18 Pages Including Special Section

Thursday, October 4, 2007

123rd Year, Number 40

# Sainty goes to 1A school classification

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com When the numbers were tallied and compared with other schools, the St. Francis Community High School classification dropped from 2A to 1A. Less students in the high school was the reason for the drop.

Scott Carmichael, principal, said there will be no change in the academic curriculum and the only major changes will be in volleyball, basketball and track.

"In basketball and volleyball, we will need to compete and win in a regional contest before we can go on to Substate," Mr. Carmichael said. "Before, in 2A, we went straight into Substate competition.'

He said that, this year, the classome problems scheduling games, is on a two-year schedule.

"St. Franciskids will play teams has 37 students; Brewster, 46; they haven't met for awhile," Mr.

will not offer penalty-free early

market remains very tight, corn

high, and today's grain stocks report

"While this year's global wheat Sept. 30.

No penalty-free

early release

from contracts

The Department of Agriculture indicated higher than expected

releases from Conservation Reserve start of the 2007/08 crop year. In

Program contracts at this time, acaddition, more than 2 million Con-

cording to Chuck Conner, acting servation Reserve Program acres

production is expected to be record- kets are providing very strong in-

Carmichael said. "We are going to make this into a positive experi-

The football program will continue to play an 11-man game.

'We don't foresee playing anything but 11 man for the next six years as the boys in these grades outnumber the girls 2 to 1," he

Wrestling is 3-2-1A so that program will remain pretty much the same. Tracksters will meet 1A schools instead of 2A.

The classification is determined by the number of students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

In the 1A classification, there are 104 schools which range from 81 to 14 students. St. Francis students in those three grades number 75 and missed being a 2A school sification change could create by six students. Quinter has 79 students; Hoxie has 78; Sharon however, most of the competition Springs/Wallace County has 74 and Claflin, 77. Cheylin/Bird City

See SCHOOL on Page 6

stocks for corn and soybeans at the

expire under existing contracts on

"Wheat, soybean, and corn mar-

See CONTRACTS on Page 6



NEW TECH LAB is now up and running. Robin Petersen TJ Perry, Ethan Zweygardt, Taryn Richard, Jacob Riedel teaches a technical, drafting class to (Itor) Benjamin Neitzel, and Scott Ford.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

# Students using new computer lab

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com For most of the summer, car-

penters and electricians were started in August, there was installed. a new "first-class computer

facility."

Since there was no basement under the room, a false floor was built for the electrical wiring. busy in the old home ec room at The room was painted, computer the St. Francis Community High tables built and a suspended School. Shortly after school ceiling and new lighting were

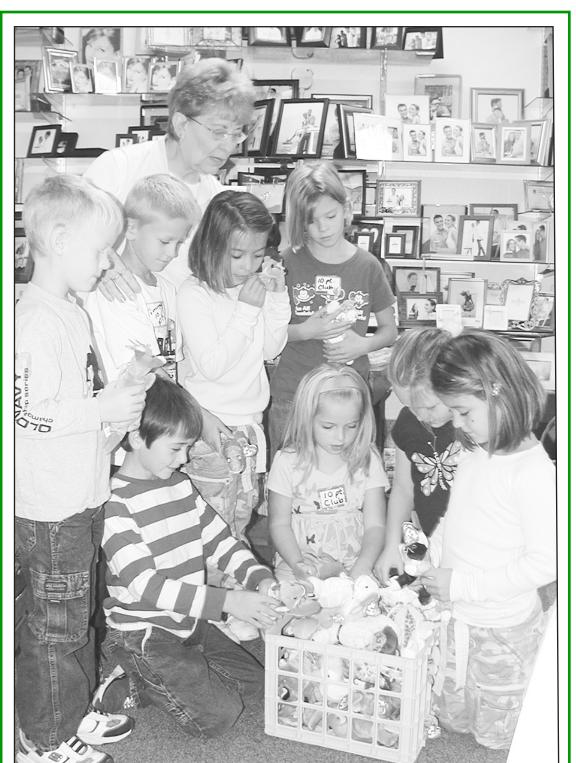
There is an overhead projecless than \$50,000.

tor and surround-sound system. There are 30 computers for students to use and Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said he would like groups can use for training.

The cost for the remodeling, nite plans. furniture and equipment was

"I think it was a wise investment that will benefit students," Mr. Schiltz said.

