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PTA FALL CARNIVAL was well attended and everyone, including those working the games, appeared to be having lots of fun. St. Francis Lions members, Francis O'Leary, left, and Norman Morrow, were helping children as they played a simulated drag racing game. The Lions had borrowed the game from the Atwood Lions. At the wheel are Kobe Tice, left, and Brady Dinkel.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

School moves to 2A

Last year, the St. Francis schools went from being a Class 2A school to a 1A school. However, the Sainty Indians are back in the 2A class.

The Kansas High School Activities Association recently released the classifications for activities for this school year. Football is on a 2-year schedule so the new classification will not affect this year's play.

The volleyball schedule will change slightly and the school will go back to 2A play. There will be no volleyball regional tournament. Instead they will compete in the 2A substate on Oct. 25 in Atwood/Rawlins County.

While St. Francis has gone back up to 2A, the Sainty school is on the bottom in numbers, having 81 students in the top three grades.

The classifications are determined by the number of students in 10, 11 and 12 grades with 6A having 32 schools; 5A - 32 schools; 4A - 64 schools; 3A - 63 schools; 2A - 64 schools; and 1A-101 schools.

Some of the other schools in the Class 2A division include: Atwood-Rawlins County, 91 students; Oakley, 104 students; Oberlin-Decatur Community, 95 students; Smith Center, 116 students; Leota-Wichita County, 90; and Johnson-Stanton County, 88.

Some of the schools in Class 3A are: Goodland, 182 students; Norton, 172 students, and Phillipsburg, 166 students. In Class 1A, some of the schools are: Quinter, 68 student; Sharon Springs-Wallace County, 60 students; Hoxie, 65 students; Clafin, 74 students; Bird City-Cheylin, 32, and Brewster, 33 student.

Colby is the only school in Northwest Kansas League ranked 4A.

Farmers may have option to sell water rights

By Andy Heintz

ahointz@nwkansas.com

Some northwest Kansas farmers may be able to sell water rights to the state under a program designed to stretch out the area's water supply and ensure that Kansas send enough water downstream to Nebraska.

Landowners who are willing to retire their water rights may be

able to sell them to the state Conservation Commission at a fixed rate price of \$2,000 per acre foot under the Water Rights Retirement Program, known as WTAP or "Water-TAP."

"People will not want to give up their water rights without an incentive," Steve Frost, state water conservation manager, said.

The commission began accept-

ing applications Oct. 1. The state is offering to buy rights in the Prairie Dog Creek basin, which stretches from Sherman County through Thomas and Decatur into Norton County.

The state also is targeting rights six "high-priority" units in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District.

"It's a pilot program designed to

establish a water-based incentive program that will help balance supply with demand," Frost said.

The state hopes to help restore aquifers and stream flows in areas that have seen reduced stream flow and water supply in recent years. A third area the commission is concentrating on is the Rattle Snake Creek Basin, which runs from near Bucklin to Sterling.

The Prairie Dog Basin was chosen because its stream flow affects Kansas efforts to comply with the Republican River Compact with Nebraska.

The commission has designated six areas of the High Plains Aquifer in Thomas, Cheyenne, Sherman, and Sheridan counties for the program, two in Thomas County.

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Exterminators rid school of bats

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

Halloween is coming but the school board and administration, along with the staff, hope the bats are gone from the schools long before then.

At the Thursday St. Francis Board of Education meeting, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said he thought the bats had been conquered a month ago when "Get Bats Out," a bat removal company, had been hired. The workers had sealed up the buildings, allowing a way for the bats to get out but not come back in.

However, Lucinda Straub, maintenance supervisor at the grade school, was bit for a second time when she brushed against a curtain in a bathroom. She was just finishing up a series of rabies shots. Dr. Mary Beth Miller, board member, said she had made several phone calls and said Mrs. Straub will not have to

go through the series again.

The bat removal company had returned, extracted several bats from the schools, and sealed up the buildings. There was a small area where the netting had come lose and that may have been where the bats had come back in.

The company also removed bat guano, sterilized and deodorized selected attic areas of the elementary building.

In conjunction with the cleanup, Mr. Schiltz contacted Meriam Thompson with the Kansas Department of Labor. Ms. Thompson came to St. Francis on Sept. 30 and took air-quality samples from the elementary building, checking for the possibility of mold.

The morning following the board meeting, Ms. Thompson called Mr. Schiltz and reported that there was no evidence of a mold problem in the building. She said she will be mailing official results to keep on file.



PRESCHOOL CHILDREN toured the old and new fire chief; and Dan Blair, fireman. The new emergency building is nearing completions.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Emergency building still needing work

The St. Francis Emergency Building is coming closer to being completed. There are numerous ends to tie up which appear to be taking a little longer than planned.

The emergency building was funded with a KanStep grant of \$390,000 in April 2006. The majority of the labor was volunteer and people spent countless hours volunteering their time.

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief and one of the volunteers, said there were people running for materials, fixing and serving meals and a lot of behind-the-scenes work, to say nothing about those who were putting up walls and running cement.

"Many of us not only lost from our own work but, also our personal time," Mr. Harper said.

In the last few months, there are a few workers showing up and "we are getting there," Mr. Harper said.

The native rock is up, most of the electrical work is done, the water fill for the fire trucks is up and much more has been finished. However, there are

several things yet to be done.

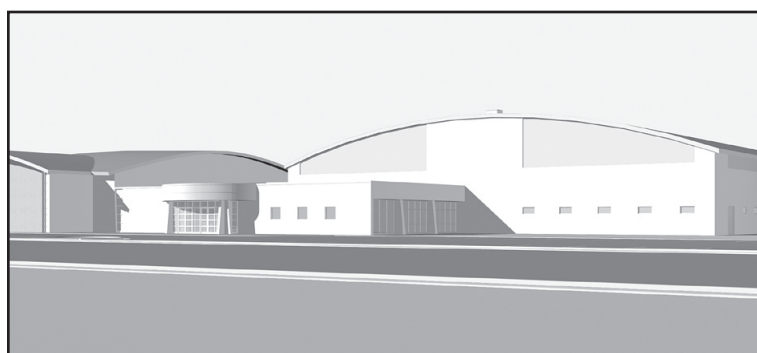
Mr. Harper said the cement floors need looked at and possibly sealed; the overhead doors need some work, there are a few external lights to be put up and the rain gutter has a problem.

The big boiler is in the building and a pan with a hose leading outside has been made for underneath it so, if there is a leak, it will not flood the building. The boiler still needs to be installed and the heating and air conditioning finished.

"These are just a few of the things to be done yet and many of them will have to be done before we can start utilizing the building," Mr. Harper said.

"This is a big asset to not only the city of St. Francis and Cheyenne County, but also to the people of this great county!" he concluded.

If the weather holds up and all of the projects are completed, the firemen, emergency medical technicians and emergency manager plan to have their equipment moved in by the first of the year.



Proposed new Sainty high school gym

Forum held tonight

The general election will not only determine who is going to be the next president of the United States but will also let the people of St. Francis school district vote on levying a bond for a new gym on the St. Francis high school.

There has been a great deal of literature distributed about the gym with plans and pictures. There have been letters to the

editor, pro and con, about the new gym as well the coffee/pool hall discussions.

It is less than three weeks until the election and, to help voters become more informed about the proposed gym, a public forum will be held at 7:30 on Thursday (tonight) in the auditorium at the high school. Everyone is urged to come.



MCKENNA POLING said the fireman's hat was too big. Chief George Harper shows how they fit.