

SYDNEY SUNDSTRUM was busy spreading glue on a project in Joyce Faulkender's first grade classroom.



WITH TEMPS IN THE 80s, Kalin Ritchey cooled off after recess with a drink at the fountain.  
Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Classes begin with 35 less kids

By Karen Krien

St. Francis students' first day of school was Wednesday, Aug. 25. They started the year with 35 less students than last year which was more than the administration had expected.

"We had originally thought we would be down just 30 students, and, by the Sept. 20 official enrollment date, we could have several more students," Carl Werner, superintendent, said, adding that, as of Monday, there are 330 students enrolled in school.

Last year's graduating seniors totaled 37. That number is compared to only 15 kindergarten students entering school this year.

Four of the grade school classes are down to one full-time teacher. Fourth, fifth and sixth grades still have two full-time teachers. Gloria Cassidy and Jennifer Krien are both teaching about one-third of the school day, with both teaching math in first and second grade, respectively.

The first grade class, taught by Joyce Faulkender, has 22 students; second grade, taught by Ramona Raile, has 16 students; and third grade, with Cindy Wiley as the teacher, has 18 students.

Fourth grade has 25 students and the same teachers, Lisa Holzwarth and Sandy Smull. Fifth grade teachers are Becky McAtee and Lynette

Nolan. They have 23 students. Bruce Swihart and Julie Wolters teach sixth grade and have 27 students.

The biggest class this year is the eighth grade class with 36 students. Other junior-senior high classes and their numbers are: seventh grade - 23 students; freshman class - 22; sophomore class - 35; junior class - 34; and senior class - 34.

There are some changes in the school system this year. Besides the two part-time teachers in the grade school, there are two part-time teachers in the high school. Colleen Gardner will be teaching two classes of Advance Composition and one class of English 4; and Marti Schlittenhardt will teach two classes of seventh grade English and one class of Kansas History.

Home Economics has been dropped from the schedule and former teacher Alice Kinen has moved to the Food Service Manager. Kathy Rainbolt has moved from third grade to teaching eighth and ninth grade English.

Marlin Queen, who was the library aide and worked in the computer lab at the grade school took the position as Special Education paraprofessional. His old position will not be filled.

Other positions vacated and not filled were: Pat Confer, bus driver; and Laura Pugh, cook.

## \$1,000 scrip to be given on Sept. 18

The \$1,000 shopping spree is in its second week and, already many of the entry forms have been picked up because the containers at the participating businesses were full.

"I've been really happy with the number of people who have entered the contest. It looks like Sept. 18, when the lucky winner receives his/her scrip money, is going to have a lot of people waiting for the drawing," said Casey McCormick, ad salesman.

"The business people participating in the shopping spree have also seen customers signing up when they come in."

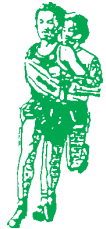
The promotion is being sponsored by *The Saint Francis Herald* and six participating businesses: K-Store, Owens True Value, Schultz's, St. Francis Equity, St. Francis Super's, and Tri-State Lumber/Paints Plus.

The sponsors' ads and contest rules are on page 7A. Everyone entering the shopping spree must be over 18. There is no purchase required. Employees of sponsoring businesses can't register where they work and employees and immediate family members of *The Saint Francis Herald* are not allowed to enter or win.

The last day to enter the shopping spree is Sept. 17 at noon. The drawing will be held the following day at 10 a.m. on St. Francis Main Street. The winner will need to be present to claim the prize.

There will be one grand prize winner drawn. The winner will have until Monday, Sept. 20, to spend the money. The winner will need to notify the paper when they are going to shop so a photographer can accompany them.

