

Sainty goes to 1A school classification

By Karen Krien

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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 classification change could create some problems scheduling games, however, most of the competition is on a two-year schedule.

"St. Francis kids will play teams they haven't met for awhile," Mr.

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

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 said.

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 by six students. Quinter has 79 students; Hoxie has 78; Sharon Springs/Wallace County has 74 and Claflin, 77. Cheylin/Bird City has 37 students; Brewster, 46;

See **SCHOOL** on Page 6

No penalty-free early release from contracts

The Department of Agriculture will not offer penalty-free early releases from Conservation Reserve Program contracts at this time, according to Chuck Conner, acting secretary.

"While this year's global wheat market remains very tight, corn production is expected to be record-high, and today's grain stocks report

indicated higher than expected stocks for corn and soybeans at the start of the 2007/08 crop year. In addition, more than 2 million Conservation Reserve Program acres expire under existing contracts on Sept. 30.

"Wheat, soybean, and corn markets are providing very strong in-

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 (l to r) Benjamin Neitzel, and Scott Ford.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Students using new computer lab

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For most of the summer, carpenters and electricians were busy in the old home ec room at the St. Francis Community High School. Shortly after school started in August, there was a new "first-class computer

facility."

Since there was no basement under the room, a false floor was built for the electrical wiring. The room was painted, computer tables built and a suspended ceiling and new lighting were installed.

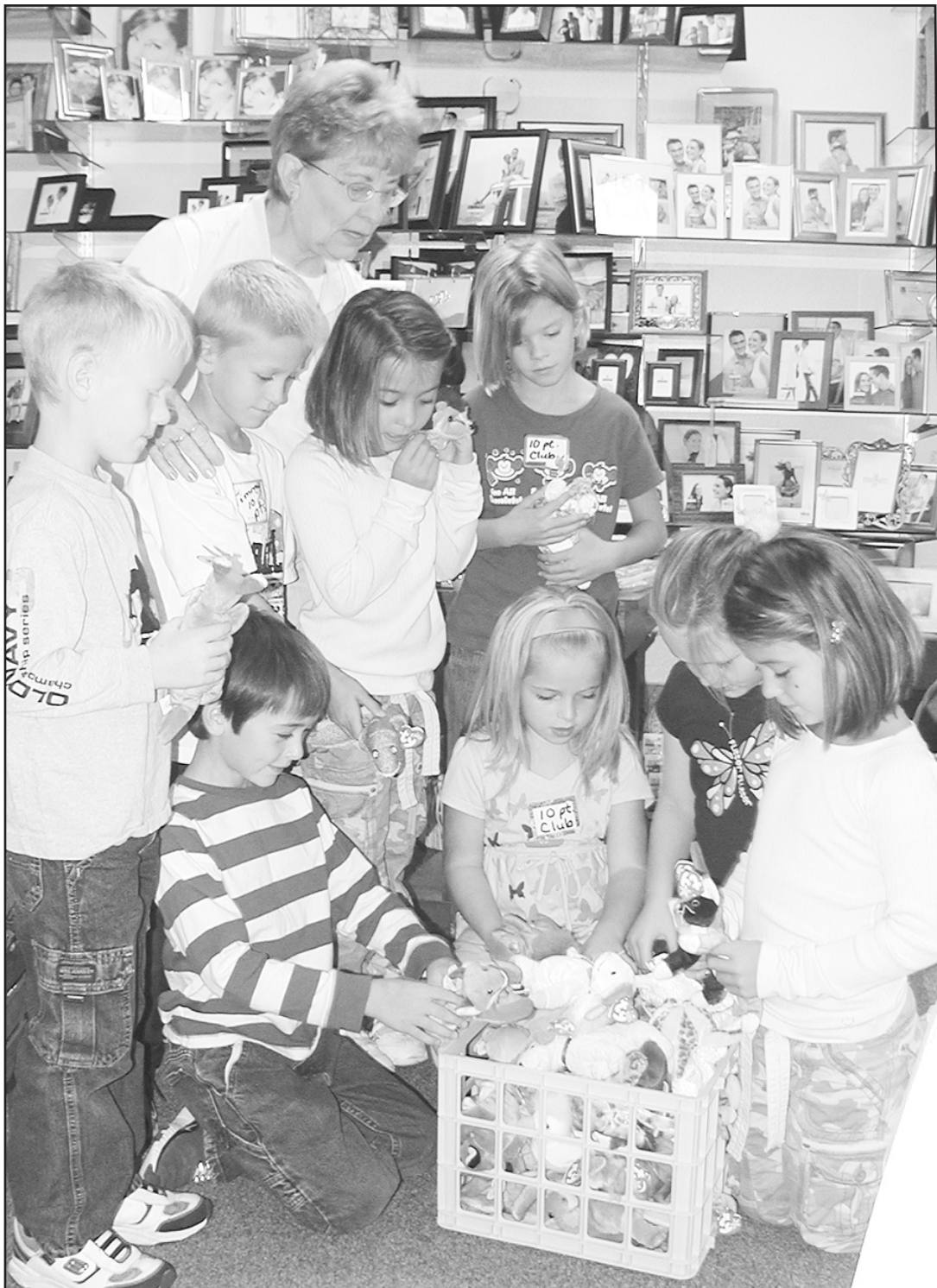
There is an overhead projec-

tor and surround-sound system. There are 30 computers for students to use and Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said he would like to see it as a facility that public groups can use for training.

The cost for the remodeling, furniture and equipment was less than \$50,000.

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

In the future, a class to teach computer skills may be offered but, at this time, there are no definite plans.



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 (l 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

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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.

So, the sheriff and his officers will

be setting up office in the old jail on the third floor of the courthouse. 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 before. If there is a huge difference,

they will look further into getting a second system for the sheriff and 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 equipment.

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

Children's theater entertains students at St. Francis school

The Wichita Children's Theatre will present the well-known tale of *The Little Red Hen* at the St. Francis Elementary School at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 12.

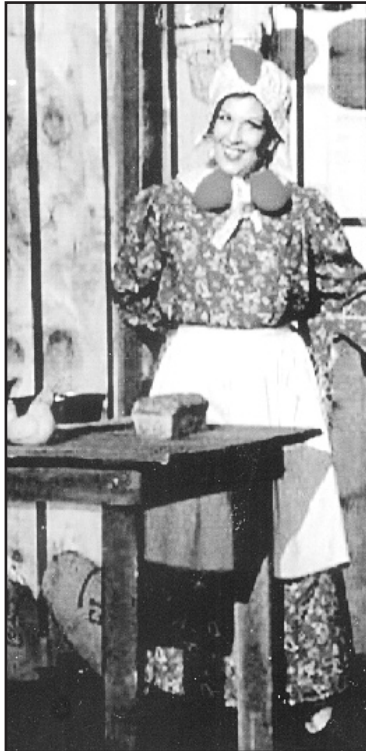
This is one of the four area school presentations in conjunction with the Western Plains Arts Association performance of the play at Quinter High School auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Admission for the evening performance will be by Western Plains Arts Association season ticket, or at the door.

Other area schools to view the presentation are Oberlin and Hoxie

on Thursday, Oct. 11 and Colby Elementary following 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 is about what makes true friendships.



Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

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