

# Candy store opens

By Karen Krien

Within a matter of weeks, St. Francis gained a new business. Rita Koros has opened Main Street Sweets on 217 East Washington, just across the street from the courthouse.

The new business features Stephany's Chocolates along with other candies, trail mix, nuts and chocolate mousse popcorn. The Stephany's Chocolates are packaged in the "floral collection" and if the name brand doesn't sell the candy, the beautiful containers will.

However, the customers don't have to purchase a box of candy. Ms. Koros sells peanut butter cups, truffles, mints, almond toffee, just to name some, by the pound.

"One piece of good chocolate is like eating a whole bag of ordinary candy," she said.

And, Ms. Koros knows her candy. For a number of years, she managed the packaging part of the Stephany's manufacturing plant in Denver. The company has retail stores in the airport, in malls and other shops.

All candies are made by hand, from the first steps to the finishing touches. As she describes the different candies to customers, their mouths began to water before they have taken the first bite.

Candies have a six-month shelf life and, if they don't sell, they are pulled from the shelf. She can give the candy away as samples but she said there "is just nothing like a good, fresh piece of chocolate."

The customers can purchase coffee, flavored and plain, cappuccino, teas, flavored and plain as well as cold drinks. If the customer wishes, they can



RITA KOROS, owner of Main Street Sweets, visits with Cliff and Liz Semler as they browse her shop. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

take their candy and coffee out on the deck and enjoy the shade, treats and watch the cars drive by.

Ms. Koros arrived in St. Francis in December. She had visited the city during the summer, came back at fair time, enjoyed the parade and other activities and, soon purchased a house. All the time, she was looking for work but, not to be idle, she volunteered for the fair board and helped out at some part-time jobs. About the end of May, she was headed up to Denver to visit her mother and was wanting to buy some "really good chocolate." That

was when she decided that she was just going to bring this good chocolate back to St. Francis and open a shop.

She called up realtor Betty Petersen who said the only small dwelling for sale on Main Street was a house across the street from the courthouse. Ms. Koros said she thought she knew which house it was and when she returned to town, she made the deal. From there, she drew up a plan of what she wanted, looked up Vic Dankenbring and they begin tearing off the old small porch, adding a large deck, put in new windows (that made the house look more like a shop), did some landscaping, remodeled the inside and ordered the candy and more. By Friday, she was ready to unveil the shop and candy by hosting a grand opening which was attended by around 200 people. The next day, there were over 100 people coming in.

"The people of St. Francis have been so kind to me," she said but, she noted that she knew they were great people when she moved here.

She said that there are certain people who helped her like "Victor" who is one of the best carpenters" she has ever known. Rodney and Kay

Shay were her first customers and Kelly Morris helped her with the plumbing.

Customers will see definite changes as the holidays arrive. It starts with Halloween and the packaging and goods change with each holiday.

She has a selection of balloons and a bag or box of the special chocolates or, if the customer wishes, there are baseball-sized jawbreakers, along with a wide selection, to hold those balloons down until they reach their destination.

In the future, she plans to have gift baskets available and, if the customer has no idea what chocolates to give, there are gift certificates. To order a balloon or for more information, the shop's phone number is 785-332-8961.

Hours are still flexible and she will be open "normal" Main Street hours, probably 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. During those hours, she welcomes young and old to stop by, check out the chocolates and enjoy some time on the deck.

"If the chocolates bring just one little smile, then I've done my job—I'm happy!" she said.

# Mini-conference set for June 24-28

By Karen Krien

A mini-conference for junior high and high school girls will be presented from 6 to 9 p.m. June 24 through 28 at 219 West Second Street in St. Francis. The sessions will end at 8:30 p.m.

Abby (Moore) Howard will be hosting an informal time where girls can come together and have honest and open discussions on purity, love and sex.

"I just felt like there was a need for this type of discussion," said Mrs. Howard, noting that young girls are so much fun and she would like to know them better.

Each of the five days, Mrs. Howard will be speaking and there will be a different subject discussed including how God sees women, how He made

women special, the relationships girls have with guys, talking about a female's inner beauty vs. outer beauty — just what is true beauty? And, finally, helping girls to decide what they want to be for their future husbands before they get there and how their actions will affect what happens later.

"I want this seminar to be a place where girls can talk openly without being criticized and to look at both sides of the issues.

Mrs. Howard was born and raised in Cheyenne County. At the age of 19, she has already attended two years of Christian College and has been married for two weeks.

In the fall, she plans to go back to Barclay College in Haviland to complete her education.

# Senator announces campaign chair

Senator David Adkins, Leawood, Republican candidate for attorney general, has announced Bonnie Cram of St. Francis as his campaign chair in Cheyenne County. She is the longtime chair of the Cheyenne County Republican Party.

"I am pleased to have Bonnie help lead our campaign efforts in Cheyenne county," Senator Adkins said. "She is a respected member of the community, and her leadership and energy will be valuable assets in our campaign to make Kansas the safest place in the nation.

The Republican primary election is Aug. 6.

"I'm excited to be part of the Adkins team," Mrs. Cram said. "David Adkins is an exceptional candidate who is clearly qualified to be our next attorney general. I'm proud to offer him my support.

As attorney general, Adkins said he will focus on making Kansas neighborhoods and schools safer by fighting violent crime and drugs, and by advoca-

ting for law enforcement officers and crime victims. Adkins said he also will place a special emphasis on crimes against children.

"The attorney general serves as our state's chief law enforcement officer, and I will work hard to make certain our police officers and sheriff deputies have the tools they need to fight crime," Adkins said.

As a legislator, Adkins has worked hard to protect Kansans, especially seniors, from consumer fraud. He wrote this year's law that allows Kansans to prevent telemarketers from calling them at home. Adkins has been recognized by the Kansas Sheriff's Association and the Kansas Correctional Association for his leadership on public safety issues. He also was named Outstanding Young Lawyer by the Kansas Bar Association.

Both his father and grandfather were career law enforcement officers. He has a wife, Lisa, and a 1-year-old daughter, Nell.

# Local business honored for contributions made

Officials from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing on June 12 recognized several businesses in northwest Kansas for the significant contributions they make to the Kansas economy. A regional awards ceremony was held at the Nova Theater in Stockton as part of the departments celebration of Kansas Business Appreciation Month.

"We owe a great deal to the members of our business community. The quality of life enjoyed by Kansans is, in large part, attributable to the positive benefits provided by the efforts of local businesses," Lieutenant Governor Sherrere said. "they very much deserve these recognition" programs in their honor.

Six regional ceremonies were held statewide throughout the month of June. At each ceremony, one com-

pany in each of four separate categories (Manufacturing, Distribution, Service and Retail) won a Regional Achievement award. There were also Merit Recognition Awards presented.

In the northwest Kansas region, Bankwest of Kansas, Goodland, St. Francis, Colby and Idalia, Colo., received the Regional Achievement Award in the Service category.

Receiving a Merit Recognition Award in the Service category was First National Bank, Goodland, St. Francis, Bird City, Sharon Springs, Colby, Kirk, Colo., Oberlin, Quinter Bandel Home Center, St. Francis received a Merit Recognition Award in Retail.



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