



Plans in progress for radio station

By Karen Krien
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The first of two informational meetings to organize the Saint Francis Community Radio Project in St. Francis was held Monday morning at Cuppa Joe Espresso.

Heading up the meeting was Charles Hess, a part-time resident of St. Francis who, with his wife, also spends time at their other home in Loveland, Colo. As a small child, he was intrigued by ham radios and this interest continued.

In 2012, he applied for and has received a license with the Federal Communications Commission to construct a low power FM radio station in St. Francis. Out of those applying, the St. Francis station is the only station that isn't ran by religious and social issue groups.

Our station will be unique, he said. We plan to be able to reach people in a 10 to 20 mile radius

of St. Francis. It will give people, including high school-age people, a chance to be interns and do broadcasting of different events about the school as well as in the community.

There could be discussions about city government decisions, local news, weather and sports, as well as calendar and bulletin boards. When the county fair and car show rolls around, there can be people talking to the people, bringing the events into the home or automobile. The list of opportunity possibilities go on and on.

However, he continued, getting the licensing is only the beginning. We need to get on the air and keep it on the air.

The station will be a non-profit, small, non-commercial educational station. The board cannot raise money through advertisements. Consequently, the board will be exploring sponsorships, such

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Young woman receives Tyler, the service dog

By Amanda Miller
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Krysta Smestad has been living life a little fuller after receiving her service dog, Tyler, on March 6. People around town have probably seen the new service dog in town, and Krysta says he has made a huge difference in her life.

Krysta was just a normal young woman working and attending college in Goodland when she had an accident at the beginning of the year in 2011. In the first days after the accident, she couldn't even spell the word "cat." She struggled to regain the ability to read, follow directions and plan.

Krysta had sustained a traumatic brain injury, and it was determined that she has chronic seizure disorder. The illness is a painful and sometimes violent seizure disorder that affects Krysta daily.

She had to give up her home in Goodland, and move in with her parents, Randy and Dorothy Smestad. Someone had to be with Krysta at all times because they did not know when she would have a seizure, and she could injure herself if she was alone. The condition required constant monitoring.

Prior to Tyler coming into her life, Krysta could not leave the home without careful planning and preparation. Imagine not being able to walk to the mailbox for fear that you may have a seizure on the way, and hit your head on the cement. Every single day was a struggle, but she kept a positive attitude.

The Smestads found Canines 4 Hope, a service dog training school. A benefit to help with the cost for the expensive seizure response dog was organized. The community rallied around the Smestads, and the family was able to get Tyler to help Krysta.

Krysta waited for Tyler for seven months. She sent "scent packs" and seizure scents prior to her meeting him, so that he could recognize her. After traveling through 11 states, the day finally came when she got to meet him. But it was not exactly what she expected.

Before she got to see Tyler, there was a three hour "do's and don'ts" class for service animals. When the trainer brought him



KRYSTA SMESTAD, orders her Subway sandwich and Tyler, her service dog, waits patiently.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

