

School starts with 280 kids

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

The school bell rang and doors to the St. Francis schools were open to students on Tuesday, a little later than some of the schools in the area. And, as of Tuesday, there were 280 students in the St. Francis schools. There are seven (maybe eight) less students than last year but, Scott Carmichael, principal, said there could be some changes before the official enrollment on Sept. 20.

Lori Beth Rieger, new kindergarten teacher, had 17 students attending the first day of school. This is the fourth year for all-day kindergarten. The change to all-day kindergarten helps cutting expenses since there is not the need for a noon bus and driver.

First graders are taught by Megan Kinen, a new teacher in the grade school. Shirley Swihart, who moved from kindergarten to second grade, is looking forward to her class of 19 students.

Jennifer Krien, part-time teacher, will be teaching first and second grade math and helping Cindy Wiley in her third grade classroom.

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades are departmentalized. Each of the three teachers have strengths in certain areas and Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said it worked out extremely well.

Mrs. McAtee, fourth grade instructor, will be teaching reading to the students in the top three grades. New teacher, Seth Swihart, fifth, will be teaching

science; and Julie Wolters, sixth grade, will be teaching math.

This is the sixth year Susan Dinkel, who has taught business in the junior-senior high school, is spending the mornings at the grade school teaching computer classes to the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders. She is still teaching business in the junior-senior high school.

Mr. Schiltz said the goal is to have all students know computer basics including power point by the time they leave the sixth grade. When they enter high school, they will be able to implement other more complicated computer uses.

Fall sports

With all the academics worked out for the time being, the students and staff are looking forward to the fall sports season. An open house will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, giving fans a chance to see the teams in action.

The Lady Indians' first volleyball meet is set for Tuesday in St. Francis. The Saintry football team will play Holyoke on Friday, Aug. 31. The starting time for this game played in Colorado will be 8 p.m.

Homecoming week

Homecoming week will start on Monday, Sept. 17, with the seniors painting the streets. The Homecoming queen and king will be crowned at a special assembly Friday afternoon, Sept. 21.

Students, coaches and staff appreciate community support and look forward to seeing lots of people in the bleachers.



KINDERGARTEN REQUIRES a lot of thought — Asher Robbins was trying to do everything he was supposed to on the first day of kindergarten. New teacher, Lori Beth Rieger, reported 17 kindergartners. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Senator speaks to about 40 people

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

United States Senator, Pat Roberts, was in Cheyenne County on Friday for his 105 county listening tour. Around 40 people gathered at Cuppa Joe Espresso in St. Francis to hear what he had to say and ask questions.

He talked about the Livestock Disaster Assistance Bill, noting that Mother Nature has not been nice this year. He said the bill had not passed in the Senate but hoped that it would when the Senate went back in session. The reason it had not passed earlier, he said, was because of speciality crops which had not been included. We need to get this passed so the Farm Service Agency can help livestock producers.

He joked about doing a rain dance but it hadn't helped. Everything, he said, is dry as a bone.

He went on to say that an Ag Bill had passed in only a couple of days and it included some good crop insurance. The senator is chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

Terrorist threats, today, are still present in the United States as well as the world. We cannot lead by following, he said.

Turning the talk to the national debt, Senator Roberts said that the United States is \$16 trillion in debt. This is a mountain of debt and there is no plan for it in the budget.

The election, he said, is very crucial. So much is at stake for this country. The America we know today, he said, will not be there for our grandchildren and future generations.

Raedell Winston asked about executive privileges — the president can do whatever he wants?

This is not supposed to happen, Senator Roberts said. However, the president takes executive authority, adding that he didn't know why the president needed 31 czars and, he said, you pay for them and they all have parking places. He also mentioned that there are 200,000 more people in Washington than ever before. They all have an agenda, he said, and most



SENATOR PAT ROBERTS met at Cuppa Joe Espresso, St. Francis, on Friday where he expressed his concerns about the state of the government. *Herald staff photo by Tim Burr*

of them haven't been west of the Mississippi River. They don't know what goes on in Kansas.

Why, asked Neil McCumber, can't something be done about this?

"It is up to the people in the next

election," he said. "It is hard to do things when we are the minority."

A.J. Jones asked about the threat of bio-terrorism.

