

School base salary raised to \$32,000

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Board of Education voted to increase the school staffs' salaries starting in November.

The board had discussed the increase at the last meeting. They looked over how each person's salary would be affected and after a few questions, the board agreed to raise teacher salaries about an average of 2.5 percent. The base salary will raise from \$31,000 to \$32,000.

The rest of the staff will receive about a 5-percent increase.

Those on the school Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance plan will also be getting help with their insurance premiums. The board reviewed the insurance figures again and agreed to pay an additional \$30 per month for a total of \$205 on a single plan; and \$60 per month for a total of \$410 family and other plans.

Superintendent Rob Schiltz had good news as, earlier, the staff had filled out "health profiles" which were submitted to the company. The results came back that the schools' premiums were going to be decreased by about 5.2 percent. Originally, the company had esti-

imated that the school would have an increase of 12.5 percent.

Mr. Schiltz said the company representative said it was very unusual that the rate would go down.

New gym

Adding a second gym to the high school was once again on the board's agenda. Dr. Mary Beth Miller, board member, led the discussion urging the board to consider the building. She said that the gym at the elementary school was unsafe for high school and junior high sports. Players as well as fans also had the inconvenience of walking the block between the schools, especially during the winter sporting events.

She pointed out that it was obvious that the school district would not be able to afford the addition outright as school funds alone are inadequate.

The board and administration discussed a general obligation bond to supplement the money the school does have available. They talked about the community features of the proposed gym which include a walking track and commons area.

Superintendent Schiltz is going to be getting additional information together for the next meeting.

See RAISES on Page 7



FIREMEN DERRICK TICE, top middle, and Dustin Gilliland had out fire-safety packets to Kalin Ritchey, left, and McKayla Taylor. Firemen cleared the school and checked alarms before leaving. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Ride rained out; set for Sunday

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Trail Ride scheduled for Sunday was postponed because of the wind and rain. It has been rescheduled for 2 p.m.

on Sunday, Oct. 21. The ride, which will last about 2.5 hours, has been set on the Kelly and Penny Gienger Farm, 10.2 miles north of St. Francis.

A collection will be taken to give to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Donations will be accepted for the kids who would like to saddle up but can't," said Sharon Olofson, coordinator.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said this will be a ride with more rough terrain than some of the other rides. There will also be one water crossing.

To reach the starting destination from St. Francis, turn north on Benton Street off U.S. 36 and gravel 3 miles (to transformers), around the curve northeast, then north 7.2

miles to Road H (approximately 10 miles. Turn east for 1/2 mile, then turn left and follow the lane to the parking area.

From Benkelman, go 13 miles west of U.S. 34 to Road 15 (Mills Hereford Ranch sign), then south 7.8 miles to Road &, turn east and go 1/2 mile, then turn left and follow the land to the parking area.

From Haigler, go 8 miles east on U.S. 34 to Road 15 (Mills Hereford Ranch sign), then south approximately 7.8 miles to Road Y, turn east and go 1/2 mile then turn left and follow the lane to the parking area. Signs will be posted.

During the ride, the members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will provide refreshments. Afterwards, the 4-H Horse Club will be serving a barbecue with the meat being prepared by Doug Ross.

For more information, contact Mr. Cooper, 785-332-2904; Mrs. Olofson, 785-332-2248 or Gail Yonkey, 785-332-2488; Joe Hoffman, 785-332-2154.

Games, fun, food at PTA's fun night

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis PTA is holding Fall Family Fun Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday at the grade school gym.

This is a night of fun, games, concessions and crafts. There will be instant prizes and drawings throughout the evening.

The games will include gunnysack races, bingo, ring toss and the basketball free throw contest. There

will be lots of cakes to be won during the cake walk.

For those who don't like the contests, there will be a fall crafts table where children can make crafts. Leisha Hilt, Mary Beikman and the art students will be helping students create fun things to take home.

Everyone in the community is welcome to come and enjoy the Fun Night. See advertisement located elsewhere in this issue for additional information.

