

Shop now for sale supplies for special Christmas gifts

As St. Francis schools prepare to open their doors for another year of learning, most parents are shopping for back-to-school bargains using a school-issued supply list as their guide. But this year, St. Francis kids are thinking beyond their own backpacks and buying supplies for kids they have never met.

Families in St. Francis are stocking up on items for Operation Christmas Child—a massive year-round project of Samaritan's Purse an international Christian relief and evangelism organization—where participants fill shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, necessity items and letters of encouragement for kids overseas.

"Individuals and families can take advantage of all the back-to-school sales to purchase items to

pack in their shoe box gifts. The great price allows you to help more children in need," said JaNelle Glidewell, Operation Christmas Child Relay Center coordinator.

This shoe box packing effort, requiring months of organization and preparation, will reach some 8.5 million kids who are suffering because of natural disaster, disease, war, terrorism, famine and poverty. For many of these children, the shoe box will be the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has hand-delivered shoe box gifts to more than 86 million hurting children in some 130 countries.

How can people help needy kids worldwide? It's simple!

Prepare by helping enlist families, churches, scout troops,

community groups and businesses to take advantage of back-to-school sales by collecting school supplies for shoe box gifts.

Fill shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, necessity items and a letter of encouragement and drop off the gift boxes at a collection site during National Collection Week.

Step-by-step shoe box packing instructions are available at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call the regional office at 913.831.4466 or visit www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. National Collection Week for gift-filled shoe boxes is Nov. 14-21; however, shoe box gifts are collected all year at the Samaritan's Purse headquarters in Boone, N.C.

Idalia awarded grant to help renovate schools

On June 30, the BEST (Build Excellent Schools Today) Board awarded the Idalia School District RJ-3 a grant of more than \$11 million to renovate and replace parts of their pre-kindergarten through 12 grade school on the existing site.

Idalia School District will receive a grant of approximately \$11 million if local voters are able to pass a matching money bond election this November of approximately \$4 million, or about 27 percent of the total cost of the new school.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was also granted to Akron and Miami Yoder last year, both of which successfully

passed a matching money bond election for their share of their new schools.

After three days of grant presentations, question answer periods, and two minutes for each project to be presented by a school representative, Idalia School District was ranked eighth out of 70 applications throughout the state of Colorado. The grant will be used to replace the existing junior/senior high school and elementary school buildings.

The 1995 gymnasium and cafeteria will remain. The new school will address the many health and safety issues that plague the 1948 and 1965 portions, including issues with heating, ventilation

and air conditioning (HVAC) and heating, fire safety, and mechanical and electrical systems. Air and water quality, (Americans with Disability Act) ADA accessibility, and security systems will also be addressed.

"We are excited for this once in a lifetime opportunity for the future of our students, school and community," said superintendent Tim Krause. "Education has always been a top priority in Idalia.

"The opportunity for a new school will be one more vision becoming a reality for this community!"

Family enjoys Alaskan vacation

Victor and Darlene Zwegardt, St. Francis, along with Jerry and Susan Pierce of El Cajon, Calif., drove to Denver on Tuesday, July 19, to meet up with Don Zwegardt of Sioux Falls, S.D., and spent the night near the airport.

On Wednesday, July 20, the five of them flew to Anchorage, Alaska, arriving at 7 p.m. local time. They were welcomed by beautiful sunny weather and temps in the low 70s.

The following day, they enjoyed visiting with Dan and Cathy Gleason on their back deck, admiring the many beautiful flowers in their yard. The entire group later drove to Ship Creek, which runs near downtown Anchorage, and watched many people fishing for salmon.

Friday, July 22, was a beautiful, scenic day in Alaska. Everyone boarded a motor coach at the Alaska Railroad Depot and drove to Whittier. They went out on Prince William Sound on a boat tour that served an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet of salmon and prime rib. But who had time to eat, they said.

On this warm and sunny day, they saw a mom and baby Humpback Whales, sea otters, Harbor Seals, and spectacular views of Beliot and Blackstone Glaciers. There were many, many "Kodak moments!" they said. At the end of the marvelous day, the group took the Alaska Railroad train back to Anchorage, with the rails curving along Cook Inlet and the mud flats.

Saturday's farmer's market offered many huge and delicious

vegetables for purchase, along with "Made in Alaska" crafts and souvenirs. The afternoon was spent at Dan and Cathy's house looking at pictures of some of the family's recent trip to Mount Vernon, Va., and Washington, D.C. Pictures of this year's wheat harvest were also enjoyed.

Rain fell on Sunday, so the family decided to spend part of the day inside at the Alaska Experience Theater, viewing the Earthquake Exhibit. They watched a movie on the Northern Lights and another on the 1964 Earthquake.