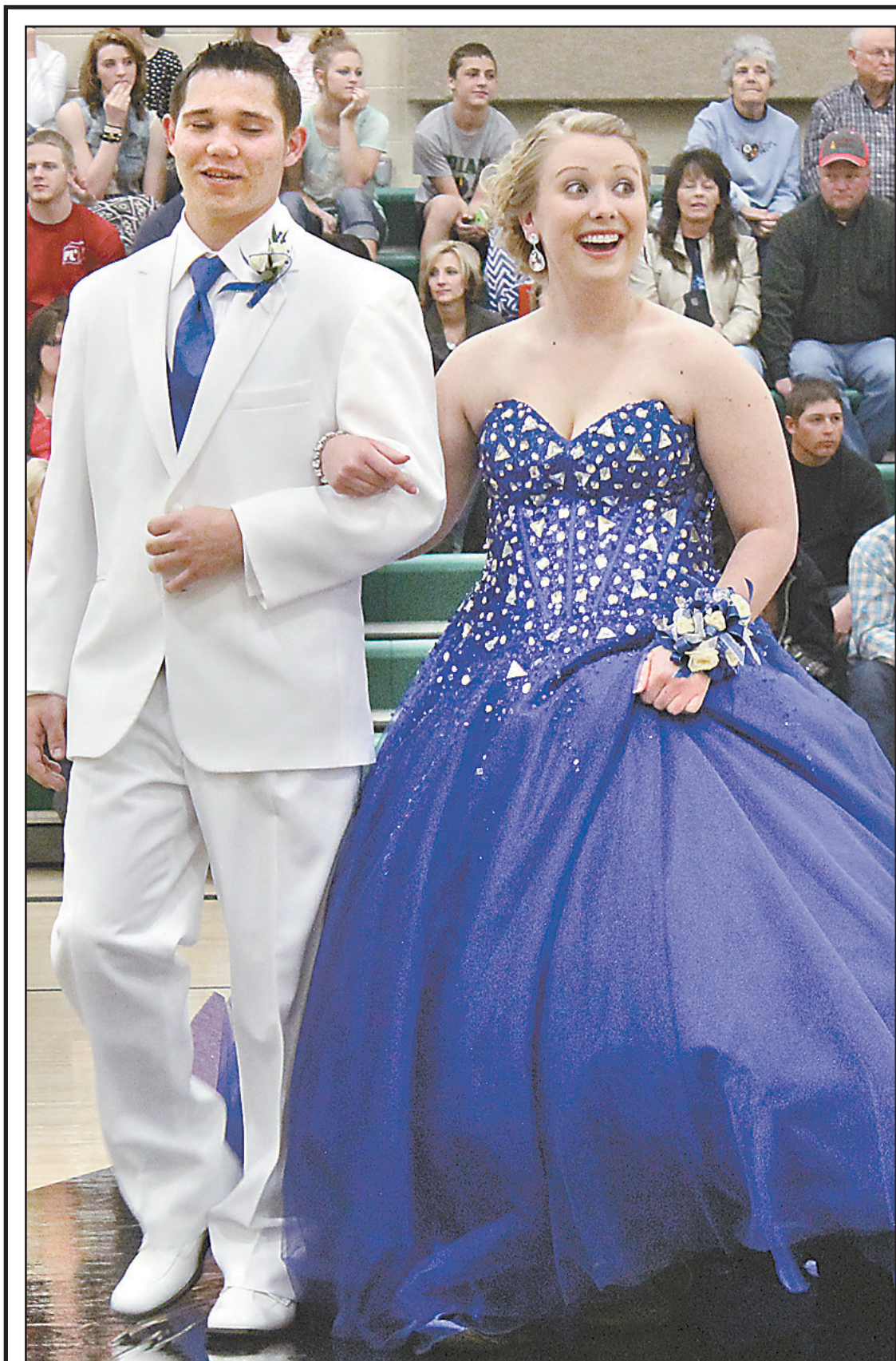
out, however, he came right up to Krysta and knew exactly who she was. He didn't want anything to do with anyone else. Bonding is the most important aspect of their relationship. In fact, no one else is allowed to pet Tyler, not even her parents.

The pair went through four days of training, and had to take a Public Access Test. Tyler had to zig zag through the food court

at a mall with lots of people on a Saturday, and the two had to prove that they were a team. Even with kids coming up, wanting to pet and play with him, Tyler had his working vest on and stayed committed to his job. He and Krysta remained a team, and they came home together.

