

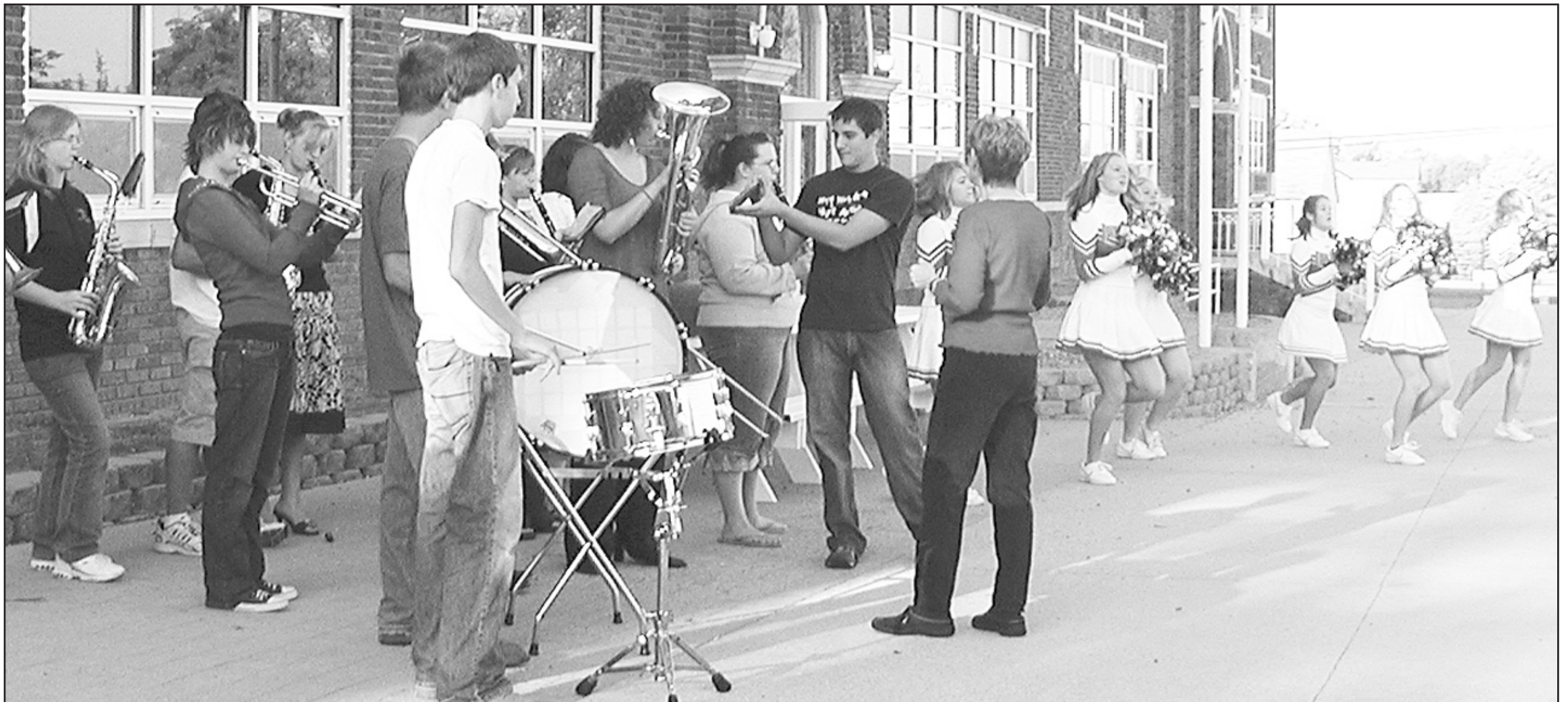
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CHEERS, MUSIC AND READING started Thursday morning at the grade school. Students listened to Principal Carmichael as he read 'Ferdinand The Bull' as part of a national reading