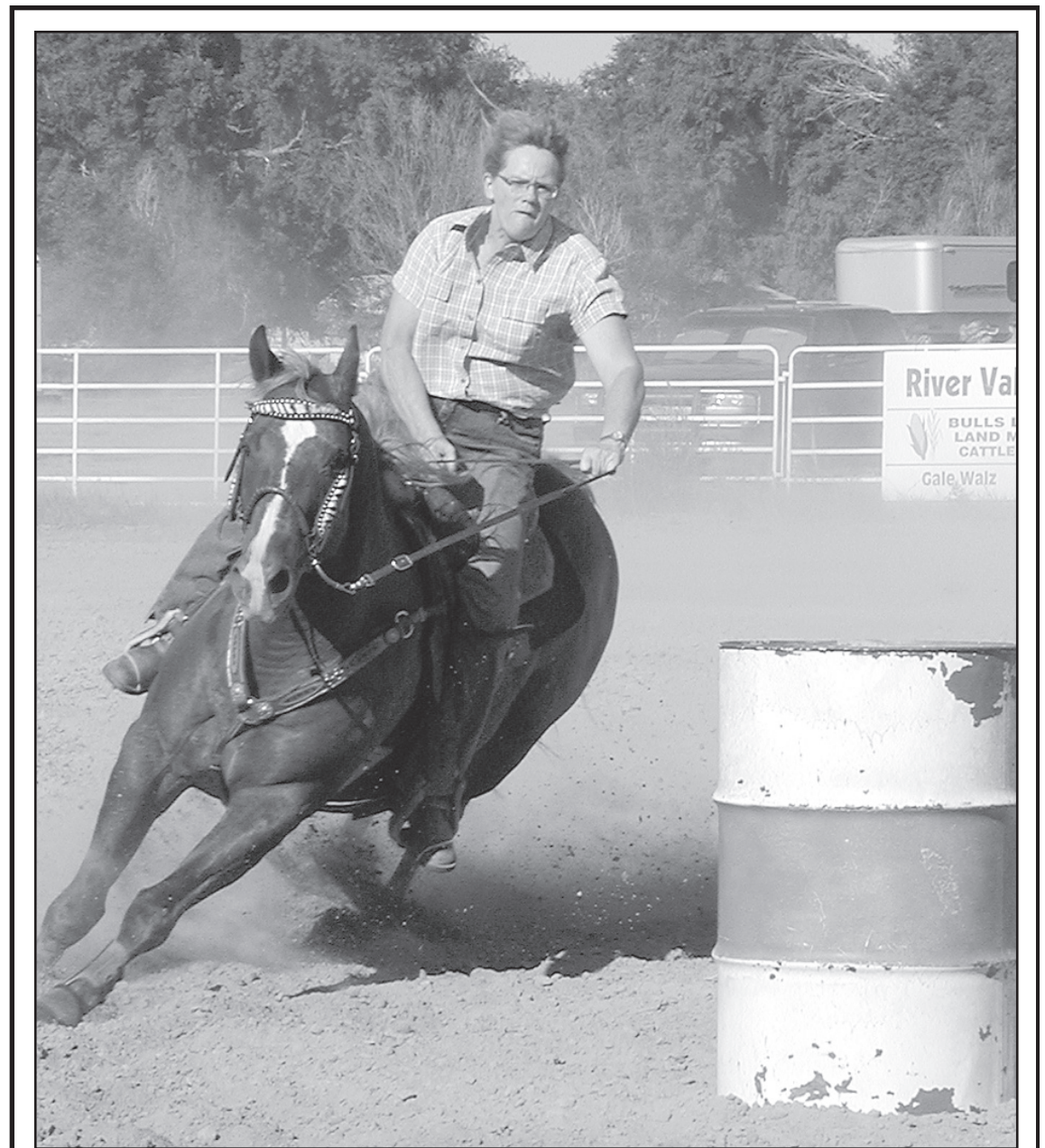
It rained again on Monday, July 25, until late afternoon. They took a drive through the Turnagain neighborhood of Anchorage where Dan and Cathy live. Many parts of this neighborhood were destroyed in the 1964 earthquake. They also enjoyed Lyn Ary Park and Westchester Lagoon.

It turned out to be a beautiful evening for a ball game. Victor, Don, Jerry and Dan watched the local team, the Anchorage Pilots, defeat their opponent 2 to 0. Later, everyone took a drive out to Point Woronzof Park to watch the sunset at 11 p.m. over Cook Inlet and Sleeping Lady/Mount Susitna. They drove around the Lake Hood Seaplane/General Aviation area, the busiest seaplane base in the world.