The threat, Senator Roberts said, is real and could affect agriculture and our food supply. He talked about the testing lab for bio terrorism which is to be located in Manhattan. Mr. Jones was concerned about disease, specifically hoof and mouth disease, were to be released out of the lab.

Chances of this happening, the senator said, are remote. While we cannot guarantee this will not happen, there are plans in place. It will be the safest lab, he said.

Phyllis Roelfs asked about Medicare being cut back?

Medicare as we know it, the senator said, is going to end. The reimbursement to hospitals and doctors doesn't pay. The president cut \$761 billion out of Medicare for Obama Care. There are 83 critical access care hospitals in Kansas who will suffer.

"There is no reasonable explanation about what is going on," Senator Roberts said.

"We've just began the fight."

He urged everyone to get out and vote on Nov. 6.

Representative missed the day but won the election

Rep. Ward Cassidy missed election day in Kansas last week — but not his re-election.

Mr. Cassidy retained his seat representing the 120th District in the Kansas House in a close race with Rep. Rick Billinger, a Goodland Republican. He and Mr. Cassidy, of St. Francis, were thrown together in the Republican primary with federal judges drew new district lines for the state with little regard for existing boundaries or incumbents.

Mr. Cassidy, it seems, had booked a Caribbean cruise for his entire family, including the couple's two daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. Or his wife had. The couple celebrated their 43rd anniversary and her retirement from teaching.

"She planned this back when I didn't have an opponent," he said. "I told her I couldn't go ... and she said, 'Yes, you can.'"

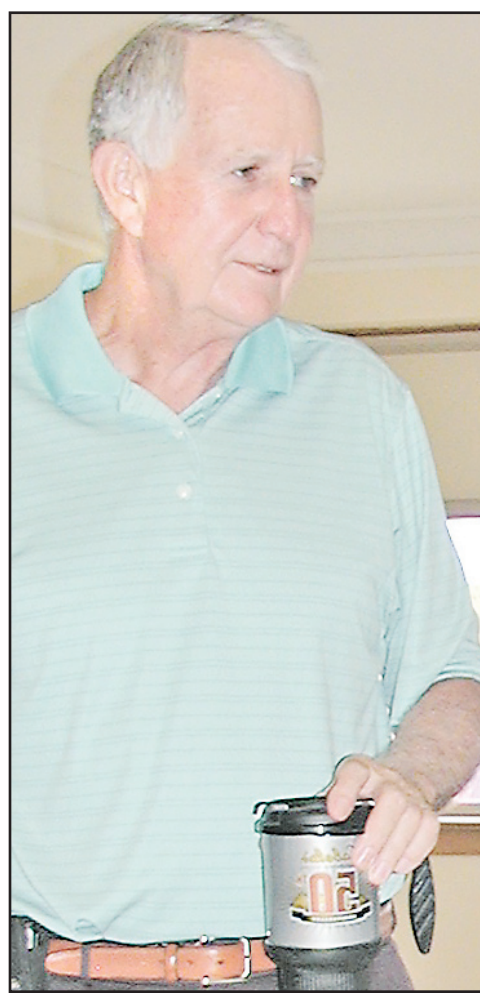
He said they were out of cell phone range, but had Internet access, so he followed the returns on the Web.

"I lost, I won," he said of the see-saw race. "It was pretty exciting. There were some pretty crazy elections."

He said he hated being placed in the same district with a colleague and friend but was glad he'd won.

"It was a good race," he said. "He's a good guy. The only thing better would be if we'd both be going back."

Mr. Cassidy said he hopes



Rep. Ward Cassidy

to improve his position in the House committee structure, but that depends on who is elected speaker in January. With many new members, that's still a toss-up.

His new district includes Cheyenne, Rawlins and Decatur counties from his "old" 120th and Sherman and most of Thomas as from Mr. Billinger's 121st, plus Wallace. The representative carried "his" counties heavily, while Mr. Billinger ran up a big majority in Sherman and a smaller one in Thomas. Mr. Cassidy carried Wallace.



ATTENDING THE MEETING with Senator Roberts were (l to r) Bonnie Jones, Carol Redding, Bruce Swihart, Betty Loudon and Ron Loudon. *Herald staff photo by Tim Burr*