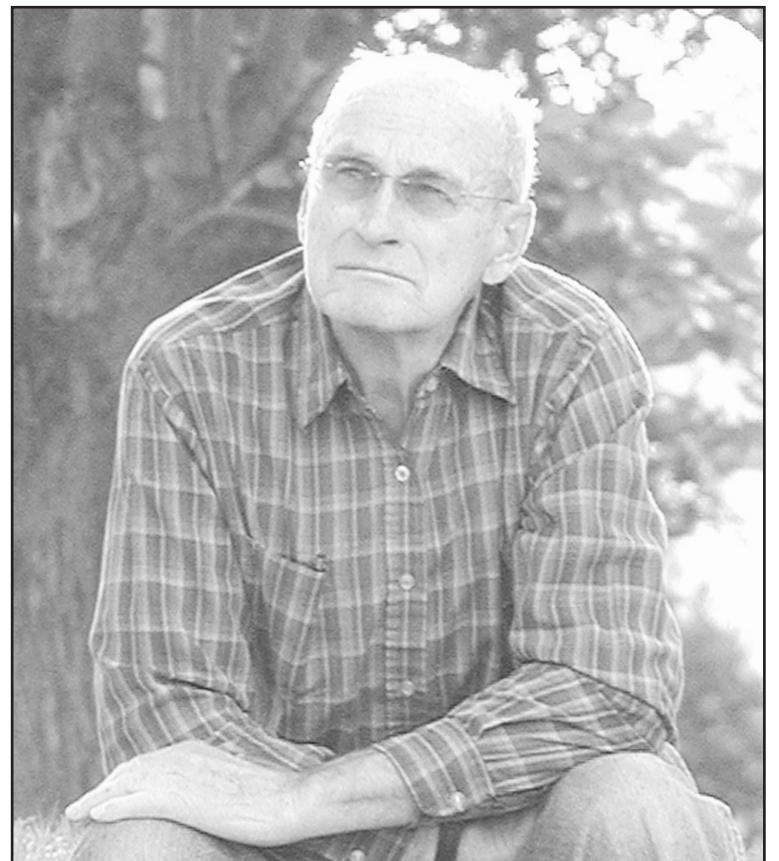


PRINCIPAL SCOTT CARMICHAEL climbed to roof of the grade school to read a book to students as part of a national reading program.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



LISTENING to the story were Makayla Rogers, left, and Jenna Confer.



LISTENING to his son was Bill Carmichael who lives across the street from the grade school.

Students listen with millions

*By Karen Krien
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St. Francis students were part of "Jumpstart for Reading," a national campaign, Thursday morning. Students throughout the country heard "Ferdinand the Bull," a story that all children enjoy and can relate to.

Scott Carmichael, principal, read from the roof of the grade school with students — grade school, junior high and high school — sitting on the playground listening.

The national campaign is to help

connect adults and children in a powerful learning relationships that every child needs before entering kindergarten. This year, the St. Francis students were among over 1 million students hearing the book.

"The program is designed to work toward the day when every child in America enters school and is prepared to succeed," said Ward Cassidy, At-Risk Reading coordinator for the St. Francis schools.

When the students went back to their classrooms, they were asked

questions about the story.

Mr. Cassidy took the position as coordinator this year. Having authored several books himself, he realizes how important reading is. He said he enjoyed being able to organize the fun project with Mr. Carmichael on the roof reading to students.

"It is great to be a part of a national reading campaign," he added.

This program is sponsored by the Pearson Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes reading in grade schools.

This year, the grade school teachers are putting an added emphasis on reading, especially in grades kindergarten through third. The teachers have attended two workshops focusing on improved teaching skills, there are 18 high school students who have volunteered to work with the students in the accelerated reading program.

Adults are also needed to help students in the reading program. Those wanting to volunteer, can call Mr. Cassidy at 332-8154.

