



Will knowing of 'flaws' be dangerous to babies?

Scientists say they're on the verge of opening up a whole new world of DNA testing, promising to tell parents more, perhaps, than they need to know about their budding offspring well before birth.

The question everyone is asking, from doctors and scientists to theologians and ethicists, is whether this is even a good thing.

The Associated Press reports that scientists feel they can scan fetal DNA from a mother's blood, a technique which could be invaluable in predicting possible genetic problems and diseases.

"It's without question a major medical advance that promises to greatly improve current prenatal care," said Jaime King, a University of California law professor who studies the field, adding: "It raises significant practical, legal, ethical and social challenges."

Along with the benefits come some heavy baggage. Doctors might be able to predict everything from eye and hair color to height and the risk of developing diseases such as Alzheimer's. Experts wonder whether people might use this information to pick "designer" children, abandoning others.

In the view of many conservatives, both ethicists and ministers, that knowledge could be dangerous. Some wonder if parents could get "too much information." They might withhold commitment to a baby until they knew it was

"good enough" to be born.

But who would decide what parents should and shouldn't know? Don't they have a right to decide that for themselves?

History shows us that science advances no matter what men think. And often, we fear any new advance, from the end of the flat-world theory to the dawn of the nuclear age. But just as jailing Galileo did not make the earth the center of the universe, so restricting information that people might want won't keep things from changing.

While new information won't change the debate we see today, it may reframe the references. Some will demand new laws. Others will demand new information. The country, the world will be divided over what is right and what is wrong.

But as today, science will have to leave decisions on those questions to the church and the philosophers. People need to be educated about their choices, but in the end, each of us will have to make our own.

The information is going to be available, whether we like it or not. The church can and should teach us what is right and wrong. That is the church's job, not the scientist's. Science can only tell us what is possible.

And, for better or for worse, it will.

— Steve Haynes

House majority faces uphill battle

Letter to the Editor:

The 87 Republican freshmen that built our house majority on Nov. 2, understand that we need to live within our means and have a balanced budget. It has been an uphill battle to get anything done.

It's a lesson our bloated federal government needs to learn. They had control of the Senate, House and White House and never even tried to have a balanced budget — just going for more spending, wanting higher taxes and creating jobs for other countries.

For example, banning Americans from drilling for oil in the gulf and wastelands of Alaska. Giving our tax money to other countries so they can drill for oil — Nigeria, Egypt, Brazil and Mexico.

Why not develop America's energy resources and create jobs

— Letters to the Editor —

for the good ole U.S.A.! We have oil, oil shale, natural gas, clean coal and ethanol to mention a few. Millions of Americans are out of work and looking for jobs! Canada is seeking permission to build a pipeline into our country that would create jobs and produce oil.

Our federal government points fingers at large oil companies and blames them for the high prices of gas and oil. They want to scale back their tax breaks. These companies already pay billions of dollars a day in taxes.

President Obama in a press release said that some people complaining about the price of gas and only getting 8 miles a gallon, should

think of a trade in — probably for one of his super electric cars.

Most Americans are driving vehicles that get more miles to the gallon. When Americans buy a new or used car, they want to know what kind of mileage does it have.

The problem is that the high price of gas and oil is a burden to every American who is dealing already with unemployment, housing crisis and a poor economy.

We need a president that takes our problems seriously. Someone that wants America to prosper and be a "super power" instead of a welfare country.

Marilyn Frisbie McDonald

Reader appreciates hospital staff

Letter to the Editor:

I would like to take this time to say a few things about our local hospital. During the time while I was in the hospital recovering from an infection, I spent time not only here in the Cheyenne County Hospital but also time in a hospital in Denver.

The care that a person receives here in our hospital, in my opinion,

ion, far outweighs that given to a person in Denver.

Here they get to know their patients and not only treat them as a patient but as a human being. In the bigger hospital, I sometimes got the feeling that you were just a number (so to speak). I think that Cheyenne County should feel very good about the hospital along with the doctors and nurses that they have here and should thank them for the job that they do — not just when they are needed, but all

the time.

In my opinion, we have the greatest set of doctors and nurses as well as physical therapists that they could get in one location and I would like to say "thank you" to all of them. They have been great to me in the time that I have needed them and I know that they will continue to do a great job helping me to get back to 100 percent as I still have a little way to go.