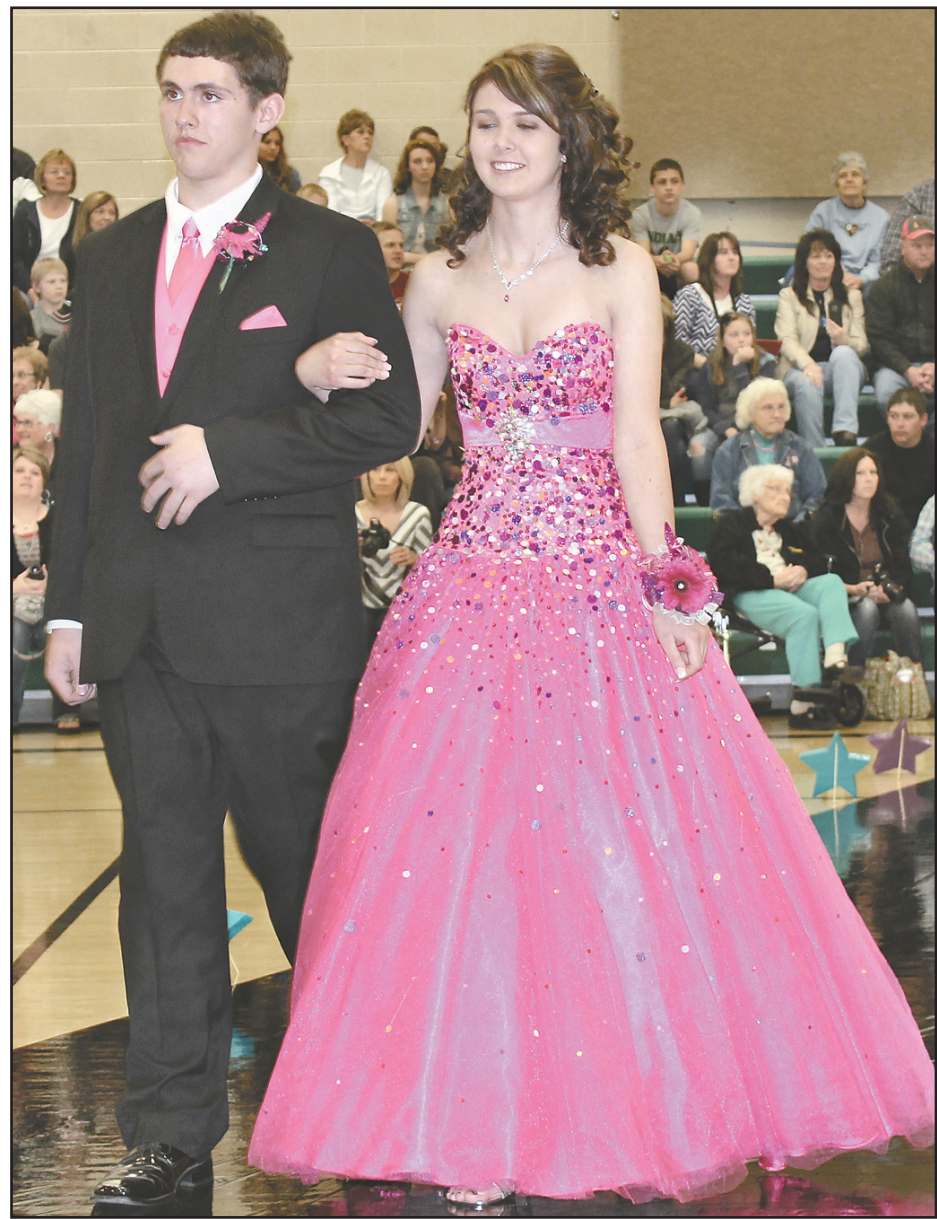
Tyler has now been home with Krysta for about a month. He

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ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL Prom was held Saturday. Girls in flowing gowns and boys in tuxedos were the highlight of the promenade. Above, Mariah Beikman and Wyatt Landenberger made their way down the gym. Below, pictured is Scott Warren and Ashlee Orth.

Herald staff photos by Mande Miller



Teams still needed for June 7 Relay for Life event

The Cheyenne County American Cancer Relay for Life committee is still looking for teams to walk in this year's relay. In an effort to bring in more participating, the hours have been changed for this year's relay.

The event starts at noon on Saturday, June 7, at Sawhill Park, St. Francis. The activities will run to midnight.

Yes, said Betty Loudon, Relay publicity chairman, we will be walking from noon until midnight. These new hours have been sought for years and we are excited to be able to do it this year!

People are urged to talk to their team members and sign up for all-day fun at Sawhill Park. Call Christy Wurm at 785-332-2650

Supper and refreshments

The regularly scheduled supper in the park will be held with the survivors as guests of the committee. Pam and Jim Bolin will cook and the public is invited for a "free-will-offering" dinner. The Cheyenne Shrine Club will be present with drinks, including water and pop, and popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones.

Survivor Lap

The Survivor Lap around the park will start at 7 p.m. with the survivors and caregivers walking the next lap. The luminaria ceremony will begin at dusk. Luminaria are being sold now by committee members and team members, and will be available all afternoon at the park. Their cost is \$10 each and are purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one who suffered or suffers from cancer.

Silent auction

This year's auction will be a silent auction. This means that all the baskets

and merchandise will be on display all afternoon at tables at the park and people can write a bid on each one. Then check back later, as someone will probably bid higher and this goes on all afternoon until the final time. The last person and highest bid wins the merchandise.

There will be all kinds of games and activities going on for the teams. If a team or firm would like to donate baskets or merchandise to be auctioned off, contact any committee member or Pat Rose, chairman, at 785-332-5348, for pick up of the items.

Students involved

Pat reports that the collection buckets are already in place at the grade school. Students are urged to bring change from home and there will be a contest for the class which raises the most money for the American Cancer Relay for Life. Several activities are planned for the students and the winning team gets a pizza party.

More information

For additional information, contact any committee member. Let's plan on the best relay we have every had, Mrs. Loudon said. She can be reached at 785-332-4338.