2007-2008 Hunting guide enclosed in this issue



New doctor now practicing at hospital

By Karen Krien

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With arrival of a new doctor, the Cheyenne County Hospital is now able to offer obstetric services.

Dr. Rebecca Allard began work at the hospital on Aug. 6 and, in only nine weeks, has 10 obstetric cases. Dr. Allard is also a family practice physician and joined Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Patrick Delano, physician assistant. In October, two new physician assistants, Kristle Neuhalfen and Tyler Raile joined the team.

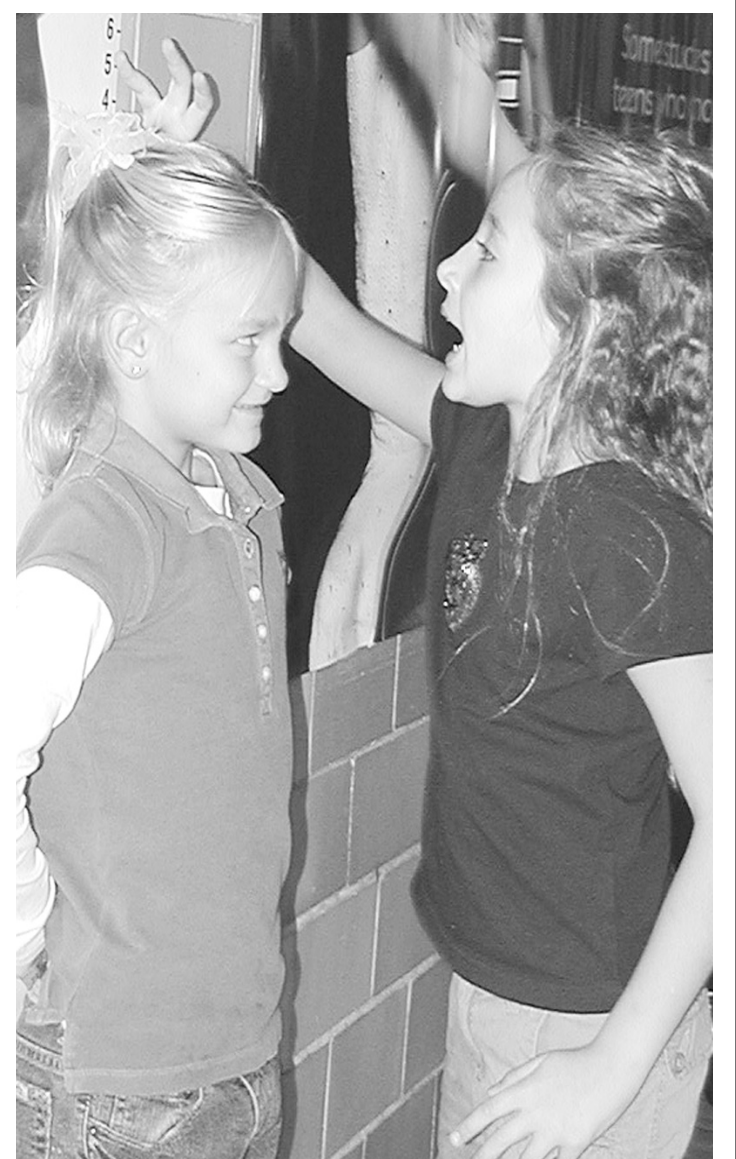
Dr. Allard said she knew that she wanted to go into medicine when she was very young. At the age of 12, she watched her grandfather being treated for cancer and that made her decision.

She was born and raised in Smith Center, graduating from the Smith Center High School. She went on to attend Yale where she earned a bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology.

At the KU Medical School, she applied for and was one of two accepted into the rural track pro-



GOING OVERDATES — Dr. Rebecca Allard, right, and Erika Zimbelman set up the schedules for the coming month. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



YOU'RE THIS TALL — Reagan Beims measures Madison Tice at the 4-H Fun Night. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien