



STORM CLOUDS roll in on Sunday morning with the promise of rain but disappoint with several days of strong winds and very little moisture.

Herald staff photo by Carol Sloper

Very little rain accompanies wind and dirt

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As children were out playing and people were working in their yard over the weekend, the dust storm could be spotted headed towards town. By 5:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon the day turned from a calm, sunny 66 degrees to

wind gusts of over 50 miles per hour, blowing dust, and a drop of almost 20 degrees in temperature. This week has brought relentless wind since Sunday afternoon. Gusts over 40 miles per hour are constantly being recorded by the National Weather Service, and the wind is not

forecast to quit until Thursday. On Monday afternoon, the blowing dust and wind gusts caused the Kansas Department of Transportation to close Highway 27 from Wheeler to Goodland until 6:20 p.m., preventing travelers from getting to town. This week, the National

Weather Service has the county in a hazardous weather outlook through Wednesday. The potential exists for more windy conditions through the week, so hold on to your hats! The weather service is calling for a high of 52 on Wednesday, and a low of 32 degrees

Wednesday night. Thursday will not get much warmer with a high of 59, but by Saturday the kids can begin playing outside without their jackets on again, with a high of 76. Following is the weather report from Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer.

Date	High	Low	Prec
Apr. 22	82	52	
Apr. 23	78	46	
Apr. 24	68	36	
Apr. 25	80	43	
Apr. 26	87	44	
Apr. 27	66	39	.17
Apr. 28	55	37	.07



ARRANGING JEWELRY in Donna's Gift Palace is owner, Donna Stevens. She is celebrating 20 years in business on Monday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Business celebrates 20 years

By Karen Krien
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Donna Stevens, owner of Donna's Gift Palace, has been in business at her main street location for 20 years. She will be celebrating by having an anniversary sale on Monday, May 7. She will also host a scarf-tying workshop at Cuppa Joe Espresso, starting at 7:30 p.m. Then, the bargains will begin at her store at 8:30 p.m., with 25 percent off. Bargains will continue through 10:30 p.m., when buyers can receive hourly special discounts up to 45 percent off. Mrs. Stevens purchased the store from Melissa Zwegardt. At that time, the name was Kansas Territorial, and the store carried items made in Kansas which were

shipped far and wide, as well as purchased locally. Mrs. Stevens, whose husband and family farms north of St. Francis, said she had many allergies connected with the farming operation. I was looking for something to do that would take me away from pollen and wheat dust, along with anything else I was allergic to, she said. Having worked for several places around town, including Skogmos, Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry and Brazil Drug Store, just to name a few, she knew what it took to go into the business world. When Mrs. Stevens took over the store, she was still selling Kansas items, but she said she listened to the customers and

began expanding. Today, her store carries hundreds of items, from cards and dishes, to dolls and gift items. At first, she took consignments, but many of the items went out of style and people didn't buy them anymore. Through the years, she said one of the best sellers was the Beanie Babies. People came from all over the tri-state area, because they knew she had a wide line up, and almost always had the latest releases. As with most fads, the Beanies came and went, but during her 20 years in businesses, the most rewarding feelings, she found, were the many people who came through the door. Some knew exactly what they wanted, **See 20 YEARS on Page 9**

Benefit to help Sainty woman scheduled for Sunday noon

By Karen Krien
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A benefit luncheon for Charlene Fiedler, better known as "Miss Char," is planned from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, at the St. Francis Community High School cafeteria. Miss Char has lung cancer and underwent her third chemo treatment this week. She has no health insurance. She also has many traveling and other expenses along with the regular monthly expenses. The lunch will be a taco-fajita and dessert bar. Guests will have a choice of seasoned chicken breasts and hamburger along with black bean salsa and all the trimmings. For dessert, the school staff is providing a variety of cookies. The churches will be bringing items for a huge bake sale. Those unable to come but who would like to participate in the benefit can call for take-out meals which will be delivered within the

city limits between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call the grade school at 332-8143 or Robin Burr, 332-3433. Her friend has put together a quilt and some lucky person will take it home. The benefit is being sponsored by Thrivent, which will supplement funds; St. Francis community schools and the community of St. Francis. Miss Char began working at the grade school 10 years ago. Even though she had degrees in art and physical education, she worked as a paraprofessional in special education and speech pathology department. She took her job seriously. Each of the students she helped was special to her, and they knew it, and loved her for the attention, said Debbie Grace, speech pathologist. She has a great sense of humor and approach to life, said Robin Burr, resource room director. She

never complained. She used her college degrees to help the children, Mrs. Grace said. Some children have trouble expressing themselves verbally, so she would use her artistic talents to help them. She was fun and would use drama with her playing the funny person. The children love her, Mrs. Grace said. It doesn't make any difference if they see Miss Char at school, at the theater, in the grocery store.... They will run up to her and hug her...she is a special person. She took on projects in the school such as the Star Lab, which kids love, and was in charge of the Box Top Project which, when box tops from certain food items were brought in, they generated money for items for the school. People are urged to come to the benefit on Sunday. Enjoy the food, sign up for the quilt drawing and help Miss Char.

Council passes ordinance to keep chickens in city

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Residents in St. Francis can now wake up in the morning and go in their backyard to gather freshly laid eggs to fry up for breakfast. City council approved an ordinance to allow up to six hens per home. The city council members voted unanimously in favor of allowing chicken coops within the city limits at the meeting Monday evening. It is now lawful for residents within city limits to have six female chickens, as long as they apply for a permit and obtain an inspection. Residents wanting to have chickens in their backyard start by filing an application with the city

clerk. An inspection will be done by the code enforcement officer indicating that all requirements are met, and once they are the permit is granted at a cost of \$10 per year. Council member Roger Jensen began discussions of the chicken ordinance when he was approached by several people wanting to be able to have chickens that lived in town. After a few meetings and some discussion, council members were all in agreement that with regulations, residents should be allowed to have hens in town. City attorney Mike Day wrote up the ordinance. There are a few things everyone should know about the new

ordinance. Roosters are absolutely not permitted. The chickens must be housed on a lot that is occupied by the permit holder, there is no keeping of chickens on vacant lots. All chicken coops must be in the backyard, and must be set back at least ten feet from side lot lines and 5 feet from the rear lot line. The governing body reserves the right to revoke a permit at any time. The chicken coop craze has taken root, and people can find plans to build their own chicken coops on almost any website now from Pinterest to Petco. If you are a backyard chicken rancher in the making, you can now start to tend your hens in St. Francis.