

# Resignation accepted; staff plans reviewed

By Karen Krien

A resignation was accepted and some of the plans for the next school year were discussed when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 6.

Teri Richard had a letter of resignation as the cheer sponsor effective at the end of May. Bonnie Zwegardt, board member, said that Mrs. Richard should be thanked for all the time she had spent in the position.

Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent, said that the administration had talked to the teachers in fourth, fifth and sixth about departmentalizing or specializing in a subject. For instance, one teacher would teach math to the three classes while another would teach English and another, science. The classroom teacher would take care of rest of the subjects.

They are also considering having Susan Dinkel, junior high/high school business instructor, teaching key boarding to grade school children. This would help students learn the correct way of key boarding before they reached junior high.

Mrs. Zwegardt asked if the administration had considered teaching Spanish to classes in the grade school? Carl Werner, superintendent, said classes could be set up by satellite and monitored by a teacher. He also noted that scheduling the classes could be a problem.

Kelly Gienger, board chairman, asked if students could get calculus

classes the same way. Mr. Werner said there could be an internet class for those students wanting to take it.

The board also talked about how sharing the principal in both buildings was working. Mr. Werner said that, in the Meet-And-Confer Committee meeting with the teachers and board, that the teachers had said that it was a matter of adjusting to not having a principal in the building at all times. However, besides phoning, there was also e-mail and instant messaging which could be used for contacting Scott Carmichael.

### New gymnasium

The building of another gymnasium on the south side of the high school was discussed briefly but the architect had not had much time to work on the project. He had talked to Mr. Werner about a different kind of procedure in seeking bids which might ensure keeping within the estimated \$1.5 million which the board has agreed to spend.

Sherry Weeks and Bonnie Zwegardt, board members, reported having heard favorable comments on the projects, urging them to proceed with the plans. They were especially interested in having a walking track around the gym which can be used by anyone in the community.

The gym project will be discussed at the April meeting. In the meantime, if Mr. Werner hears about a school with a gym similar in size and price of the proposed gym, it might be possible for board members to see it.

### School buses

A list of school's buses was reviewed. The administrator said it is time to replace at least two of the buses with high mileage. He would like to replace them with a new 22-passenger Microbird bus and a new Ford Expedition EL.

After the buses are purchased, the old buses will be advertised and sold, probably on e-Bay. The board agreed to have the administration request bids on the buses.

The discussion then turned to the 1995 Indian activity bus. This bus has 91,088 miles but has not been a very good bus. Mr. Werner said the kids and the drivers do not like this

bus. He had talked to Sean Straub, bus garage manager, who suggested the board look into replacing the bus with another older coach-style bus like the present activity bus. A 2000 model would cost approximately \$129,000.

There are no plans to replace the bus until after July 1 when the new fiscal year begins. The administrator will continue to investigate the possibility of getting a different activity bus.

### Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee will soon be meeting. Mr. Werner told the board that the Alice Gillispie Scholarship will allow one \$1,000 academic scholarship and a \$500 scholarship to a senior athlete again this year.

Since the memorial scholarship of \$41,278 was given in Ms. Gillispie's name in 1978, there have been 68 students receiving \$80,900 in scholarships.

Mr. Werner said the Francis Sherlock Scholarship had run out but the family had contacted him, telling that they wish to continue donating a \$100 wrestling scholarship.

### In other business

In other business:  
• The board accepted a \$50 gift from Louanne Isernhagen which she asked be used in the elementary school music department. Teacher Jean Ann Confer will decide how it will be spent.

• Superintendent Carl Werner said the Region 9 Spring Meeting will be held in Brewster on May 1. He urged board members to attend since it was so close.

• A copy of an article concerning 74 certificates for exemplary performance which was submitted to *The Saint Francis Herald* was distributed to the board.

• Mr. Werner, in the absence of Scott Carmichael, principal, said members of the Northwest Kansas League and Mid-Continent League have been talking about scheduling of athletics, especially football but no decisions had been made.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the school board has been set for 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, at the high school.



**SPREAD THE BREAD — Randee Grover gives Steve Jenkins a loaf of bread in appreciation for all the firemen do.**  
*Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*



**Carpenter Hnizdil Keller Loyd Marin Miller Sherlock Smull Zwegardt**

# St. Francis Students earn high rating

Nine St. Francis Community High School junior students were rated "exemplary" in English. On March 7, merely 15 minutes after the last 11th grade English student had finished the Kansas Computerized Assessment in reading, the preliminary results for the three-day test had been tallied at Kansas University's Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation and made available to local officials.

Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent, said the results were most certainly good news and confirmed the hope that this year's junior class would be capable of posting high marks on the much-anticipated Kansas Reading Assessment. Within the overall results are two very important points that deserve mention. Most significant is the fact that 20 of the 21 test takers, or 95 percent, met or exceeded the all-important mark of "Meets Standard." To meet the "Standard," a student must score at least a 68 percent on the reading assessment. This year, according to No Child Left Behind legislation, 73.7 percent of a school's eligible test takers must achieve that mark in order to make "Adequate Yearly Progress." Adequate Yearly Progress is the mark against which a school's effectiveness in teaching the core content areas is measured.

Another achievement that was revealed in the preliminary results points to the level of excellence that individual students attained. Of the 21 students whose scores count for Adequate Yearly Progress, nine achieved the highest "Exemplary" rating by scoring a 90 percent or above. In fact, two students were rated in the highest category with scores of 96 percent. Those juniors rated as exemplary are: Josh Carpenter, Heather Hnizdil, Holly Keller, Dara Loyd, Katlin Marin, Sara Miller, Justin Sherlock, Gavin Smull and Lauren Zwegardt. Numerous others were close to achieving this distinction.

