



Board votes 8-man teams for next year

By Karen Krien

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Whether or not to commit the junior and senior high school football program from 11 man to 8 man was discussed when the St. Francis Board of Education met on Thursday, Aug. 8. At the end of the discussion, the board voted unanimously to inform the Kansas State High School Activities Association that the school plans to play 8-man football, starting with the 2014-2015 school year.

Carl Werner, junior-senior high school activities director, said that each year the administration turns in the enrollment for ninth, 10th and 11th grades to the Activities Association, and that determines what classification the school is in. The classification is determined for two years for football, and that is why the board's decision needs to be made this year by Sept. 3. It will lock the school in to 8-man football for two years.

This year's classification was determined by the 2011-2012 official numbers. The classifications across the state range from 6A to 2-1A which includes those schools playing 11-man football (St. Francis is in 2-1A with 69 students).

There are two additional classifications for 8-man football. Division I has 52 schools ranging with 99 to 59 students. Division II also has 52 schools and enrollment ranges from 58 to 25 students

At this time, Mr. Werner said, St. Francis is the smallest school in the state playing 11 man football. Next year, Oberlin, one of the Northwest Kansas League Schools, the league which St. Francis is a part of, is planning to go to 8-man football. That would leave only one school, Leoti, that will be playing 11-man football in the league.

This creates the problem of finding comparable-size schools to play 11-man football. This year, there are only 41 schools across the state with an enrollment of 118 to 69. Some of the closer schools are Plainville, Smith Center, Ellis, Elkhart, Oakley and Syracuse. It is hard to find schools to play without traveling long distances, Mr. Werner said.

Mr. Werner noted that enrollment in those three grades has to be below 100 students to play 8-man football. He said that enrollment will probably drop to 62 by next year so that shouldn't be a problem.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Werner said the simple reasons for going to 8-man football were: 1) St. Francis continues to have fewer students; 2) it the smallest school in the state playing 11 man football; and, 3) Oberlin is dropping to 8-man, and Leoti is indicating that it might be leaving the league.

St. Francis high school will See FOOTBALL on Page 7



WELCOME RAIN fell Thursday. Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported a total of .77 inch in a two-day period. With the exception of a 94-degree high, most of the other highs were in the 80s; lows ranged from 54 to 63 degrees. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

School begins on Tuesday

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis swimming pool will close Sunday and school begins on Tuesday. Fall sports practices begins on Monday. There will be a back-to-school-meeting for kindergartners Monday night at 5:30 in the kindergarten room.

School enrollment was held on Aug. 7 and 8. As of school board meeting on Thursday, Rob Schiltz, superintendent, reported that there were a number of families who had not enrolled yet and there was

a family who was homeschooling their children this year. However, there had been several new students enrolling. The official enrollment will be Sept. 20.

Those missing the enrollment days can come to the school and enroll before school starts.

The first day of school will be a half day with school beginning at 8:35 and ending at 11:35 p.m. There will be no lunch served on Tuesday as it is a half day of classes.

The lunch menu can be found on Page 2 of this issue as lunch

will start with the first full day of school.

New this year is the superintendent's office has been moved to the grade school. Also new this year is the principal at the junior-senior high school. David Morrow moved from his position as English teacher and will be located in the principal's office at the high school.

Bus routes have tentatively been set but there could be some changes. Mr. Schiltz said those with questions should call the bus

