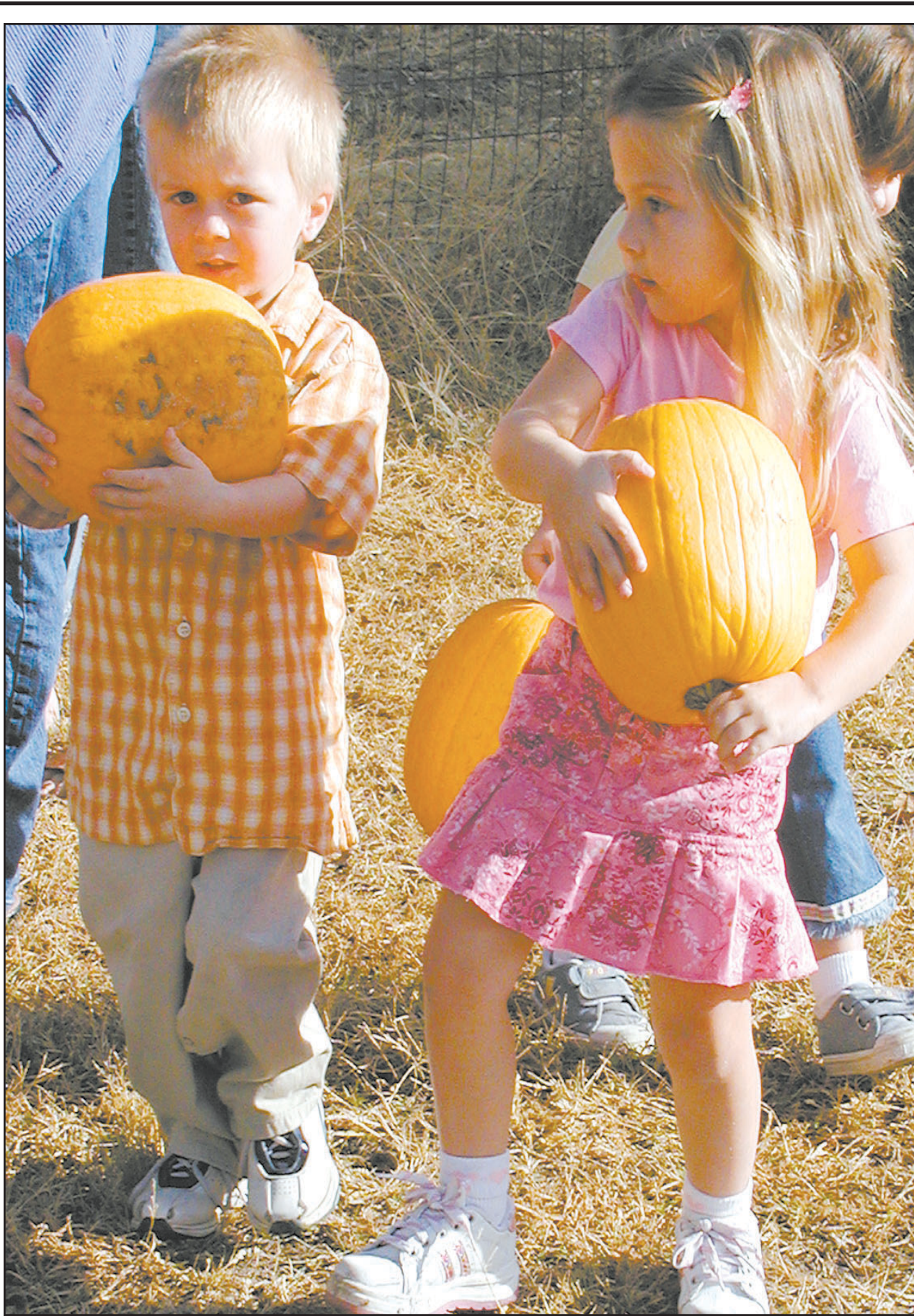


FALL MEANS HALLOWEEN AND HALLOWEEN MEANS PUMPKINS! Each year, Jim and Shirley Laffond open their garden gate to the ABC Preschool children and each child picks out their pumpkin to take home. Pictured above is Cassidy Busse and Jesse Baxter. Right, Tyson Poling and Audrey Meyer have some big pumpkins to carve for Halloween.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



Commissioners sign instructor's contract

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners had two different discussions about the emergency medical technicians class and instructor at the Friday meeting. In the end and after a great deal of talking, the commissioners agreed to pay the instructor \$15,000 to teach the emergency medical technician class but she will not be paid until the class

is completed.

Deb Patton, St. Francis, reported that she was not at the meeting to attack anybody but was concerned about the instructor, Beth Gabel's contract which stated that she wanted \$15,000 to teach the class plus another payment from Colby Community College.

