

## Enrollment figures better than expected

By Karen Krien

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At the Oct. 11 St. Francis school board meeting, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, reported that on Sept. 20, when the official school enrollment to the state was reported, the school was down only three students.

This, he said, was much better than he had expected.

The official enrollment last year showed the St. Francis schools with 286 students, which was 10 less than the year before. When school started this year, there were 15 less students than last year. However, when the official tally was made, there were 283 students, down three from last year.

Principal Scott Carmichael said had the official report been made one day later when new students enrolled, the school would have had the same number as last year's.

The largest class is in the ninth grade which has 30 students. The smallest class is the eighth grade with 15 students. Interesting to note, that of these 15 students, 10 of them are boys and the other five are girls. Throughout the classes in school, there are 166 boys and 127 girls.

### Cheylin

The Cheylin Schools in Bird City also reported a drop in students. Superintendent Bruce Bolen reported that the official Cheylin enrollment is 121.5 students. The enrollment last year was 138.5 students which

is 17 less students. This week, there were three new students but they were not enrolled when the official count was taken, Mr. Bolin said.

There is a three-way tie for the classes with the most students. The senior class, along with seventh and first grade classes, have 12 students in each class. The smallest class is the fifth grade class where there are six students.

### Football classification

The St. Francis Board of Education looked at the football classifications which are provided by the Kansas State High School Activities Association. The classifications are set by the number of students in grades nine through 11. St. Francis, with 69 students, is the smallest school in the 2-1A division playing 11-man football.

This year, there are 28 Sainty boys out for football. We are still competitive, said Principal Carmichael.

Why 11-man football – not eight-man football? asked Dr. Mary Beth Miller, board member. Derrick Tice, board member, pointed out that the junior high team only has 14 players and it is hard to practice if there isn't enough for two teams.

Mr. Carmichael said that in another year, St. Francis will probably be playing eight-man football. A contract was signed last year, obligating the school to play two

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HUMMM GOOD! Makaila Matthies licked her fingers after eating a roasted marshmallow at Weber's pumpkin patch on Friday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Aerial spraying advised

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It was hot and dry. Not much grew well except for the noxious weeds including Canada and musk thistle as well as bind weed.

Dave Flemming, county noxious weed director, reported there are some problems in low areas, especially along creeks and in draws. These areas are hard to reach with regular spraying equipment. He is suggesting that farmers consider aerial spraying of weeds in these areas.

Fall, he said, is the best time of year for spraying thistles. When the leaves fall off the trees, the aerial application becomes safer for pilots and more effective for killing the noxious weeds.

By the time the county weed department contacts the landowner in the spring telling them that they have a noxious weed problem, the weed seeds will have been ahead of the game scattering billions of seeds to settle in and start new plants.

Mr. Flemming, at the Monday county commissioners' meeting, said he has already contacted farmers having land along Cherry Creek wanting to have that area sprayed again. It was sprayed two years ago. Ideally, Mr. Flemming said, the area should be sprayed two fall seasons in a row, that will take care of the seeds and plants missed by the first spraying.

The cost of aerial spraying is between \$15 and \$18 per acre depending on the county's cost-share policies. Milestone is the chemical used to rid areas of thistles.

Farmers and ranchers need to take a look at their land and assess the noxious weed problem. Noxious weeds are illegal and can be a problem to the landowner as well as their neighbors.

If the noxious weeds get out of hand, the county, by law, can come on to the land and spray the weeds, then send the bill to the landowner. If the landowner refuses to pay, he or she will have the cost of the spraying added on to their property taxes.

It is best, Mr. Flemming said, to control the weeds as quickly and efficiently as possible.

For more information, call the public works office at 785-332-8840 and talk to Dave or Ed Garner.



GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS received frisbies and other information from the St. Francis firemen, Matt Smull, Dustin Gilliland and Kevin Trembly on Friday. The firemen were helping children recognize Fire Prevention Week. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Plan to give blood

American Red Cross heroes come in all shapes and sizes. They don't wear capes or special suits. Their badge of honor is the bandage that shows they gave the "gift of life." Be a hometown hero and answer the call of patients in need by donating blood.

Bird City blood drive will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25. This drive is by appointment only. No walk ins. The goal for this drive is 20 pints.

### How to donate blood

Simply call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcross-

blood.org to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

## New directors assigned to communication office

By Karen Krien

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Terry Rieger and Laurie Knebel, both 911 dispatchers in the Cheyenne County Communications Department, met with the commissioners on Monday. Their final agreement was to share the responsibilities as director as well as sharing the added salary.

When Jen Padgett had quit as the 911 director, Mr. Rieger had taken over on a temporary basis. Mrs. Knebel had resigned but, then reconsidered, and the commissioners had agreed that she come back. Each have a certain amount of the required training but neither have all of the required training. Mrs. Knebel also wants to do some grant writing to help with expenses of training

and equipment.

While they will share the responsibilities in the county office, they needed to be listed individually with the state so Terry will take the name as director and Laurie, assistant director.