# Education help is available

The Citizens Foundation is again offering two scholarships to the nine-county area. These scholarships are available to all ages. They will help to fund individuals who are beginning or furthering their medical careers. Applications are available on line at [nwkshhealthcare.com](http://nwkshhealthcare.com). Simply go to the career tabs and click on scholarships. Feel free to print and scan this document. Deadline for applications is April 30. The scholarships will be awarded in May. There are no contractual agreements associated with these scholarships.

- \$1,000.00 Dr. Jeff Jennings Memorial Scholarship Application Guidelines:  
The person applying must:  
- Have graduated from a Thomas County High School or, live in Thomas County or, work at Citizens Medical Center, Inc.  
- Looking to pursue a career in a medically related field with preference given to those wanting to return to Thomas County to practice their chosen profession.
- \$1,500.00 Citizens Medical Center Inc. Health Care Scholarship Application Guidelines:  
The person applying must:  
- Plan to attend Colby Community College  
- Live in the nine county area of northwest Kansas including the following counties: Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Wallace, Gove and Logan.  
- Looking to pursue a career in a medically related field with strong preference given to those wanting to return to Thomas County to practice their chosen profession.

# It is Weather Awareness Week

Kansas severe weather awareness week is here. The week of March 12 through 16 has been proclaimed as Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Each week, the National Weather Service teams up with state and local emergency management officials to raise public awareness to the hazards and how to be prepared in case of severe weather. On Tuesday, a tornado drill took place at 1:30 a.m. with a test tornado warning sounded. Cheylin Schools held a drill when the warning sounded. The St. Francis school students were on spring break.

In a typical year, the months of March and April bring an increasing number of severe weather events to the state. People are urged to think about what they will do when severe weather threatens. Last year was another year where the number of tornadoes (92) far exceeded the average of 55. In 2005, a record 135 tornadoes occurred across the state. In addition, numerous severe thunderstorms caused millions of dollars in damage to property and crops by damaging winds, large hail and torrential rainfall. With the 92 tornadoes, there were no deaths and 18 people were injured.

On Aug. 7, a F1 tornado hit Colby, damaging an area by the interstate. On June 16, two F1 tornadoes were reported around Goodland. The National Weather Service reports that Kansans live with the threat of severe weather year round. Families should practice their severe weather safety plan at home, work, school or other public locations.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
March 6	66	28	
March 7	62	32	
March 8	65	35	
March 9	62	33	
March 10	62	38	
March 11	63	35	
March 12	73	36	

- ### Odd Facts
- Only one person in two billion will live to be 116 or older.
  - The mask used by Michael Myers in the original "Halloween" was actually a Captain Kirk mask painted white.
  - If you put a raisin in a glass of champagne, it will keep floating to the top and sinking to the bottom.
  - Snails can sleep for 3 years without eating.
  - The fingerprints of Koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.

**James E. Reeves, DPM**  
Podiatrist/Foot Specialist  
Reconstructive Surgery  
Foot & Ankle Injuries  
For appointments call:  
**Rawlins County Health Center**  
785-626-3211  
**Wed., April 4**  
Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.  
210 W. 1st • 332-2104  
**Thurs., April 5**  
Atwood (a.m.) • 626-3211  
Colby (p.m.)  
CSMC, 175 S. Range  
462-332  
CMC, 100 E. College Dr.  
462-7511  
**Fri., April 6**  
Atwood - All Day

*Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.*  
**John D. Ferris, MD**  
will be at:  
291 15th Street  
Burlington, CO  
**Wed., March 21**  
**Sat., March 24**  
For information or appointment, call  
1-800-593-0009  
 **Hem Cure**

**Good Samaritan Society**  
ST. FRANCIS VILLAGE  
*In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone.*  
**CNA Positions**  
The St. Francis Good Samaritan Village, a Medicare Certified Agency, has career opportunities for Certified Nurse Aides.  
Positions are full-time or part-time  
Benefits are available.  
If interested, call Janet or Rick at (785) 332-2531 for an appointment or application.  
The Good Samaritan Home Village is an equal opportunity employer and provides services to qualified individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability.  
"Equal Employment Opportunity Employer - M/F/Vet/Handicap"  
**CNA TRAINING COURSE**  
Sponsored by Colby Community College, 3:30-7:30 p.m., at the St. Francis Village  
Mondays and Thursdays, 5 College Credits.  
90 Hour Kansas CNA Class will start at the Good Samaritan Village on March 29. Call Michele Rohweder RN, CNA Instructor for more information. Class size is limited.

# Seminar set for March 26

The 10th District of Kansas Farm Bureau along with several other sponsors, will have a speaker for all who are interested in passing the family business to the next generation. Jolene Brown, certified speaking professional, who is also a grain farmer in eastern Iowa, will talk about "The Top Ten Stupid Things Families Do To Break Up Their Business." The seminar, free of charge, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 26, at the Colby High School auditorium, 1890 S. Franklin Avenue. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to attend. For additional information, please contact: Alisa Rath, coordinator Cheyenne County Farm Bureau Association, 785-332-3312.

*Wedding Registry*  
 **Amber Feikert and Dustin Dunn**  
**Shower • March 25**  
They have selected  
Noritake: Patrina Platinum  
Stemware: Palais Black  
*Stuart's Jewelry* Free Wrap & Delivery  
Gift Certificates Available 785-332-2333  
111 E. Washington • St. Francis

*You're Invited to a*  
**Come & Go Bridal Shower for AMBER FEIKERT**  
Sunday, March 25  
2 - 4 p.m.  
St. Francis Public Library  
*Please bring a recipe to share with Amber*

**Ride the Wave to Our Book Fair**  
Thursday, March 22  
6:30-8 p.m.  
St. Francis Grade School  
Everyone's Invited!