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Student interns in Ireland

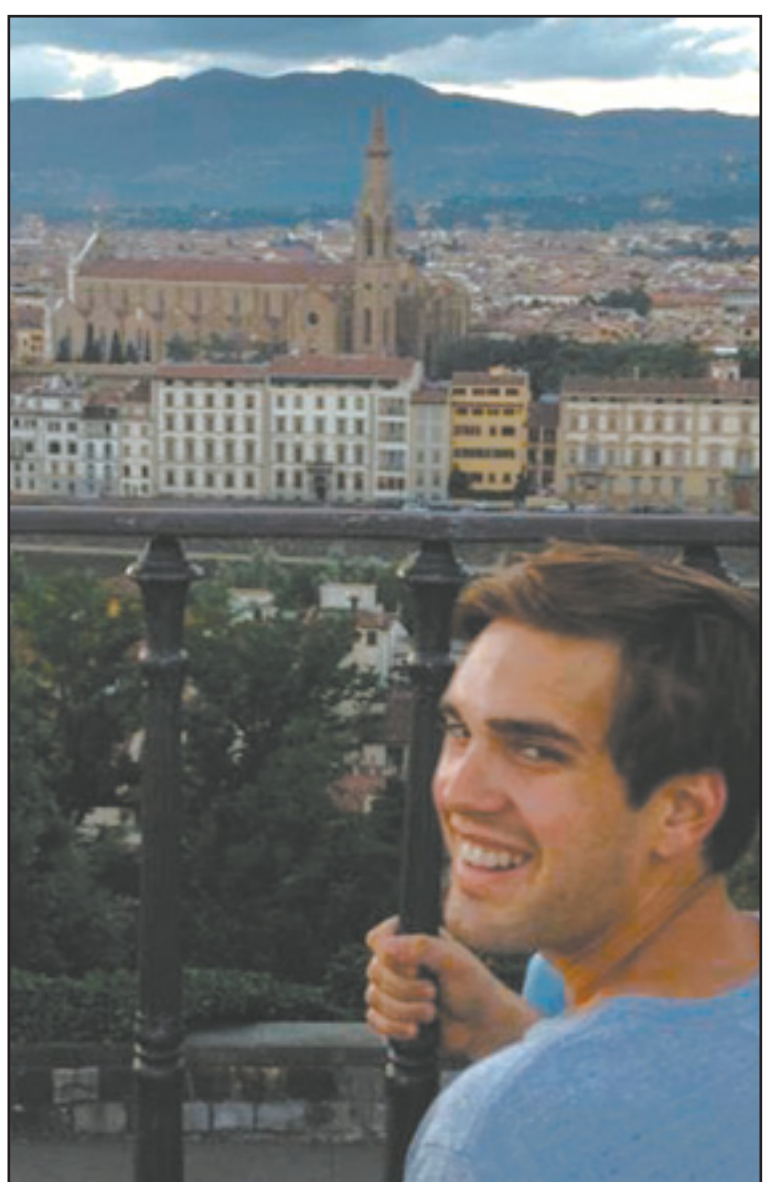
Benjamin Neitzel, 2010 graduate of St. Francis Community High School, recently returned from a 2-month internship in Dublin, Ireland.

A student at Kansas University, Benjamin wanted to live in a different country for the entire summer. With an internship in a foreign work place, it would allow him to live there and visit some other countries. He had already had a taste of Europe the summer before when he and a friend backpacked there for two weeks.

"I wanted to go back and see more" he said.

So, Benjamin applied for an internship at one of the well-known human rights and criminal justice law firms in Ireland's capitol city, KOD-Lyons Solicitors, and landed an interview at Kansas University. He did well in the interview, and was offered the internship position. The law firm, he said, was named the 2013 Irish Criminal Law Firm of the Year.

While many of the foreign interns have a good experience, they don't actually work. Benjamin said he was fortunate. His supervisor is one of the firm's head partners. She specialized in cases dealing with mental health litigation and criminal defense. Majoring in psychology at KU, this is a field that Benjamin is



See IRELAND on Page 7 BENJAMIN NEITZEL viewed Florence, Italy from a balcony.



COUSINS LEMONADE STAND raised \$38.63 which they donated to the Good Samaritan Village. Mia Morrow, left to right, Ally Morrow, Ian Morrow and Amber Morrow gave money to Linda Hilt, Village resident. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Hospital staff working with adjoining county on grant

By Douglas Sloper

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The Cheyenne County Hospital, working in conjunction with the Rawlins County Health Center is submitting a grant proposal to the Kansas Rural Health Systems Improvement Pilot Project that would help address essential health services in the two counties. Only four communities will be selected to receive the grant funding.

The hospital is working with the health center in that collaborative efforts have an advantage in the selection process. With the limited funds available a joint effort will

benefit both counties.

"There are limited funding opportunities specific to rural communities," said Judy Rockwood, hospital chief executive officer. "The grant committee is focusing on energetic, forward-thinking communities that are ready to act. We hope to have the support of the community during the application process and cooperation in the research required if we are successful in receiving the funding."

There are many problems facing rural communities today

including declining and aging populations, lack of financial resources, and difficulties attracting and retaining qualified medical service providers. If funding is received, the first year of the project would be to capture knowledge and experience from medical service providers in both counties and to then design, test and evaluate the risks and rewards of locally conceived or adjusted approaches to rural health systems improvement.

"This is not just a hospital initiative," said Carol Sloper, See GRANTS on Page 7