Mrs. Patton pointed out that, in other

county government departments, bids are needed if whatever the department head wants is over \$500. She also said that Mrs. Gabel said the contract money also pays for the special class speakers. Mrs. Patton thought it would be better if those speakers were paid for through the county so there would be a better paper trail.

She said that, as the population decreases,

taxes will also be less.

"We need to be more cognizant with our tax money," she said.

A number of supporters for Mrs. Gabel and her husband Larry, who is also the emergency medical service director, were present when it came time to address the teaching contract. They were: Steve Jenkins, Connie Jenkins, Bonnie Cram,

Janelle Bowers, Steve Nolan, Mike Hansen and Mark Mills.

Mr. Gabel reported that there had been seven individuals wanting to take the emergency medical technician class which would start the following day. Mrs. Bowers, ambulance department bookkeeper reported there were now 10 students and one

See SIGN on Page 9A



CAROL FORSYTHE works on the volunteer schedule. They will be running the store three days a week *Staff photos by Karen Krien*

Thrift store moves to Main Street

By Karen Krien

Another empty St. Francis Main Street store will be open for business beginning Thursday. The name is "United Methodist Thrift Store."

The Methodist Church has purchased the old Town and Country building at 104 W. Washington and the members have moved the thrift store items into the new location.

Store days and hours are: 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

The United Methodist Women have run a thrift store from the second story room in the Educational Building for 33 years. It furnished used clothing and shoes along with a few other items to many but charging little money. However, there were stairs to climb which made it difficult for those bringing used



THRIFT SHOP fills the old Town and Country building. **Mayetta McCall** sorts clothing to begin hanging. **Kelli Schultz Gartland** is responsible for the color on this page.

items to the store and also to those customers who were unable to climb the stairs.

It was also inconvenient to those women working in the store as there was little room to display the items and then, it was necessary to pack up

items and put them away each week, then the next week, get them all out again.

At the new location, there is ample room to hang, fold, stack and display. Many of the counters and **See MOVES on Page 9A**

Less students means less money; general fund fixed

By Karen Krien

Superintendent Carl Werner reported that the official enrollment as of Sept. 20 was 323 students — down 11 students from last year's enrollment. Unless something happens, the enrollment will continue to go down.

Mr. Werner pointed out that the senior and junior classes have 33 and 34 students, respectively. The kindergarten class has 19 students. In the grade school, the average students per class is 20; in the junior-senior high school, the average is 29 students.

Board members then looked at the Kansas State High School Activities Association classifications and enrollments. The figures are only for grades 10, 11 and 12. St. Francis, with 89 students, is included in the 2A classification. Others in 2A and the number of students are: Atwood-Rawlins County, 98 students; Hoxie, 109; Oakley, 125; and Quinter, 89. The range of student numbers in 2A is 129 to 86 students. The board was aware that St. Francis is near the bottom of the 2A range and, unless the other schools also

See FIXED on Page 9A

Lady Indians start Sub-State games

By Betty Jean Winston

Hoxie will be the site of one of the eight 2A Sub-State Volleyball Tournaments to be held on Saturday. There are 64 schools with a 2A classification and each of the eight sites will host eight teams.

Squads from Atwood/Rawlins County (13-12), Hill City (16-12), Leoti/Wichita County (15-18), Oakley (19-11), Quinter (7-19), St.

Francis (7-20) and WaKeeney/Trego Community (13-15) will be competing in Hoxie, along with Hoxie (21-8). Team records are in parenthesis.

"The tournament will be a good one as many good teams are in it," St. Francis coach, Kent Kechter, said. "The girls are peaking at the right time of the season."

See GAMES on Page 9A

SIGNS

Continued from Page 1A
high school student signed up for the class.

Jane Brubaker, commissioner, stated that the county did not have the funds to pay the requested fee for teaching the class and offered Mrs. Gabel \$2,000 to come out of the 2005 budget and \$2000 to come out of next year's budget. Mrs. Gabel would also get the fee paid by Colby Community College and if Mr. Gabel could secure a grant for \$800 per student, she would make at least \$14,000.

"We just can't afford to pay \$15,000 for a class — it wasn't in the budget," Mrs. Brubaker said.

Mrs. Gabel said the director had added \$12,000 for training in the 2006 budget but, when the commissioners had approved it, the training money had been cut. Nobody seemed to know why the training money had been cut but the commissioners noted that they were trying to keep a tight budget to keep from raising taxes too much.

Mr. Gabel said that there needed to be some communication between department heads so they know if they are getting the requested funding and, if not, why.