Mike Antholz St. Francis

— Honor Roll —

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Larry Blanchard, Salida, Colo.; Cliff Semler, St. Francis; Sharon Olson, Oberlin; Ruben Feikert, St. Francis; Melissa Hayes, St. Francis; Matt Bandel, St. Francis; Lody Crawford, Overland Park; Larry Collins, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Dennis Friedrichs, St. Francis; Clay Zimelman, St. Francis; Tanner Kinen, St. Francis; Elton Keller, St. Francis; Merle Walter, Mitchell, Neb.; Bankwest, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Proverbs 6:16-19

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STAFF

Karen Krien Editor/Publisher
Betty Winston Sports Editor
Anita Schmid Advertising Manager
Lezlie McCormick Production
Margaret Bucholtz Columnist



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1936
Although it has taken some time for a third car load of bones to be gathered and brought in here, the third such car was about ready to ship out on Tuesday for the Western Fertilizer Company of Denver, the buyers.

The St. Francis Pharmacy show windows have been made up to date and attractive in appearance by remodeling completed the last of the week. The former shelves were torn out and rebuilt and windows enclosed at the rear.

The journalism class of the high school under the direction of their instructor, Frances Bishop, will edit the Herald next week.

45 years ago - 1966
St. Francis residents were proud to hear that Lt. Commander Ronald Evans was named one of the nation's new astronauts. Ron, the son of Jimmy Evans of St. Francis and Marie Evans of Vassar was born in St. Francis and attended grade school here before moving to Topeka. He spent several summers here working on the farm

with his great uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jeffries.

The city council announced that the new sewer system was 98 percent completed, and was actually being used. Water is being pumped into the system to fill the pond located northeast of St. Francis.

Getty's Pharmacy recently completed an interior remodeling program, including a modern prescription department.

Linda Keller and Karen DeGood, St. Francis, are two of the three Kansas girls who are on their way to Germany for 6 months as members of the International Farm Youth Exchange program.

Paul McGuire, St. Francis Grade School principal, announced last week that he had accepted a position as principal of the Central School in Goodland.

Ninety-seven St. Francis Community High School vocal and instrumental music students will participate in the state Class A music festival in Oakley.

The new Cheyenne County Rod and Gun Club got their tree planting project off to a good start on Saturday. They planted nearly 2,000 small trees on the farms of Albert Keller and Paul Gorthy, northeast of St. Francis.

Eight members of the local FFA Chapter participated in the annual Northwest Kansas District Livestock Judging School and Contest held at the Ock Farms, at Rexford. The three high scoring contestants whose scores made up the "team" score were Terry Bandel, Larry Feikert and Steve Miller.

30 years ago - 1981
Preliminary report on the 1980 census shows the population of Cheyenne County declined 578 to 3,678. St. Francis declined to 1,612.

The grand opening for Big A Parts and Machine has been scheduled for March 12-14. Keith Dankenbring and Roger Lauer took over the operation of the firm earlier this year. The business was originally operated as Wolfe's Auto Parts.

Casey's Comments

Summer break changes the game for parents. We get to see our kids quite a bit more. Their lunch breaks are the same as ours and there aren't as many evening activities too. So more time together allows for more new experiences and shared time.

One such adventure is our daughter Lexi's new, ambitious hobby: fondant cake decorating. For those out there who don't know what fondant is either, the icing is rolled into sheets that cover the entire cake. It comes from the French word for "melting" and has the same English root as

"foundry."

First, a little background. I wouldn't say Lexi doesn't have a great deal of a cooking background to build on. She has gotten very good at opening cans of Spaghetti-Os and heating frozen pizzas. So her desire to tackle this type of project came as a bit of a surprise.

Two things have come out of this enterprise. First, she has turned out to have not just a little talent in making beautiful and delicious cakes. Second, it has given us a nice opportunity to help her along, picking up some of the sup-



By Casey McCormick

mccormickcasey@rocketmail.com

plies needed and Mom working along side her when needed. Other items, such as frosting tips, have come from other family members. Lexi has had a big rooting section behind her in the baking and decorating exploit.

Above all, it is exciting to see a kid pick up something that will bring happiness to others. And, as a kitchen, quality-control tester, I hope she keeps it up for a long, long time.

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed
7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim
332-2928
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday
of the month

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:15 a.m.
Church Service 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis
Equity

St. Francis
Herald