The next day, they went to the Aviation Heritage Museum and saw exhibits on aviation and the important role it has played in Alaska history. The exhibit on Japan's invasion on the Aleutian Chain Islands of Attu and Kiska

was found to be very interesting. Later, early evening was spent taking a beautiful drive to Eagle River Nature Center, north of Anchorage. A highlight of the drive was spotting a moose and her calf along the road. (More "Kodak moments!") Back in Anchorage, they took in more scenic views of Cook Inlet, the Coastal Trail and Westchester Lagoon before calling it a night.

Victor, Darlene, Jerry, Susan and Don flew back to Denver on Wednesday, July 27. This was the end of a wonderful trip to the 49th state, Alaska, they said.



JACKY ROESENER placed in the National Barrel Horse Association barrel race at the fairgrounds in St. Francis on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Relay walk raises money for more cancer research

Thousands of dollars were raised to fight cancer on Friday, July 23, as walkers and others participated in the Cheyenne County Relay for Life at Sawhill Park in St. Francis.

The 2011 Relay for Life was a huge success," said Pat Rose, chairman of the relay. Although it was a very warm evening, many people gathered around the park.

Pam and Jim Bolin, Hobo Snack Shack, served a barbecue dinner, and the Shrine Candy Wagon had the cold drinks, popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. Proceeds from these two were donated to the American Cancer Society.

The opening ceremonies began about 7 p.m. with Cara Hunt singing the national anthem. A prayer was given by Rev. Marvin Zimelman, and Ms. Rose welcomed the crowd.

The survivors walk was led by the huge banner proclaiming the survivors are celebrating life! Leading the Relay and holding the banner were Krista Plummer, Bill Carmichael and Althea Lebow.

Those who could walk around the park came next and then the people-carrier, loaned by the Good Samaritan Village, and pulled by Ron Loudon and his antique tractor, held several more survivors. During the next lap, the survivors were joined by their

caregivers, and all survivors were given a beautiful purple carnation, donated by Rosie Bierig of Classic Rose Floral.

On the third lap, all the relay team members began their all-night walk around Sawhill Park. The idea is to have at least one team member from each team walking all night, past midnight, and into the dawn. This symbolizes the struggle cancer patients have, and the darkness of midnight, then as dawn approaches, so does their hope and their cure from cancer.

Dana Rose and Toni Keller provided games and entertainment for the crowd and the team members throughout the night. Each team had their own money-raising items, and some sold deserts and fun foods, with all proceeds going to the relay. The disk jockey for the evening was Randy Smestad, and he kept music going for all the walking teams.

As the crowd moved to the bandshell, Pat Rose welcomed them, and introduced the committee who had all helped get this relay done. She introduced Christy Wurm, Betty Petersen, Betty Loudon, John Finley, Allison Grice, Tammy Grice, Toni Keller, Dana Rose, Susie Walz, Crystal Schultz, Vickie Coates, Stephane Workman, Dusti Chadwick, Ginger Chadwick, Dale Rose and

Nikki Rose.

The Doyle Easter, cancer survivor, shared his cancer story. He spoke of his early colon cancer, and how it has affected him for life, but is thankful to be a survivor here that night, and in such a caring and great community.

Two students of Mr. Smedstad played. The first was Hayleigh Hilt, playing a guitar, and Devin Patton, who played the violin. Josh and Matthew Berens had a roping demonstration.

The auction of donated items was held by Skip Petersen, assisted by Betty Petersen and Robin Petersen. A lively crowd and great merchandise earned a lot of money for the relay.

At dark, the luminaria service was held. Mr. Rose had done a power-point presentation on a portable screen in the bandshell, and Mrs. Petersen and Mrs. Loudon read the names of the cancer survivors and those who did not survive.

Ms. Rose read a meaningful story about the symbolism of our love for those who have passed on. The luminaria were all lit and surrounded the bandshell and the park, and is an awesome sight to see. Ms. Rose and the committee are grateful to everyone who participated and those who came to support our fight to cure cancer.

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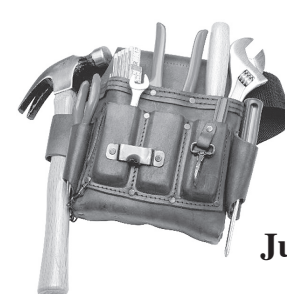
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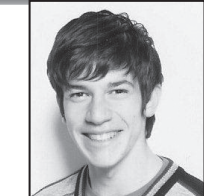
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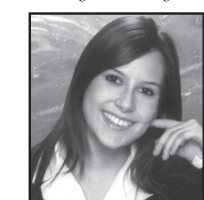
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Patrick from France, 17 yrs. Loves the outdoors and playing soccer. Patrick's dream has been to spend time in America learning about our customs and attending American high school.



Elisa from Italy, 16 yrs. Likes to play tennis, swim, loves to dance. Elisa hopes to play American softball and learn American 'slang' while in the USA.