Mr. Gabel had earlier said in a newspaper article that the ambulance brought in more money than was spent. Mrs. Brubaker said that, as of Oct. 4, the ambulance had brought in around \$96,200 and spent around \$94,700, just \$2,000 above. However, later in the day, Mr. Gabel reported that there had been an error in the addition and the ambulance service had brought in \$12,000 instead of \$2,000.

The Gabels pointed out that money spent from the ambulance fund and then refunded doesn't show up in the ambulance fund. For instance, the tuition for the tech students is paid to Colby Community College. The college, in turn, pays for the room used for training and the costs are the same. But, when the college pays for the room usage, that money goes into the general fund instead of the ambulance fund.

"We have always been self sufficient and brought the funds in, but the money has been utilized within the county," Mr. Gabel said. "I understand that what you are looking at is black and white but the service has always been our goal and we do not take out of taxpayer's money." "We don't want to put a burden on you by not having any help," said Ray Lee, commissioner.

They talked about what the instructor coordinators received in other counties. Earlier, Mrs. Brubaker had done a survey and found that most instructors were paid \$4,000. One of the classes which Pat Pomeroy taught for \$3,000 was just a basic class (a 2- to 3-month class) — not the emergency medical technician class which Mrs. Gabel was teaching.

Mr. Gabel said Steve Everett, Goodland, who is also an instructor coordinator, said that Mrs. Gabel was "right in the money" and not charging too much.

"Why is this county contesting this kind of stuff all the time?" Mr. Jenkins asked.

"We don't have problems with other departments — we talk, but Larry disregards policy," Mrs. Brubaker said, referring to the \$10 meal limit for any county employee. Mr. Jenkins went on to accuse Mrs. Brubaker of having a personal vendetta against Mr. Gabel.

Mrs. Brubaker said that she and Mr. Gabel did not always agree but she also said that the county did not have the money to pay \$15,000 for a class.

"If you want service, you have to put it back — these people have worked for the same salary every year," Mrs. Jenkins said. "You have

to invest in education and why are you not setting aside money for education."

The commissioners said that if everyone is getting \$15,000, we will pay it but they had to raise the whole Cheyenne County budget \$100,000 this year.

Mrs. Cram spoke up saying that \$15,000 is not one penny too much to pay! She said that the Gabels had saved her husband's life twice.

"Larry and Beth are so well trained and the quality of service they give — they have given, given, given," Mrs. Cram said. "I thank them both for the extremely creditable skills they have and for what they have given. This is hard work!"

"If we wait another year, those people (prospective students) will sign off," Mrs. Bowers said. "We have 11 people who are wanting to do it now."

"It is time to get some EMTs coming in now. Isn't there a way to do this now and pay for it now?"

"I'm not sure we are going to have a (EMS) service."

"Do you think all 15 are going to quit tomorrow," Mrs. Brubaker said. "I guess that is going to have to be their own personal decision."

"We can't pull money out of the sky."

"And you can't pull an ambulance service out of the sky," said Mrs. Bowers.

"I think this is too much money to pay to teach a class," Mrs. Brubaker said. "This is all we can offer. It will be up to Beth if she wants to teach the class for this."

Mrs. Brubaker offered a counter proposal to wait until December and see where the budget is and encumber funds. Mr. Gabel will try to get the grant.

Mr. Gabel said that he didn't think Mrs. Gabel would teach the class for \$4,000.

"You have heard statements from other people and you know how they feel," Mr. Gabel said.

"I would be giving up a lot if I teach the class and my time is also worth something," Mrs. Gabel said.

"OK guys, what are we going to do — go on the faith that we get the grant money," Mrs. Brubaker asked the other commissioners.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said he didn't want to lose the interested students. Commissioner Lee felt that the other technicians needed people to help them.

"So you are willing to sign a contract to keep the class at \$15,000 and she (Mrs. Gabel) still will keep the Colby Community College money?" Mrs. Brubaker asked.

"Beth will not charge anything for the class until of the end of the class....If the grant money comes in, we could pay her sooner."

"My position is to see that people pass the class, hold the money until the class is completed and the students pass," Mrs. Gabel said.

"If Beth will work with us in getting it (class) paid — the budget is not looking real good, we need to apply for the grant and hopefully, that will help us out," Mrs. Brubaker said.

Commissioners had spent almost two hours discussing what to do about the emergency medical technician instructor's salary. Mrs. Gabel signed the agreement as did the commissioners.

Mr. Nolan, who is also an emergency medical technician told the commissioners that Cheyenne County has one of the better emergency medical services in northwest Kansas along with one of the better training services due to the Gabels.

"Our ambulances are some of the best equipped ambulances," he said.

He added that he has been in other ambulances which are "like a scoop and run operation," in other words, they not are equipped anywhere as well as those in the Cheyenne County.

"EMTs appreciate the equipment the county has given us to work with," he said.

FIXED

Continued from Page 1A
continue to have less students, it won't be long until the school might be considered 1A.

"We have always been about in the middle but now, we are almost at the bottom (of 2A)," Mr. Werner said.

Bird City/Cheylin is listed as a 1A school with 40 students. League school, Oberlin-Decatur Community, is 3A with 142 students. Other league schools, Colby and Goodland are in the 4A list with Colby having 249 students and Goodland, 228 students.

The district football assignments are set up for two years and are based on the number of students in grades 9, 10 and 11. Next year, St. Francis will play in District 14 with Atwood-Rawlins County, Leoti-

Wichita County and Syracuse — the same schools as the football team plays this year.

The other 2A northwest Kansas schools will be playing in District 13. This includes Hoxie, Oakley, Quinter and WaKeeney-Trego Community.

Even if he St. Francis enrollment causes the school to go to 1A, the football team will still be playing these teams in 2006 and 2007.

Budget is cut

With less students, Mr. Werner said it would be necessary to make cuts from the General Fund. The budget was based on 375 students and the General Fund was at \$2,789,612. The General Fund was cut to \$2,435,845. He said there will be two other adjustments to make before the fiscal year has ended.

GAMES

Continued from Page 1A
"I think we will play well in the tournament. It should be a very competitive tournament with several teams having a chance to win a trip to the state tournament."

The Lady Indians (number 8 seed) from St. Francis will be playing Hoxie (number 1 seed) in the opening game at 1 p.m. Next on the schedule is Rawlins County vs Trego Community, then Oakley vs Quinter and Hill City vs Wichita County. The winner of the St. Francis/Hoxie match will be playing the winner of the Rawlins County/Trego Commu-

nity match in the semi-finals.

This is a single elimination tournament so only the winners advance. Semi-finals are slated for 5 and 6 p.m. and the championship game for 7 p.m.

Other 2A Substates will take place at Frankfort, Howard/West Elk, Meade, Moundridge, Onaga, Pleasanton and Stockton.

Only the winner from each of these locations will qualify for the State Tournament to be held Saturday, Oct. 29.

"We are working to improve in hopes we can 'make some noise,'" Coach Kechter said.



MOVERS OF ALL AGES gathered Sunday to move the thrift store from the Methodist Educational Building to its new location on St. Francis' Main Street. *Photo courtesy of Rev. Morita Truman*

MOVES

Continued from Page 1A

display racks were left in the store and are being put back into use.

The store will sell clothing for all ages, Saintry and other sports team clothing, shoes, baby to older children clothing, maternity clothing, prom dresses and miscellaneous household goods.

Another service will be the paperback book exchange where books can be traded or purchased for a low price.

Located on Main Street will make it more accessible to all people, whether they are bringing in clothes or shopping.

"We are all excited to be able to spread out all of the clothes and it is easier for customers," said Betty Loudon, one of the volunteers working in the store. "It will be fun to be on Main Street."

There were 27 people of all ages helping move the items from the Educational Building to the Main Street store. Sherry Schultz, United Methodist Women president, and the thrift shop gals have been instrumental in getting a lot of the work done but the women recognize that the work would have been much more difficult if Harvey Forsythe, Ron Loudon and Roger Jensen hadn't stepped up to help.

"This has been a total church effort, especially now that the shop is downtown," said Rev. Morita Truman.



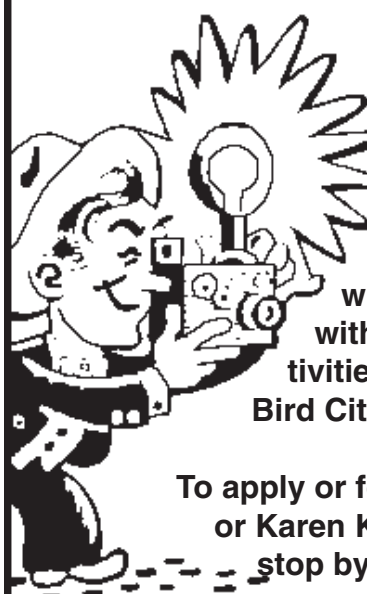
DIRECTING THE MOVE — Betty Loudon was busy telling where different items were to be placed as they were brought into the new store. *Photo courtesy of Rev. Morita Truman*

Those having donations of items are urged to bring them down while the store is open. The clothing should be in good shape, clean and pressed. The store also sells linens such as bedding, spreads and towels; and household goods. There are stuffed animals and lots of items for young children and infants.

For more information, either come to the store or call 785-332-2953.

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