In the future, a class to teach to see it as a facility that public computer skills may be offered but, at this time, there are no defi-



DONNA STEVENS said her teacher made her afraid to read. As owner of Donna's Gift Palace, she encourages kids to read by giving them Beannie Babies. Picking out their toy are: back row (I to r) Connor Keller, Tim Lambert, Mrs. Stevens, Lauren Johnson, Joslyn Ketzner; kneeling: KC Krien, Teagan Landenberger, Jenna Confer, Lindsey Johnson.

# Sheriff's office moves again

By Karen Krien karenk@nwkansas.com

The sheriff's office is back at the courthouse. For the past few years, sheriff Troy Gardner was both the chief of police for St. Francis and the county sheriff. At that time, the sheriff's office was combined with the city law enforcement office.

However, when Sheriff Gardner resigned a month ago, the city decided to go back to having a separate chief.

The equipment had been combined so sheriff Craig Van Allen and Carol Gamblin, communications director, were at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Friday to discuss purchasing two hand guns, some computers and a printer/copier for the office.

The 911 system was in the process of being moved from the St. Francis city power plant to the old sheriff's office in the courthouse. Plans and arrangements had been made.

Children's theater

Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. on

This is one of the four area school

presentations in conjunction with

the Western Plains Arts Association

performance of the play at Quinter High School auditorium on Thurs-

day, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Admission

Friday, Oct. 12.

entertains students

at St. Francis school

be setting up office in the old jail on they will look further into getting a the third floor of the courthouse. second system for the sheriff and Sheriff Van Allen was concerned about the heat and air conditioning in both the sheriff's office as well as in the 911 dispatcher office as the system is shut completely down at 5 p.m. during weekdays and on

weekends.

The commissioners discussed a separate heating and air conditioning system for those offices but they decided that it might be just as cost saving if the office personnel turn down (or up) the system in their rooms instead of turning off the heat. That way, there would be heat and air conditioning in the offices where it is needed. Clerk Terry Miller said that it takes a long time for the courthouse to warm up on Mondays after the heat has been off all weekend and this might eliminate the frigid walls.

The amount of electricity/gas used will be compared with the year So, the sheriff and his officers will before. If there is a huge difference,

911 dispatch offices.

Sheriff Van Allen said four new tires are needed for one of the pickups. The commissioners approved the purchase.

They also approved of the sheriff's office participating in the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). Sheriff Van Allen said it is just a matter of officers collecting traffic statistics and turning them into the state patrol. In return, the county will receive \$500 in equip-

### Prairie dogs

Dan Schlittenhardt, noxious weed and prairie dog supervisor, said he had talked to a number of people about getting rid of their prairie dogs. He reminded the commissioners that the dates where Rozal, a prairie dog bait, can be used is Oct. 1 through March 15.

They discussed bringing in black See SHERIFF on Page 6



for the evening performance will be by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door. presentation are Oberlin and Hoxie ships.

The Wichita Children's Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 11 and Colby Elwill present the well-known tale of ementary following the St. Francis The Little Red Hen at the St. Francis engagement on Friday.

> The musical version of the fable tells the story of The Little Red Hen, who is a nice little lady, known and loved by all the barnyard animals until she asks, "Who will help me make the bread?"

All of her friends are too busy to help until it comes time to eat the delicious bread, when they all scramble to her doorway. Well, she has a surprise for them! The story Other area schools to view the is about what makes true friend-

Front40.indd 1 10/5/07 4:53:27 PM

## **Football** team falls to Hoxie

By Betty Jean Winston bettyw@nwkansas.com

Indian Brock Zweygardt scored a touchdown for the St. Francis junior high football team in the second quarter on Thursday, Sept. 27. Unfortunately it was not enough to win the game as Hoxie scored 12

"We improved against Hoxie in terms of being able to sustain our efforts over the course of a game," Coach Jeff Beims.

"However, the little things like technique, and blocking responsibilities proved to be our downfall this week. There is potential on this team, but we have a long way to go and not much season left."





ON HIS WAY TO A TOUCHDOWN — Trent Raile was moving down the field despite Hoxie Indians hanging on to him. Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

## Good news, bad news for hospital board

when they met in on Thursday, Sept.

The good news was that Tyler Raile and Kristle Neuhalfen, both hired as physician assistants, passed their boards and will be starting at the hospital and clinic the second week of October.

The bad news was the remodeling bids for the labor and delivery room had come in much higher than expected.

#### More hours

Because of the additional staff, the hours in the St. Francis clinic and Bird City clinic will be expanding. There will be providers in the Bird City clinic every morning from 9 a.m. to noon. The hours at the St. Francis clinic will be 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The clinic will also be open on Saturday mornings from 9 to noon as a walk-in clinic. There will be no appointments made for Saturdays.

