



PEYTON BEIMS plays the piano at the Coming Together concert on April 10
Herald photo by Douglas Sloper

Teacher resigns position

*By Amanda Miller
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Mrs. Jennifer Krien, who has taught for the St. Francis Community Schools for 42 years, has submitted her resignation letter to the school board this year. Mrs. Krien has been helping teach part time at the elementary school for several years, and taught second grade to many residents of St. Francis.

School Finance Reform Superintendent Rob Schiltz provided the board with some information regarding school finance. The Senate and House have agreed upon a bill, called House Bill 2506, that stems from the State Supreme Court's ruling that said legislatures had to properly fund and put more equity back into state schools. Mr. Schiltz went through this Bill and how it could potentially affect St. Francis Community Schools specifically. To begin with, it would increase the base state aid per pupil by \$14. The bill would eliminate non-proficient at-risk weighting. This weighting is based on the district's prior year non-free students (not eligible for free lunch) who took the state assessments and are deemed to be non-proficient. This number of students is

then multiplied by the accepted weighting factor, currently .0465, and rounded to one decimal place. Weightings are important to the school for budget reasons. The bill increases the base state aid per pupil used for local option budget from \$4,433 to \$4,490 for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. It will revert back to \$4,433 in 2016-2017. Provides for alternative teacher licensure for those who meet specific standards. Requires State Department of Education to develop a budget summary of one page in length in addition to the posting of the budget, budget profile, and budget-at-a-glance, school boards must have these publications available at all board meetings when school finance is discussed. Removes teacher due process rights. This also means that teachers will no longer hold tenure. Governor Sam Brownback has issued a statement saying that the bill complies with and exceeds the requirements that the high court made, and is expected to sign the bill into law. "I appreciate the efforts of the legislature, and especially the hard work and leadership of Speaker Merrick and President Wagle."

testing was nearly impossible. Students did manage to get finished after some time. On Tuesday, April 1, testing was not successful at all. "Some students never got logged in, some got logged in and finished the questions, but they could not end the test. Others got dropped from the system in the middle of the test," Mr. Schiltz said. It turns out that the state's website was under a cyberattack. The Kansas Assessment Program provided a statement, saying that the attacks began March 27. The system was hit by a "distributed denial of service" attack, flooding the website with data. Unknown attackers slowed down or disabled networks and overwhelmed them with traffic. Officials said no student data was compromised. However the cyberattackers did frustrated test-takers and administrators across the state. Mr. Schiltz said he would not rely on the results of these tests. This year there were technical issues or glitches very often, and someone was moving around the room constantly. It was distracting. "We usually keep the testing room very quiet. Every other year I have been like a mouse in there. This year has been very different," Mr. Schiltz explained. The test results do not count towards anything accountability wise, but schools were hoping to see how the students performed on the new format of the test. This is the first year for the new Common Core testing standards. It will be difficult to decipher if the students were distracted, or if they had difficulty with the new, more technologically advanced test questions. "It is extremely frustrating for all involved when the testing engine does not work properly; however, when it works, it works amazingly well. Hopefully they have figured out how to stop the outside attacks on the system and things will continue to go well," Mr. Schiltz said. Next Meeting The next School Board meeting will be held one hour later than regular time, at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8 in the administration office at the high school.

Moments With Mila

How Serious Is Measles?

Measles is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing. In rare cases, it can be deadly. The measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine protects against measles. The symptoms of measles start with a fever, which can get very high. Soon after, it causes a cough, runny nose, and red eyes. Then a rash of tiny, red

spots breaks out. It starts at the head and spreads to the rest of the body. The rash can last for a week, and coughing can last for 10 days. Some children who get measles also get diarrhea or an ear infection. Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children. In the United States in 2011, 38% of children younger than 5 years old who had measles

had to be treated in the hospital. For some children, measles can lead to pneumonia, a serious lung infection. It can also cause lifelong brain damage, deafness, and even death. Measles spreads when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes. It is very contagious. You can catch measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, even after that person is gone. And you can catch measles from an infected person even before they have a measles rash. The MMR vaccine is a shot that combines vaccine for three diseases - measles, mumps and rubella. The vaccine protects children by preparing their bodies to fight the measles virus. Almost all children (95 out of 100) who get two doses of MMR vaccine will be protected from measles. The risk of measles may be very high for unvaccinated U.S. residents who travel abroad. Measles is still common in other parts of the world, including

*By Mila Bandel
County Health Nurse*



countries in Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Africa. Worldwide, about 20 million people get measles each year. Children should get two doses of the MMR vaccine at the following ages for best protection:
•The first dose at 12 through 15 months of age.
•The second dose at 4 through 6 years of age. Children often get MMR vaccine at the same time as other vaccines. This is safe, even for young children. For more information on the MMR vaccination or other immunizations in general, contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.

Local producers donate prom food

*By Amanda Miller
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Prom dinner at St. Francis Community Schools this year was made from food grown right here on local farms, and it does not get any fresher than that! Earth Team volunteers in Cheyenne County worked together with the junior class to offer the home grown meal to students this year. Four local producers donated meat, white flour, wheat flour, and eggs to the class to help offset the cost of purchasing the rest of the meal locally. Callicrate Beef, RJ Klie Organics, Lynn Query, and Y Knot Farm donated the items they grew to the students for their prom dinner. The dinner consisted of chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, salad, rolls and cheesecake. The salad was hydroponic and aquaponically grown. The rolls were made with a local organic wheat blend. A volunteer gathered the items and delivered them to the high school where other volunteers prepared the meal with the cafeteria staff. "It is my hope that next year, perhaps the school kids can

grow their own potatoes or carrots for the prom dinner," said Bernadette Luncsford, District Conservationist. "Local food will become a very important part of this community, especially if we want to give our children the opportunity to stay and make a living here, instead of moving away."

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Wedding Registry

Nick Raile & Sam Newell

Wedding
June 14, 2014

Shower
April 12, 2014

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Preparation Seminar for Divine Mercy Sunday

—We call it *ETERNITY*

Saturday, April 26
9 a.m. - Noon
(A light lunch will be served)

St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall
Bird City

Jesus, I Trust in You

*Confession will be available for anyone who requires this sacrament or has not been able to attend the Reconciliation Service offered during Lent.

Presented by: Roberta Lambert, a lay contemplative from Abilene, Texas. She is certified by the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy for completing the theology and spirituality course in DIVINE MERCY ESSENTIALS and has been dedicated to promoting this spectacular Feast of Mercy since her miraculous conversion 29 years ago.

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (300)

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