## Sign-up deadline for walk/run set for Sept. 8



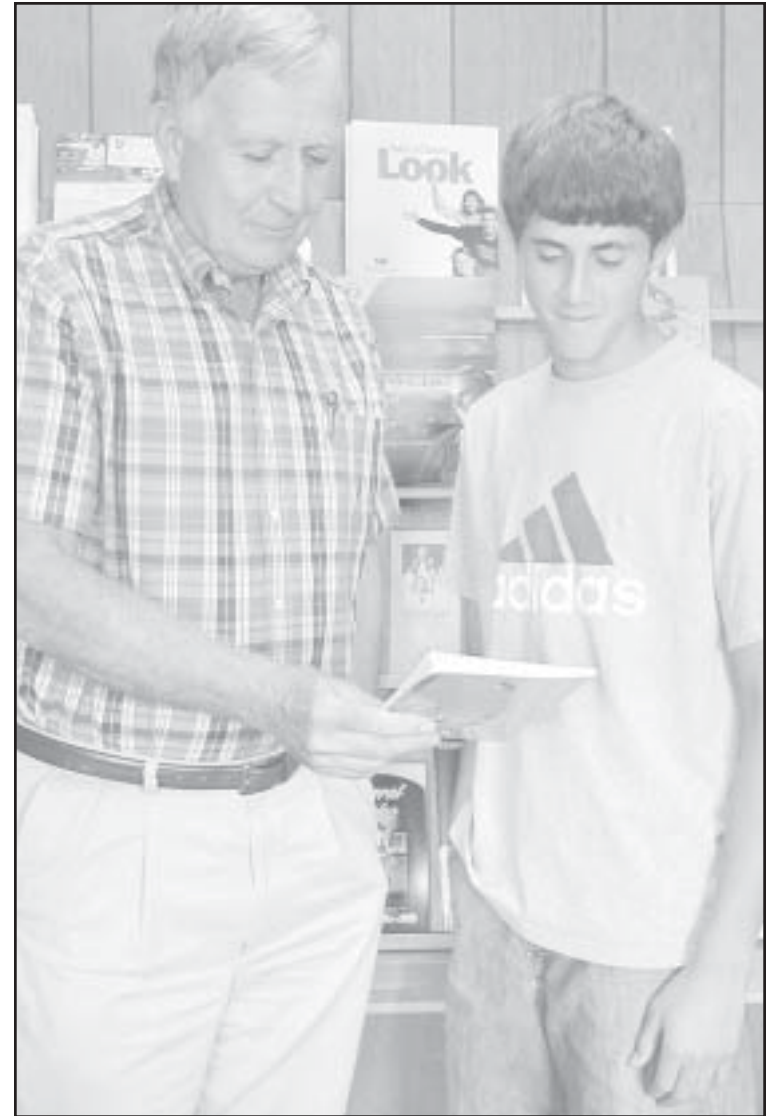
St. Francis' Fall Festival is slated for Sept. 18 with many activities, sales and food. Among the activities is the Fun Walk/Run which will begin with registration at 10 a.m. in front of the Cheyenne Theater on Main Street. The walk/run will start at 10:30 a.m.

In order to have a T-shirt by the day of the walk/run, participants must register on or before Sept. 8.

Contact Sharon Barnhart during the evening or on the weekend at 785-332-2058 or Kari Milliken-Gilliland during the weekday at 785-332-2101 or the evenings and on the weekend at 785-332-2654.

The run will have a 5K course and those registering for the walk will have a 2-mile course.

"We hope to see you there," said Mrs. Gilliland.



BOOK NOW IN PRINT — Ward Cassidy and AJ McAtee look over the new book *Mr. Cassidy wrote. AJ is on the cover.*  
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## St. Francis man publishes book

A St. Francis man has written an 80-page book which has recently been published.

Ward Cassidy, counselor and former principal and teacher at the St. Francis Junior-Senior High School, has had his first book, "A Quail Hunt With Dad" marketed by Miles Marketing in Nashville, Tenn. It is geared toward the younger boys.

In the St. Francis school's reading program, there was always a group of young men who had a tough time finding books they wanted to read.

Since writing stories has been his hobby, he decided to write a series of stories that he felt would be geared to young men who really didn't like to read.

"Many of these youngsters love the outdoors and sports, and they would read if they could find a book featuring those activities," Mr. Cassidy said.

"I also wanted to incorporate family life and outdoor safety in the stories."

Mr. Cassidy said that he had to  
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## Goodland coach arrested after fire

By Tom Betz

Police arrested the Goodland High football coach on suspicion of arson late Saturday after a second fire at his home, and the school board met the next day to suspend him and name a replacement.

