

# Organization to hold gift auction

New this year is the fundraiser held by Cheyenne County Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. While it is still called the "Festival of Trees," the organization will be selling tickets on gift baskets instead of the silent tree auction. Baskets will be comprised of items donated by businesses in St. Francis.

Local businesses have generously donated over \$600 in merchandise and gift certificates, said Bridgette Antholz, one of the coordinators. Baskets will be on display at Donna's Gift Palace, United Methodist Thrift Store, Bankwest of Kansas and Western State Bank from Nov. 19 to Dec. 13.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters board members will also have a table set up at Bankwest of Kansas for the Christmas opening in

St Francis on Nov. 26 and at the St Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 4.

Items making up the gift baskets include: gift certificates to Donna's Gift Palace, Park Hill, Main Street Java, Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King, Diamond R Bar and Grill, Pizza Hut, St Francis Tire, Video Connection, and Cheyenne Theater as well as merchandise from Schultz's, Krien Pharmacy, Saintry Liquor, Owens True Value, Hilltop General Store, Avon, Pampered Chef, Prairie Rose Floral, St Francis Auto Parts, Republican Valley Auto Parts, Supers, United Methodist Thrift Store and St Francis Equity.

Winners will be drawn at the board meeting on Dec. 13. Winners need not be present to win. All donations received will remain in Cheyenne County.

## Obituaries

### Viola Bernadine Larson Smith Aug. 4, 1925 - Nov. 16, 2010

Viola Bernadine Larson Smith, 85, of St. Francis, died Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2010, at the Good Samaritan Society, Atwood, Kan. She had lived in the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, until the fire at the village forced her move to Atwood's, because of having Alzheimer's disease. She was born Aug. 3, 1925, in St. Francis, to H.V. (Henry Volina) and Georgia Mae (Larick) Larson.



Smith

and Laura Larick, until she returned to St. Francis to have her daughter, Donna Jean Larson. She married James Allen Smith in March 1947, then became a mother to Tom in Feb. 9, 1948. She was involved in many organizations in St. Francis, during those years in addition to caring for a handicapped daughter and taking her back and forth to Hays for surgeries and providing hospital-type care in her home for her during the time she spent in a back cast.

She volunteered at the Creamery and started running it in 1962 until its closing, when she started working for Edith Schrader's nursing home at night, then went onto help other area families in their homes to take care of elderly family members.

After a family moved out of state, she went to Salina where while living with her daughter and granddaughter, she attended Vo-Tech to become a nurse's aide and graduated in May 1975. She worked there several years before moving back to Goodland to work in the nursing home there. After her knee disability prevented her from holding down a full-time job in Goodland, she moved to Bird City, where she sold crafts she had made to individuals in Bird City, and Parks, Neb.

Graveside services were held Friday morning, Nov. 19, at the St. Francis Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Knodel Funeral Home, 202 S. Benton, St. Francis 67756. Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Survivors include her daughter, Donna Jean Larson Werhan, Salina, and her son, Thomas (Tom) Allen Smith; a granddaughter, Georgette Maria Werhan Sullivan and great-grandson Ethan Joseph Sullivan, Shawnee.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Neils and Ada Larick; her parents, Volina and Georgia Larson; her step-mother, Dorothy Edith Douglass Larson; her two brothers, Floyd and Fred Larson; her husband, James Allen Smith.

She leaves behind many friends and a few family members.

Without an eighth-grade graduation she started working as a home helper and cleaning person to those who lived in the St. Francis area, then she worked as a dishwasher at several different places in St. Francis.

She traveled to Pueblo, Colo., and ran an elevator while living with her grandparents, George

and Laura Larick, until she returned to St. Francis to have her daughter, Donna Jean Larson. She married James Allen Smith in March 1947, then became a mother to Tom in Feb. 9, 1948. She was involved in many organizations in St. Francis, during those years in addition to caring for a handicapped daughter and taking her back and forth to Hays for surgeries and providing hospital-type care in her home for her during the time she spent in a back cast.

# Time to string lights for holiday season

**By Karen Krien**  
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The St. Francis city crew took advantage of the warm weather and hung the overhead Main Street lights last week. There are several homes around town which have lights up and ready for the Christmas season.

People have until the weekend of Dec. 12 and 13 to get their lights and decorations out for the annual Chamber Lighting Contest. Last year's contest winners will be

judging the lighting on homes and two prizes of \$50 scrip each will be awarded to the winners at the Christmas drawing on Monday, Dec. 14.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* on Dec. 17.

For more information, call or stop by *The Herald* office or call the Chamber office.



**SUPPORTING THE SOLDIERS — Valerie Wurm and Tristan Archer pack up supplies to send the soldiers over seas.**

Photo by Norma Martinez

# Groups team up to support the soldiers

Hulda Dorsch, John and Hollis DuPron from the American Legion Auxiliary, met with Nina and Celine Isley, Echoe Lennox, Jacob and John Serrano from the Bird City Go-Getters and Christy and Valerie Wurm and Tristan Archer with the St Francis Lawn Ridge 4-H group Saturday afternoon to assemble the items collected to bring joy in the war zones. The items had been collected for the Support Our Soldiers campaign.