Family donates to Fund

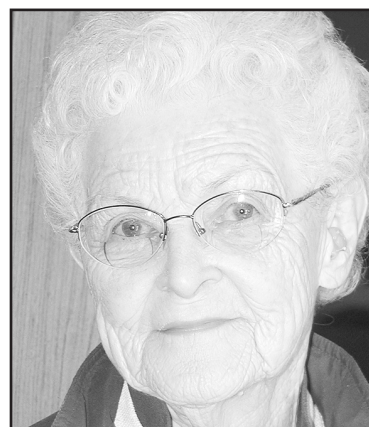
Keller Ranch, St. Francis, has made a donation to the St. Francis Community Foundation.

The St. Francis New Generation Fund was organized more than 20 years ago and recently, the Community Foundation was added to the original New Generation Fund. The two funds provide a method for people to donate money or assets in a manner that will help St. Francis now and in the future.

"The Foundation's board recognizes the generosity of the Keller Ranch gift and will use the funds to benefit St. Francis," said Tom Keller, family member and on the Fund's board members.

Rachael Keller has always been community minded, as was her late husband Ed," said Mr. Keller. "They have contributed to the community in many ways."

Mrs. Keller and the remaining family members of the family farm



Rachael Keller

corporation, Keller Ranch, Inc., felt it was appropriate to donate all the proceeds from the sale of some real estate as a tax deductible gift to the Foundation.

"The family hopes we can make other contributions to the Foundation in a planned wealth transfer to benefit St. Francis in the future," Mr. Keller said.

The St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation board includes: Mike Day, Carla Lampe, Erika Zimbelman, Carl Werner, Mr. Keller, Dara Carmichael and Mr. Grace.

Anyone wanting to donate or to get more information about the Foundation should contact any of these members.

Sainty residents' input needed on budget billing

*By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis City Council discussed "budget billing" at their Sept. 18 meeting. However, before they make a decision, they would like input from St. Francis residents.

Budget billing will allow participating residents to pay their city electric, water and trash bill at the same amount throughout the year. Their past yearly bills will be averaged and 10 percent will added for the increase in rates.

In the fall of 2008, the budget amount would be adjusted to reflect the actual amount used by the customer and a new budget amount set for the next year.

The object of budget billing is to help residents. During the summer months when the bills climb because of the cost to run

air conditioning and water their lawns, those participating in the budget billing will still be paying the same amount as they do the rest of the year.

As the council discussed the matter, they said there would need to be some restrictions such as:

1) The resident had never been delinquent within the last year; and 2) the resident must have lived at the same residence for a year.

Carla Lampe, council member, also suggested that the budget billing be on automatic debit (paid directly through the resident's bank account).

People who would be interested in budget billing are asked to contact the city office, 332-3142.

Mary Lampe, city clerk, said that if there is not enough interest, the council will probably not pursue the matter.

New program makes church fun for kids

*By Karen Krien
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Imagine what it would be like if Disney or Nickelodeon took over Sunday School.

"Now you have a good idea of what happens at KidStuf," said David Butler, pastor of the St. Francis Community Church. KidStuf is a 45-minute weekly program that uses music, drama and storytelling to entertain and inspire the kids.

In addition to the weekly program, the volunteers give a huge "Kidstuf production" on the last Sunday of every month. The production includes upbeat music, first-class dramas and a virtue-driven message reinforcing what the kids have been learning all month long. KidStuf starts at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday.

Pastor Butler said there are great adult church services out there, but they're not great for kids.

"They teach them to check out or draw in a bulletin or piece of paper," he said.

"The whole emphasis of Kidstuf, for us, is to be a place where kids bring their parents to learn in an environment conducive for them.

"KidStuf is where kids take their parents to learn."

The first KidStuf meeting has been set for 9:15 a.m. every Sunday at the St. Francis Community Church, 204 N. Quincy.

For more information, call 332-3150 or 332-4345.

Schedule

• The "Virtue" for October is Respect. October Sunday School schedule is as follows:

Oct. 7- "Who's the Boss?" (Showing respect for authority) - Romans 13:1-7.

Oct. 14- "Tax Day" (Paying taxes to Caesar)- Luke 20:19-26.

Oct. 21- "Good for Bad" (Da

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