### Bids come in high

The labor and delivery room bids were taken on Thursday, Sept. 20, and there was only one bid received from Miller Construction, Goodland, in the amount of \$207,617. Mike Miller said before the bid was electrical and mechanical bid came in at \$130,000.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, reported that he had talked to Justin Barrett, the county attorney, to see what the options were. Mr. Barrett said the board could negotiate with the contractor and see how much he could come down. The other options would be to hire a "Design-Build" company.

The board agreed to negotiate with Mr. Miller and see what he can do, but everyone agreed that the hospital would not spend that amount of money to remodel one room.

### Room lifts installed

The patient room lifts have been nurses were trained on how to use

a lift was not put in the pool area five-year period the hospital would because with the way the design of save \$12,000 going with the Toshiba

Front40.indd 2

Board had good news and bad news to put the lift in the deep end and that would not have worked.

#### Medicare surveyors at hospital

The Medicare surveyors were at the hospital from Monday through Thursday, Sept. 17-20. While there were deficiencies, the kitchen was not written up because the tax credit application, the architect's involvement and documented notes in minutes that the board and administration knew the kitchen would not pass and were taking action on it.

Other items identified in the inspection were:

- · A few outdated supplies and medications; there were no out-ofdate medicines in the pharmacy.
- Locks are needed for medication
- Temperature documentation is needed on a warming cabinet.
- Notification of patient rights must include three additional points.
- Ongoing employee health assessments need to be documented, and date/time documentation of each entry in the medical record.

Mr. Lacy said he was pleased with the results of the survey, adding that this was the first survey the facility has had for six years.

Most of all, there were no violaopened, that it was for way more tions of the Medicare Conditions than he had expected. He said the of Participation which are a much more serious level of deficiency. The hospital passed the risk management portion of the survey without

### Administrator's report

Administrator Lacy said volume in September had been slow to steady in the hospital but the clinic appeared to be increasing in volume. Dr. Rebecca Allard had been fairly busy since she

• He reported that the transition to hospital operation of Lifeline had gone very well and four new Lifelines have been installed since Sept. 1 when the hospital took over the service.

• The ultrasound machine had armachine the board approved was the GE but the Toshiba Company came The administrator reported that down on their price and over the

The Cheyenne County Hospital the ceiling was they would have had with the same capability. The Toshiba ultrasound machine was purchased.

> • Mr. Lacy told the board that the hospital has been looking at security cameras much like what the school administrators are looking at. Two companies have surveyed the building and one bid received so far for

> As this is important to keep our employees and patients safe, Mr. Lacy said, it is also important with having newborns in the hospital, too. The hospital will continue to look at options to identify a reasonably priced solution for this issue.

> · Street work was done in front of the hospital and clinic last week. There is a spot on the concrete alley entrance for wheelchair accessibility that is chipped out, thus creating a hazard. The administrator had talked to J.R. Landenberger, city supervisor, about the options of getting it fixed.

• The clinic will be hiring a medical assistant to work with the providers. With the addition of providers and expanded hours another medical assistant is needed.

• A temporary Registered Health Information Administrator has been position in the department, which has been vacant for several months, will

### **Kitchen deficiencies**

There are several deficiencies in the hospital kitchen including floors and countertops need to be replaced, and the salad bar and microwaves need to be out of the kitchen prep area. It was noted that the dietary office should not be in the kitchen

Discussion was held on the options of what to do with the kitchen. Traci Neitzel, board member, said she felt, at this time, the remodeling needed to be done within the four walls of the existing building. Consensus was that adding on was not an option.

The board talked about areas which are beside the kitchen and installed and are operational. The rived and was being in-serviced. The across the hall. There is a storage area across the hall, medical records is to the east of the dietary pantry and dish washing area. The architect is to bring back some drawings.

Department head report

Kathy Hertel, materials management, said she has been at the hospital for 28 years. She started as an aide, went to housekeeping then to her present job in materials management. She is in charge of ordering all supplies for the hospital with the exception of pharmacy items, keeping active contracts, is in charge

of the charge master and is on the Great Plains Health Alliance Charge Master Committee. She reported that all rate changes for supplies go through her. She has one employee Dorothy

Semler who puts away the freight and does other jobs.

She said the biggest improvements have been getting her own office and the new shelving. The shelving improved space issues and items are easier to find. She does a majority of ordering from the computer.

Contracts with VHA (a national buying group the hospital is able to access through its relationship with Great Plains Health Alliance) and Novation save the hospital money on supplies and pharmaceuticals.