Coach Tony Diehl, 34, 1109 Harrison, was arrested about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Chief Smee said.

Neighbors said the fire was set with gasoline or diesel fuel on the roof on the back side of the house.

The coach had complained of vandalism and at least one arson attempt at his home in the last couple of weeks, after he reported a teen-age party to the sheriff's department. He said the windshield was broken out of his pickup, and someone had attempted to set fire to his house.

Police watching for vandals apparently were surprised to catch the "victim" instead.

Lowell Lambrecht said his brother-in-law, Marty Ross of Colorado

Springs, who was visiting, awakened him when Ross saw the flames at Diehl's house. The two men rushed out to put the flames out with a garden hose.

"My brother-in-law went to get a glass of water and saw the flames, and woke me up and we went over to help," Lambrecht said, adding that he was surprised to hear that Diehl has been arrested. "I don't understand what happened with him. He is a pretty good guy, and has been a good neighbor. I can't understand it."

"I feel sorry for him. I feel it was an act of desperation. I hope the community goes easy on him. His troubles are just beginning while the people's troubles are over. I can't imagine what might make a person do this."

Lambrecht said the flames were about four feet high when he and his brother-in-law rushed across the street. They had the fire under control before the first fire truck arrived. Firemen were on the scene a minute or

two before that, the men said.

Smee said officers arrived quickly and they kicked in the front door to get Diehl out because of the fire. Diehl's wife, Tiffany, and son, Dietrich, were out of town.

Diehl was taken to a police car in front of his home and put in the back seat to keep him warm. Neighbors gathered on the street to watch and speculate on who could have set the fire.

Smee said Sunday that after the fire was put out, officers got permission from Diehl to search the house, and then arrested him and took him to the Sherman County Bastille.

Chief Smee said he talked to Lambrecht and Ross to let them know his officers were about to arrest the coach.

"I felt they needed to know," Smee said, "and it was a way to calm the neighbors' fears that someone was coming into their area and doing this. "We have been working on this

case, and have had extra people watching the area to try to catch whoever was doing these things. We are glad we were able to be on the scene at the right time. The investigation is not over, and we continue to look at all the events of the past two weeks."

Lambrecht said he was glad Smee had explained the situation before they hauled the coach away.

Lambrecht said a woman who lives across the alley behind Diehl's home told him she had seen the coach on the roof before the fire started.

The fire Saturday was reported about 11 p.m. It was the second arson fire reported at that address in a week. Smee said a 911 call came into the  
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Diehl

# BOOK

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learn to write dialogue and felt that he had improved his writing skills with each novel.

He added that he wasn't Tom Clancy and that he was writing the books for fourth through eighth graders.

"A Quail Hunt With Dad," introduces a group of characters that he uses throughout the nine novel series.

"I used family names and friends for many of the characters. It just seemed easier to write when I put names I knew into my story."

After completing the first two novels, he sent story lines to 20 different publishers, hoping one would be interested.

"I received 18 rejections!" he said.

Dell Publishers asked to see the entire novel and Harper-Collins wanted to see both novels. Dell said they would keep him on file and contact him later and Harper-Collins also said maybe at a later time.

"Time went by and I heard nothing so I was pretty much resigned to thinking I had some writings I could share with my grandchildren," he said.

Later, on a hunting trip to a friend's ranch in Ashland, he had the opportunity to meet several outdoor writers and one of the men asked him to send him copies of his first two stories.

"I sent them and a year went by before I heard from anyone," he said.

However, this past summer, a book marketer from Nashville called and said he was interested in Mr. Cassidy's books.

"After reviewing the contract he sent, I realized that any money to be made would be made by the marketing company," he said. "I thought, if I would ever see my story in print, signing with him would be my best bet."

The marketer is going to market the first two stories and hopes to sell the rights of the rest of the series to a larger publisher.

"The process became exciting



this summer as I received copyrights and two copies of the books were sent to the Library of Congress. I had to present ideas for a cover and I wanted a young man and an English setter on the cover," he said.

