

# Head Start school endanger of loosing program in county

By Karen Krien

News reports warns that the Bush administration's proposal to turn Head Start over to the states would dismantle the Head Start success story within five years.

The administration is proposing that states have the option to administer head start under plans that would integrate the 38-year-old program with other preschool initiatives.

The report entitled, "Dismantling head Start: The case for Saving America's Most Successful Early Childhood Education Program," was recently released by the National Head Start Association at a news conference in Washington.

In St. Francis, 17 children attend the Cheyenne County Head Start, which has been in operation since August 1999.

"The real question here is: Why isn't Congress building on the Head Start legacy by expanding the program to reach more eligible children when only three out of five are covered now?" asked Sharon VanAllen, a Cheyenne County Head Start parent. "Why would Congress even consider going in the opposite direction and dismantling the Head Start success story?"

The Kansas Head Start Association, which represents the 29 programs in Kansas that serve over 8,600 young children and families, is recommending that Head Start remain a federal to local program.

"Head Start has been continually showcased as a model program for preparing young children from low-income families for success in school and in life," said Mary Basket, Head Start's executive director.

"Head Start is constantly improving through its emphasis on research-based practices, professional development and high quality standards. To dismantle this structure in favor of an untested alternative is to compromise four decades of success."

## Key facts about Head Start's success

According to the new National Head Start Association "Dismantling Head Start" report, the following are the key facts about the Head Start success story:

- Head Start children are ready to learn in school.

The federal government's Family and Child Experiences Survey initiative is an ongoing study of the development of Head Start children, the characteristics of their families, and the quality of Head Start classrooms.

The January 2001 Family and Child Experiences Survey assessment report study concluded that Head Start graduates enter kindergarten "ready to learn."

Key findings of the study include the following: the program narrows the gap between disadvantaged children and all children in vocabulary and writing skills; Head Start children are leaving the program ready to learn; and once in kindergarten, Head Start graduates make substantial progress in word knowledge, letter recognition, math skills and writing skills relative to national norms.

- Head Start children are less likely to fall behind in school or become a burden on society.

Recent studies have found that children who attended Head Start are less likely to repeat a grade; less likely to require special edu-

cation classes and are less likely to commit crimes.

- Head Start children stay in school and also achieve more as adults.

Head start graduates also have been found to be more likely to complete high school and college and earn more as adults than their peers who did not have the benefit of a "Head start."

- Nearly all local Head Start programs get "quality" marks from federal reviewers.

Not only is there evidence that the Head Start concept works, there also is proof that Head Start functions as intended in the "real world." The most recent Head Start Monitoring Report submitted to Congress by the Department of Health and Human Services in February 2003, concludes that Head Start programs provide high quality, comprehensive services to the children and families they serve.

- Head Start is the Number 1 "customer rated" program.

A December 1999 Presidential Management Council report gave Head Start a higher customer satisfaction score than any government agency. Moreover, Head Start had a higher customer satisfaction score than many major companies, including Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

The current federal to local structure of Head Start promotes community decision making and ensures that dollars go directly into services to children, not into state

administration. Programs regularly assess community needs and design services which meet those needs, while following rigorous federal performance standards.



THRIFT SHOP is an active place on Thursday afternoons when it opens to the public. Methodist ladies sort and fold clothes Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Working Tuesday morning were (l to r) Betty Louden, Mavern Gienger, Margaret Holzwarth and Valjean Schultz.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Methodist Church thrift shop opened to public

bb Karen Krien

There is a thrift shop which is open to the public from 1 to 3 p.m. every Thursday afternoon at the United Methodist Church office building at 104 West Webster, St. Francis.

"There are probably many people who are not aware that the thrift shop is at this location and that it is open to the public," said Betty Louden, Methodist Church member who works at the shop.

A group of the church ladies volunteer their services to collect, sort, display and sell donated clothing.

"If you have any nice seasonal clothing which are clean and pressed, you can leave them in the receptacles at the office building during business hours," she said.

All items that are not sold or that cannot be used in the St. Francis shop are donated to the Good Will. All profits from the store are donated to Methodist Missions to help those in need.

While money given to Missions is important, the ladies feel that the Thrift Shop is a good service to the people of St. Francis as well as the surrounding communities. Items

are priced very inexpensively.

"We have customers not only from St. Francis, but from Bird City, McDonald, Haigler, Burlington and other communities," Mrs. Louden said. "You'd be surprised at all the extremely low-priced items we have for sale."

"It's fun to find a cute sweater or blouse."

She added that there is something for everyone including men, women, babies, toddlers and teens.

Anyone having questions or need further information, please call Mrs. Louden at 785-332-2347.

## Captains must register Relay-For-Life teams now

Relay For Life of Cheyenne County is just around the corner. Teams can be registered by a member attending the Team Captain's meeting at 7:30 p.m. on April 23 at the St. Francis Equity meeting room. Dinner will be provided.

Relay For Life is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer.

Survivors and current cancer patients, their families, businesses, civic organizations, and the public are urged to take part in this exciting team event. Relay For Life takes place from 7 p.m. on Aug. 23 until 7 a.m. on Aug.

24 at the Sawhill Park.

Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fundraising walk in the nation. Relay For Life brings together friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, churches — people from all walks of life. Teams seek sponsorship prior to the Relay, all with the goal of supporting a cure for cancer.

"Relay For Life brings the progress against cancer to the forefront," said Stephanie Schafer, committee member. "Many participants are our family, friends, and neighbors who have been cured of cancer themselves. Their involvement is proof of the progress that has been made not just in cancer cure rates, but also in the quality of life following cancer treatment."