They agreed that the communications department is running smoothly but needs some improvements.

"We are interested in seeing the dispatch work – period!" Mr. Rieger said.

We want the law officers to talk to us. If there is a problem, we will figure it out. We are on an even plain and we want to go forward.

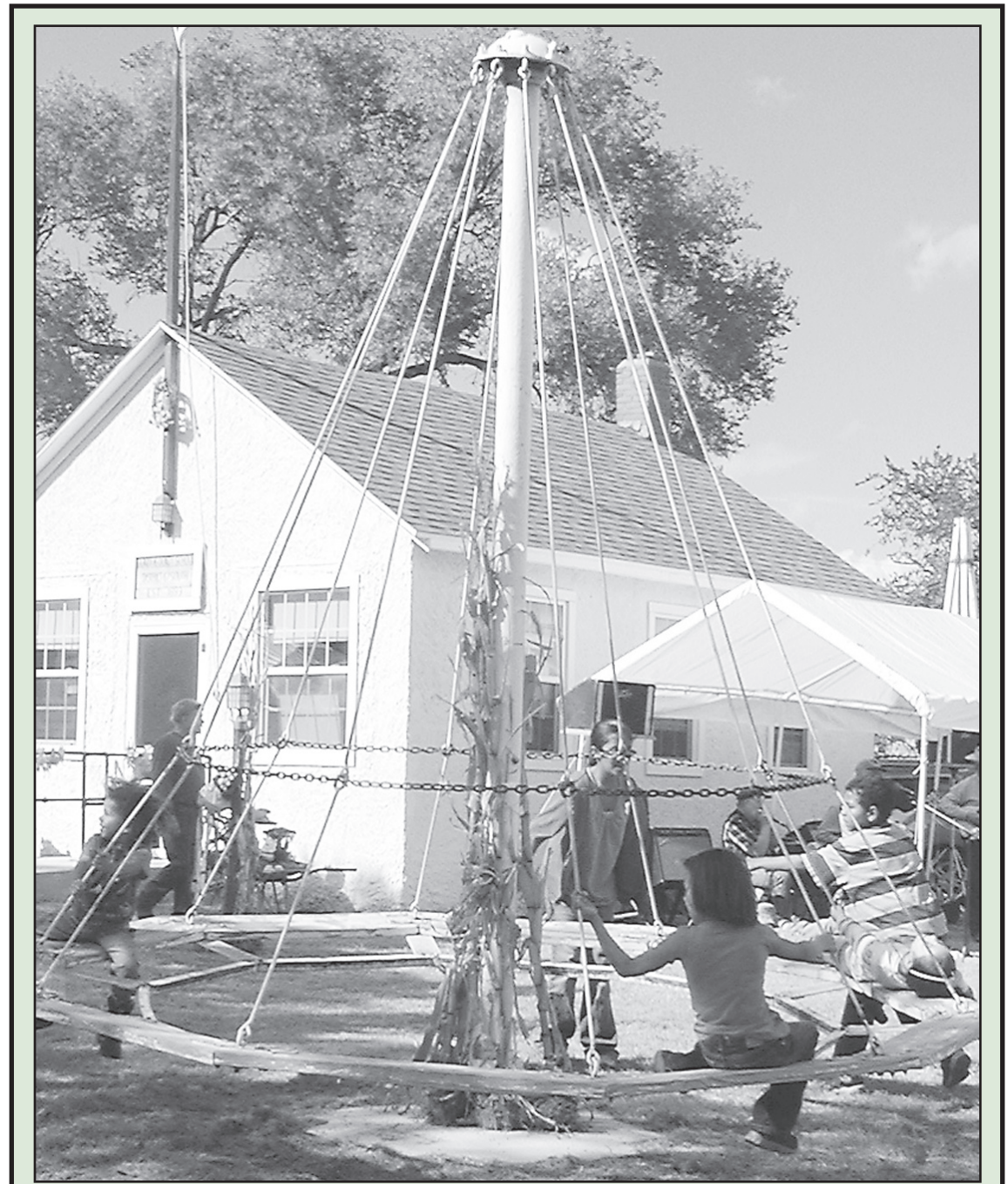
Dispatchers, said Andy Beikman, commissioner, need to be on the same page. If we don't work at it, it will never happen.

"We are operating pretty well," Mr. Rieger said. "We are not missing calls but, again, if there are problems, we want to talk about it and work it out."

Both Mr. Rieger and Mrs. Knebel said they had never worked with the budget (each county department head is in charge of their own budget) and they would probably be asking questions. They were told that the budget for 2013 is already set and they need to keep within the department's budget.

Terry Miller, county clerk, also volunteered to help wherever he could.

We (the commissioners) have an open door policy, said Dale Patton, chairman. Please come and talk to us anytime.



THE MAYPOLE MERRY-GO-ROUND had children playing on it during the Haigler Fall Festival held Saturday. In the background is the Country Schoolhouse Museum.