



**FIREMAN GERALD LAUER** helps one of the Head Start school children try on equipment even if the hat was a little big and the coat hung on the ground.



**CAIMAN JENSEN** was ready to put out a fire after he was dressed in his bunker gear. Firemen came to the school to talk to children about fire safety. *Herald staff photo by Amanda Miller*

## Kids enjoy firemen

**By Amanda Miller**  
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The Goodland Fire Department and the St. Francis Volunteer Fire Department got together to give a demonstration to the Head Start preschool class last Friday. The students learned fire safety techniques in the Goodland Fire Department's Safety Trailer.

With October being National Fire Prevention Month, the fire departments have been busy educating people and spreading awareness. They visited the Head Start preschool class to teach them a few easy to understand fundamentals about fire safety.

Friday morning, the preschool class excitedly lined up beside the Safety Trailer. While the firefighters finished getting the trailer prepared, the boys and girls got the opportunity to try on some of the firefighting gear. Gerald Lauer helped children put on the heavy, fire resistant coat and helmet. George Harper lifted the little ones and put them into his large boots.

The students then lined up and walked inside the Safety Trailer. The trailer is a converted fifth wheel mobile home that the Goodland Fire Department got with a grant in 2007.

The trailer was remodeled to house different educational tools for children to learn how to respond during a fire. It is set up like a home, but has pretend fire hazards, and some fire prevention tools.

The class began by sitting in the "living room" of the trailer and.

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## Remember to set clocks back Sunday

**By Amanda Miller**  
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St. Francis has already experienced its first snowfall, and cooler weather has reminded people that winter is just around the corner. While it is not the official start of winter yet, the days will seem much shorter as the time change will bring longer, colder, darker evenings.

That means clock confusion is once again ticking away! Everyone will soon be getting an extra hour of sleep and an earlier sunset with daylight savings time ending this weekend.

For most Americans the clocks will "fall back" an hour on Sunday at 2 a.m. The extra hour of sleep is celebrated by most, but the hassle of time change has sparked debate over the years.

Many people wonder how and when daylight savings time started. Apparently, the first person to suggest the concept was Benjamin Franklin. While serving as a United States ambassador in Paris, he wrote of being awakened at 6 a.m. and realizing, to his surprise, that the sun rose far earlier than he was used to. Imagine the resources that might be saved if he and others

rose before noon and burned less midnight oil, Franklin jokingly wrote to the newspaper.

It was World War I that brought the potential savings clearly into focus on a grand scale. Germany was first to adopt the time changes, to reduce artificial lighting and save coal for the war effort. Others soon followed suit.

In the United States, federal law that standardized the yearly start and end of daylight savings time was set in 1918 for the states that chose to observe it.

The only time it was mandatory for the whole country was during World War II, as a way to save wartime resources. Since the end of World War II, the daylight savings time has always been optional for states.

While the debate continues over whether the time change actually results in energy savings or not, most states continue to observe daylight savings time. Arizona and Hawaii are the only two that will not be setting their clocks back this weekend.

Here in Kansas, remember to set your clocks back Saturday night before going to bed... Otherwise you might miss out on that extra hour of sleep!



**HARVEST IS UNDERWAY** in Cheyenne County. David Northrup is picking corn for B&B Waters Farms. Harvest is over for some farmers and just beginning for others. *Herald staff photo by Tim Burr*

## County selected as part of an initiative to improve care

Cheyenne County is one of six western Kansas counties selected to be part of a \$1.5 million initiative. The initiative is aimed at improving their healthcare systems in ways that can be duplicated by medical providers in other rural areas that are challenged by shrinking populations, recruiting difficulties and mounting financial pressures.

Cheyenne County will receive \$37,500, and be required to allocate \$2,500 internally for year one of the project to work with a national consultant to develop improvement plans. Based on the plans developed, there will be an opportunity to receive additional funding to implement the plans.

Originally, Cheyenne County submitted the application as a joint county project with Rawlins County. Unfortunately, Rawlins County was disqualified due to lack of required county support.

A kick-off meeting was held for all local task force members in Wichita on Oct. 24 and 25 at the Kansas Leadership Center. The task force will be meeting six times over the next 12 months to discuss the counties needs, and prepare a plan to submit for phase 2 of the funding.

The local Cheyenne County task force is comprised of: Judy Rockwood, hospital chief executive officer and director of nursing; Dale Patton, county commissioner; Mila Bandel, county health nurse; Catherine Domsch, Bird City Century II Development Foundation executive director; Ryan Murray, emergency management director; Jeffrey Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator; Janene Pippitt, Northwest Kansas Home Health director; Janelle Bowers, emergency medical services director; Dr. Mary Beth Miller, provider; Reid Raile, emergency medical service vice president and hospital's information technology director; Jennifer Padgett, hospital's emergency management coordinator; Kary Jo Meyer, Majestic business manager; Brenda Hays, hospital's clinical nurse specialist; and Carol Sloper, hospital's information technology manager and project coordinator.

"We have tried to ensure that most aspects of health care are represented on our local task force," said Mrs. Sloper. "There are still other aspects of health care to consider, and we will be reaching out to other interested people in the community as the project gains focus and momentum."

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