"I took a picture of AJ McAtee with a shotgun and sent it in with my ideas. They sent back an English setter dog and AJ on the cover.

"I really liked how the cover turned out and plan to use AJ for the next book as well."

Mr. Cassidy's good friend Ryan Busse, the marketing director for Kimball Arms, wrote an endorsement for the back cover.

"Last year, I got to hunt deer with Jeff Foxworthy and I am hoping that he will endorse my second youth story about deer hunting," he said.

Mr. Cassidy said that, when he received the published book, he was fairly pleased with the work although he has found a few mistakes with the printing.

"Quail Hunt With Dad" will sell for \$4 and can be purchased at Krien's Pharmacy on Main Street, St. Francis.

The second novel, "Deer Hunt With Dad," will be published at the end of October.

"I am hoping they do well enough that the rest of the series will be printed," Mr. Cassidy said.



**TINY CLOTHES** — Angie Sundstrum and daughter Zoe look over the Babes In Need clothing which Marilyn Holzwarth makes and donates to newborn babies. The display was in the St. Francis Public Library during the month of August.

# COACH

**Continued from Page 1A**

dispatch center at 11:10 p.m. that the roof of the house at 1108 Harrison was on fire.

Over the past two weeks, Diehl had claimed he was the target of harassment stemming from a party where he had called the Sherman County sheriff's office to report drugs being used.

Deputy Burton Pianalto, who investigated, reported that he contacted a high school student at the home. He described the offenses as possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana. The deputy said he seized a pipe and 2 grams of marijuana valued at \$10. The offenders also were drinking.

On Monday, Aug. 16, Coach Diehl reported criminal damage to the windshield of his 1995 Ford pickup in the amount of \$350. Diehl told *The Goodland Star-News* on Tuesday the windshield had been smashed with a portable air bottle about 11:30 p.m., after he got home.

The first fire at Diehl's home was reported at 11:20 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22. Officer Brad Parker, who investigated the incident, said the fire had been set.

The Cowboy football team had an 8-3 record last year under Coach Diehl, with one of the wins over the St. Francis Indians. The team won the district title and lost to Wellington in the second round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

Diehl had been selected to be one of the coaches at the 31st annual Kansas Shrine Bowl at the end of July, but canceled about a week before the game.

Diehl said he did not want to spend the time away from his family, and that he had a doctor's recommendation that he not coach the Shrine Bowl. Diehl said for the past 18 months he has had costochondritis, which he described as an inflammation of the tissue between the ribs which causes swelling of the chest wall, resulting in spasms of pain.

Diehl said his doctor told him overwork aggravates the condition. The coach said he has been taking medication for the pain.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said that basketball coach Jon McLean had agreed to take over as head football coach for the Cowboys.

J.D. Hooper, a high school math teacher and former head football coach, has agreed to return to coaching and work with the Cowboy's defense. Steve Raymer will also help with some of the coaching duties.

## Granddaughter is crowned Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess

Four ladies competed for the Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess crown and on Aug. 5, Danielle Dinges, Ness City, received the title. The Miss Rodeo Kansas Pageant was held in conjunction with the Dodge City Roundup Rodeo held in Dodge City.



**Dinges**

After receiving the crown from the reigning Miss Rodeo Kansas Princess, Lisa Jones of Colby, Danielle took her horseback princess run around the arena waving

to family, friends and fans in the stands.

The pageant is three days of competition with the contestants being judged on modeling during a style show, a speech on Kansas and rodeo, horsemanship competition and many personal appearances. The three categories of judging criteria consist of personality, appearance and horsemanship. Danielle won three parts of the contest: Photogenic, Horsemanship and Rodeo Knowledge Test.

Danielle is the 16-year-old daughter of Darren and Brenda Dinges of Ness City and the

granddaughter of Lee and Delphine (Rogers) Norton, also of Ness City.

Danielle will be a senior at Ness High School with future plans to attend Fort Hays State University of Colby Community College and will major in agriculture.

She said she was "surprised and very excited" about her new title. She plans to attend High School, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and Kansas Professional Rodeo Association rodeos to promote the sport and will be available for public appearances. Danielle's reign will start in January.

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