For improvements, she feels the entire hospital needs to be set up in the building for the past two months for wireless connectivity, espeand has assessed the department. The cially the basement. She would also like to see bar coding in her department. This would improve the accuracy and speed of checking out supplies.

Currently, employees have to take a sticker off of each item and put on a department card so the department can be charged for the item and it can be taken out of inventory. She reported that inventory control was critical to the job she does.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting is on the regular date of Oct. 25. The November meeting falls on Thanksgiving so the board moved it to Monday, Nov. 19.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the Sept. 27 Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting written by Shawna Blanka.

Continued from Page 1 footed ferrets, a natural predator of the prairie dogs. Ferrets are being brought in to different areas and

#### Road and bridge report

Road and bridge supervisor Dave Flemming said he had bought two mowers at a surplus sale for \$4,500. Jim McCann had been given approval to fill in to cover Dan Harris's vacated territory.

#### In other business In other business:

• No commissioners will be able to attend the Northwest Kansas County Commissioner/Highway

official's meeting this year. • Clerk Miller will be attending the Northwest Kansas County Clerk's Association meeting. Deputy clerk

Deb Lindsten will be attending an Advanced Election training.

• Mrs. Gamblin will attend a meeting on how 911 dispatchers should cover domestic violence calls, noting it is important that officers know what they will be dealing with before they get to the site.

 Gary Rogers, emergency preparedness manager, will be attending a meeting and will also be off duty for three weeks to have surgery.

#### **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set on Tuesday, Oct. 16. Bids for steps in front of the courthouse will be opened at 1 p.m. There will also be a hearing for the ambulance grant at 12:45 p.m.

Winona-Triplains, 30; and Weskan, 36.

from 1A last year to 2A this year with 86 students. Oberlin/Decatur County has 112 students;

Continued from Page 1 and Oakley has 113. The two 4A schools in the Northwest Kansas League are Goodland with 204 Atwood/Rawlins County went students; and Colby with 238. Goodland just made the 4A cutoff of 203.



 $OPENING\,THE\,SHOW-Helene\,Landenberger\,opened$ the Western Plains Arts Association show Monday eve-

### Continued from Page 1

centives to plant more acreage this fall and next spring. Throughout this year, the market focused on attracting corn acres, and to a lesser extent, wheat acres. Producers responded strongly, with corn acres increasing to their highest level since 1944.

Wheat market prices are indicating an expected significant increase in planted area this fall and next spring in the United States and around the world. The potential exists for increased double-cropping and the planting of fallow ground.

"Overall, I expect that market signals will continue to provide adequate acres, recognizing that strong competition among crops

Saturday, October 6th

7 a.m.-2 p.m.

St. Francis Grade School Cafeteria

for Dustin Kriens' Medical Expenses

due to Crohn's Disease

Serving:

Pancakes, Sausage & Eggs

Plus Coffee, Milk & Juice

Sponsored by

**Benefit** 

**Pancake** 

**Feed** 

"I would not anticipate offering a general signup while grain stock levels remain historically low and prices continue at unprecedented levels. Acres under continuous Conservation Reserve Program signup, such as filter strips and riparian buffers, are not affected by general signup decisions. Enrollment of acres that qualify for continuous signup is ongoing.

"I will continue to closely monitor the acreage response and market conditions. I will not hesitate in the future to make adjustments to the department's programs if needed to achieve balance in the agricultural

미리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리

Is **PAIN** keeping you from doing the things you love?

# Low Level Laser Can Help! What is Low Level Laser Therapy?

Low Level Laser Therapy refers to applying laser light energy to tissue that stimulates ellular processes allowing the actual cell to function more efficiently.

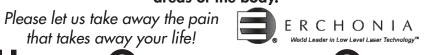
### What conditions can be treated?

Low Level Laser Therapy has been successfully used to treat many conditions such as soft tissue strains and sprains, inflammation reduction, acute and chronic pain reduc- 🗖 tion, enhanced tissue would healing and cell regeneration.

### Are there any side effects?

Low Level Lasers are safe, nontoxic and non-invasive. There has not been a recorded side effect in over 1700 publications.

Dr. Unger has successfully used the Erchonia Low Level Laser to treat muscle weaknesses, sports injuries and chronic and acute pain in all areas of the body.



UNGER CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC St. Francis

Call 785-332-2186 for an appointment today. Knights of Columbus U — FREE CONSULTATIONS — 미리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리리



10/5/07 4:53:35 PM