With each stop, questions are asked of the Federal Health Care Bill. Primarily if it can be overturned.

"Normally federal policy would

not be an issue for a state attorney general," Mr. Schmidt said. However two lawsuits, one from Virginia and the other a group of 20 states, are currently challenging the bill. Whatever the outcome, these suits will be appealed and eventually will be decided upon by the Supreme Court.

"This is a fight worth fighting," Mr. Schmidt said.

This meeting was arranged by Bonnie Cram and the county Republican Party.

Jeff Colyer, running for lieutenant governor, will be at Main Street Java at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Church spreads faith on Sunday

Once again, the St. Francis Community Church members will find themselves spending their Sunday church time in "Faith in Action."

Faith in Action is a four-week, church-wide campaign that creates an outward focus and a heart to serve in the congregation. It culminates in a Sunday where regular services are cancelled, and the entire congregation engages in service projects in and with the community.

This Sunday, said Pastor David Butler, we have the privilege of ministering to our community in a real, tangible way.

Among the projects are cleaning flower beds at the Cheyenne County Hospital; repainting the Sainty Indians logo at the football field; painting the bleachers at the grade school; repainting the worn-out curbs yellow at the high school; mopping and waxing the floor at the senior center; cleaning the carpet at the Cheyenne Theater; cleaning roofing debris from the station next to Shay Realty; and doing yard work for Margaret Shay and Lorence Youngquist.

Last year was the first year for members to show their Faith in Action. The day was damp and cold but that didn't stop them from doing many helpful projects in the community.