



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Author Jessica Swaim to Come to Boys & Girls Club**  
*Sedalia Native Talks About Her Book – ‘Scarum Fair’*

**SEDALIA, MO** – October 19, 2010 – On Friday, October 22, from 1 to 2 p.m., Jessica Swaim, Sedalia native and author of the newly released children’s book, “Scarum Fair,” will be stopping by the Club’s Drop-In program at 314 S. Washington in Sedalia to read her book and work with the Club members on a creative writing exercise.

According to Swaim’s website, [jessicaswaim.com](http://jessicaswaim.com), the inspiration for, “Scarum Fair” stemmed from her experiences at the fair as a child.

“‘Scarum Fair’ grew from fond memories of both Halloween and the Missouri State Fair. My best friend Cath and I played at the nearby fairgrounds year round, trolling the deserted midway for treasures, patting the horses stabled there and taking imaginary journeys on the old locomotive.”

Swaim, who is also the author of the books “Nate by Night and “The Hound From The Pound,” is a child at heart. When asked why she writes children’s books Swaim said, “I loved being a kid so much that I never really wanted to grow up; writing children’s books means that I never have to.”

During her childhood in Sedalia, Swaim was surrounded by parents who were natural storytellers. According to her website her parents spiced up the dinner table with “witty expressions” and “amusing anecdotes.”

Her parent’s amusing dinner table banter must have rubbed off on Swaim because this same “spice” can be seen in her writing style as an adult. The poem “Madame Ratowski” from “Scarum Fair” is a perfect example. According to Swaim’s website, the inspiration for this poem about a fortune-telling rat was a palm reading gypsy that Swain encountered when she was 25 years old.

Madame Ratowski

*Madame Ratowski addresses The Hand.  
"I see in your future a gold wedding band.  
A fortune will slip through your fingers, I fear,  
when you lose a big poker game later this year.*

*"Your garden will die," Madame says, with a frown.  
"You could have a green thumb if you'd just knuckle down."  
She closes The Hand and she gives it a squeeze.  
"You owe me ten bucks and a slice of swiss cheese."*

*The Hand waves good-bye as it exits the booth,  
with a fistful of lies and a pinch of the truth.*

Although Swaim now lives in Colorado, she still takes the time to model the great storytelling and inspirational community values she learned growing up in her Sedalia home.

“My dad, attorney William F. Brown, was one of the founders of both The Children’s Therapy Center and State Fair Community College,” said Swaim. “I saw how much satisfaction he got from working with his colleagues to make Sedalia a better place to live.”

Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri Executive Director, Brett Barth-Fagan, said that it is an honor to have someone as accomplished and inspirational as Swaim come to the Club to work with the members.

“This is truly an exciting opportunity for our kids to be able to see firsthand that anything is possible,” said Barth-Fagan. “Jessica brings to our kids the hope that they too can become an accomplished author. She also helps to foster a love of literature in the lives of our children.”

For more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri or this event please call the Club at 660-826-8331 or find the Club online at [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com).

Swaim will also be signing copies of “Scarum Fair” on Saturday, October 23 from 11 a.m. to noon at Sedalia Book & Toy located at 3127 West Broadway Blvd in Sedalia.

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### **About the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri**

*Realizing Potential: Our Children, Our Community, Our Future*

In June 2010, the Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri ([www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com)) started

celebrating 50 years of providing hope and opportunity to local communities by inspiring all youth to BE GREAT. The Club started in 1960 when a group of local optimists saw the need for positive youth programming and 50 years later the Club continues to positively impact lives by helping youth reach their full potential as productive and caring citizens. The Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri serves youth from 6 to 18 years of age by providing guidance-oriented character development programs conducted by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports, fitness and recreation; and family outreach. The Club currently serves 2,220 members in 22 site programs, serving 6 communities and 3 counties in west central Missouri. For more information call 660.826.8331, toll-free 877.242.9260, find the Club online at [www.bgckids.com](http://www.bgckids.com), check out the Club's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-West-Central-Missouri/190529020627) or follow the Club on Twitter @bgckids.