One whole box was filled with nothing but sox. Several other boxes contained various other items requested for over seas shipping. The boxes were then loaded into DuPron's van. John and Hollis were to transport them to Newton where they were to meet another van to take them on to Oklahoma City, Okla. Volunteers there were to repack them for there destinations overseas to veterans who are not able to be with family for Christmas.

## Club Clip

### Red Hat Mama's

On a crisp day, Nov. 6, Cheylin School Superintendent, Bruce Bolin arrived at the grade school in McDonald with a warm bus to transport the McDonald Red Hat Mama's to Bird City to greet the Bird City Red Hat Mama's at the Bird City school.

The ladies were escorted to the dining area of the Cheylin Dinner Theatre by the Guys and Dolls cast. Candlelit tables with white linen cloths was the elegant setting to set the mood for enjoying the three course meal served by the cast. Director Rose Hengen, of the Cheylin Music Department, orchestrated a perfectly planned production.

At 7:30 p.m. it was curtain time for act one. The plot is essentially based around the activities of New York petty criminals and professional gamblers. Nathan Detroit (played by Heath Antholz) makes a living by running an (illegal) "floating crap game," despite constant encouragement to "go straight" by Miss Adelaide (played by Teryn Carmichael), a nightclub singer

to whom he has been engaged for 14 years. Sky Masterson (played by Craig Busse) is also a gambler, who will lay a bet on almost anything. All cast members performed with charm and dignity.

The other activity participated in by some of the Red Hat Mama's was the Oct. 28 Spook Parade/Trunk-or-Treating also held at the Bird City Cheylin School. All who attended reported this was a "Spook-tacular" experience.

Dec. 4 will be the Christmas Dinner at the Atwood Country Club and an afternoon of games. In lieu of a gift exchange, a monetary gift offering will be collected.

Members enjoying the outing were: Ana Antholz, Florence Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Bethel Golt, Vernetta Haack, Beverly Higgins, Diane Kribs, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, Phyllis Wingfield and guest Rita Officer.

# Authority needs donations to fix carousel ride

**By Karen Krien**  
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During the Cheyenne County Fair in August, the carousel had a serious breakdown and was no longer able to be used.

When the gears shelled out around the top, said Greg Walz, member of the Cheyenne County Amusement Authority, it was a major breakdown.

The Authority members figure the cost to order the parts will be around \$18,000. Mr. Walz said donations, both local and from former residents, have been coming in and about one-half of the needed money has been raised. However, the part needs to be ordered by the end of December.

We need to get the part ordered so there will be plenty of time to have it made, shipped back to St. Francis and then put in before fair time, Mr. Walz said. There are several mechanics on the authority who will be able to install the part which will save money.

We appreciate any donation, big and small, he said, adding that all donations are tax deductible.

During the fair, the authority received \$1,200 in donations specifically for the carousel. If they cannot raise the needed money, they will need to borrow

it from a bank.

For the last 28 years, the authority members have been able to keep rides and games at the same price: 25 cents and 50 cents. Kids can enjoy the whole evening spending only \$5 and come home with a prize.

If the money needed for the carousel cannot be raised, the authority may need to look at raising prices.

The ride was probably made in the early 30s or 40s and, at that time, the gears were made of cast iron. Today, they are impossible to order as they need to be specially made out of steel.

Mr. Walz said there are only a few carousels in the area as they are expensive to buy. A new carousel costs between \$650,000 and \$700,000. It makes sense, he said, to spend money to repair the old one.

There are also some minor repairs that need to be made and some painting to be done.

Keeping the equipment in good working order is important as people coming to the carnival will know there will be safe rides.

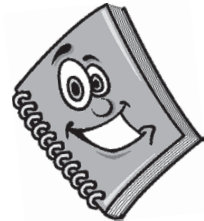
To make a donation, send checks to the Amusement Authority, Box 814, St. Francis, KS 67756.

# Students poetry and essays are published

Instructor, Lisa Gibson's 2009-2010 eighth graders and freshmen were recently notified they were to become published authors for their poetry and essay writing.

Mrs. Gibson submitted their writing last spring to the Creative Communication Writing Contest. Over half of both classes had their work published.

Following are some of the essays. In the future, all the essays will be printed in *The Saint Francis Herald*.



**Motorcycle rides**  
*Sarah Whitmore, Grade 9*

As we speed down the street, I feel the wind in my face. I smell the crisp, evening air. The rumble of the engine is all I hear. I feel free and excited. I'm on top of the world, it seems, and nothing can bring me down.

This is how I feel when I get on a motorcycle and go for a ride. Those who have been on a motorcycle probably know what I mean. It's truly amazing!

On the other hand, some people have never ridden a motorcycle before. I think they're missing out. There's nothing like the rush of energy you get from a motorcycle

ride. I think everyone should experience this beautiful feeling.

You don't necessarily need to know how to ride a motorcycle. I don't know how to ride one, so I ride as a passenger with my brother. Anybody can do this, as long as they have access to a motorcycle and someone who knows how to ride it responsibly.

What you feel while riding is almost unexplainable. It takes deep passion in order to understand what I mean when I say that riding a motorcycle is the best feeling in the world.

When I'm riding a motorcycle, my problems seem simple; my troubles seem small, and my mind is cleared. I love riding motorcycles because it's a rush of all the wonderful feelings in life. The best feeling of all, to me, comes from a motorcycle ride with my brother. Have you ever had this experience?

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