"The funds raised enable us to continue our investment in the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy, and services to patients," said Susie Walz, committee member. "Due to the generosity of corporate sponsors like First National Bank and Grace Flying Service, the money raised by participants goes directly to the American Cancer Society's lifesaving programs."

Information about how to form a team or become involved in Relay For Life is available from Ms. Schafer at 785-332-3528, and Mrs. Walz at 785-332-3486. For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer

Society's 24-hour help line at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit their Web site [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

## Conservation meeting in Colby

Farmers, ranchers, and others should plan to attend a farm bill meeting entitled "What's New in Conservation" to hear a Kansas perspective on conservation programs and find out the latest information on how they can use these programs, said Tim Christian, state coordinator for the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS). The meeting is set for Friday, April 25, in Colby at the Community Center.

The agenda kicks off at 8:30 a.m. with registration and features a series of panel presentations from organizations and agencies including the Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Livestock Association engineering services, Pheasants Forever, Wildlife Management Institute, landowners, and others. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist, Harold Klage, will provide an overview of the new conservation provisions and be available to answer program specifics.

Kansas producers have an opportunity to tackle a wide variety of

natural resource issues in ways not available to date, continued Coordinator Christian. Anyone thinking about using these programs needs to hear what their peers and advisors have to offer on the details of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). Additionally, panelists will cover the aspects of a new twist in providing technical help to producers as outlined in the 2002 farm bill - Technical Service Providers (TSP). And, to better understand how individuals can influence state-level guidelines and processes through their organizations and associations a special panel is set up to discuss the Kansas Technical Committee (KTC), the advisory group to Natural Resource Conservation Service. A number of Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams partners will be present to provide their insights throughout the day as well. A complete listing of the day's agenda is posted on the

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams website - <http://www.kswetlands.org>.

Due to the importance of getting this information out, the meetings are being underwritten by the Kansas Farm Bureau, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Star Seed, and Sharp Brothers Seed, said Christian. Breaks and lunch will be provided by these folks. The Western Prairie Resource Conservation & Development has provided key support as well. If you are interested in attending, RSVP by April 22 to the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development at 785.462.2602, or contact KAWS at 620.241.3636. Additionally, Farm Bureau members can RSVP for this meeting to Elizabeth Brothers at 785.587.6700, ext. 6197.

Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams is a non-profit organization organized in 1996 to provide quality information and education on wetlands, streams, and riparian areas and other natural resource issues in Kansas.

## Introducing

Jade Andrew Ketzner

Jacquelyn and Joslyn Ketzner of Bird City would like to announce the birth of their brother, Jade Andrew Ketzner. He was born at 1:56 p.m. March 21, 2003, weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Parents are Noel and Tabetha Ketzner

Grandparents are Kim and Ernie Ketzner, Bird City, Linda Ketzner and Veronica Boyles, Burlington.



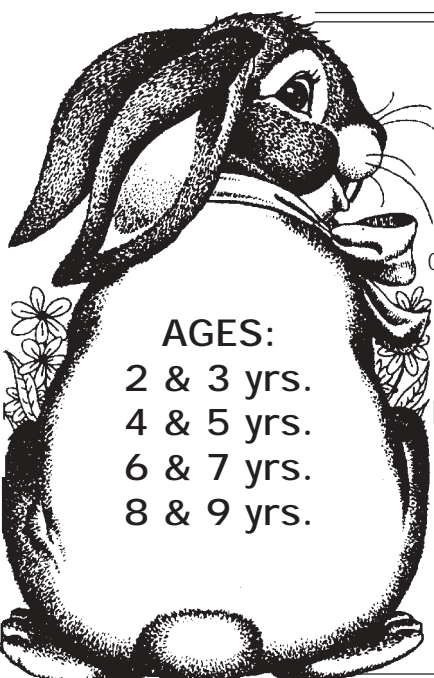
## TRUCKER NEEDED

The City of St. Francis needs a Trucker to Haul Recycled Materials to Colby. Please leave your bid at the City Office, 209 E Washington or mail to City of St. Francis, P.O. Box 517, St. Francis, KS 67756.



Deadline:

Mon., April 21, 2003 • 5 p.m.



## BUNNY GRAM

Hi Boys & Girls!!!  
Come to the Bandshell on April 19 at 11:30 a.m. for my ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT.

Bring your baskets and collect candy & prizes. Be sure & bring your camera, I would love to have my picture taken with you.

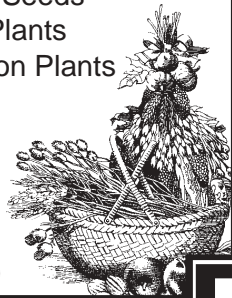
AGES:  
2 & 3 yrs.  
4 & 5 yrs.  
6 & 7 yrs.  
8 & 9 yrs.

## The Garden Room

now open for the season

Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. MDT  
Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Sweet Corn • Bulk Vegetable Seeds  
Hanging Baskets • Bedding Plants  
Seed Potatoes • Onion Sets • Onion Plants  
Professional Potting Soil  
Compost • Manure



620 B Street  
Benkelman, Neb.  
(2 blocks east of State Bank)

## "We've waited 18 years for this!"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

## You don't have to be a Detective to Join in Meth Awareness Wed., April 23

- Cheylin High School gym - 9 a.m. for students but public welcomed
- St. Francis High School auditorium - 1 p.m. for students but public welcomed
- St. Francis High School auditorium - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Public Welcome

This is an informational meeting on Methamphetamine  
Sponsored by: Cheyenne Co. Sheriff's Dept., and Cheyenne Co. Health Dept.  
For more information contact the Sheriff's Department • 785-332-8880.

