

# Department comes in under budget

**By Karen Krien**

The ambulance budget for the year was presented to the county commissioners when they met Thursday.

Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, reported that in 2004, the ambulance service had a budget of \$113,750 and \$113,052 was spent.

“We were \$697 below budget,” he said. Through the year, the service took in \$140,315 which was deposited in the General Fund.

The commissioners had a question about three vouchers which had been turned in without an itemized bill. Kevin Berens, county attorney, had reminded the commissioners that, if the person turning in the bill could not verify the claim with a receipt, then the commissioners were not supposed to pay it. Commissioner Jane Brubaker said that if the commissioners go ahead and okay such a voucher, they could be charged with a misdemeanor.

Director Gabel explained that the one bill, which had “snacks and drinks” written on the voucher with no receipt, he later found out was for two quarts of oil for the ambulance and the technician had forgot to pick up the receipt. Janelle Bowers, bookkeeper and emergency medical technician, was at the commissioners’ meeting and said she had been on that particular run and it was for oil.

The commissioners said that, without a receipt, the technicians would have to pay the bill even if it was for oil. Commissioner Tim Raile said he didn’t think it was right that the technicians should have to pay for the oil but there was nothing he could do about it.

Director Gabel said that it was “catch 22” —that it was a matter of the law and trust of volunteers —that there comes a time when the commissioners should have “common sense.” There was also a problem with a bill at Applebee’s where the technicians had only the VISA receipt which was not itemized. Again, the commissioners opted not to pay the bill because of the legalities.

By that time, Director Gabel was angry and told the commissioners that he would not have the technicians, who volunteer their time, pay for their meal nor pay for oil for the ambulance.

“Just take it out of my salary,” he said.

After the director had left, the commissioners felt that, if the director or technicians had called, they could have gotten an itemized receipt from the credit card company. Terry Miller, clerk, said he had called before and received the itemized receipt.

On Monday, a special meeting was held to discuss health insurance and Commissioner Brubaker said she had called and

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# State says more money needed for education

**By Karen Krien**

It’s been a long time coming but the Kansas Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the Legislature hasn’t spent enough money to provide an adequate public education to all of the state’s children.

Carl Werner, St. Francis Schools Superintendent, said that the decision will probably be good for the St. Francis Schools and other Kansas schools because the Legislature has not increased the budget per pupil for four years. However, the new funding formula which the Legislature comes up with will need to be closely examined to be sure that factors that benefit small schools, especially the low-enrollment factor, are not substantially reduced or eliminated. He also cautioned that declining enrollment, which many schools are facing, still remains a problem.

Cheylin Superintendent David Zumbahlen said he was glad to see some action being taken

“Maybe it will get us off of where we have been with no additional funding. However, the Legislators will have their work cut out for them because some campaigned on not raising taxes,” he said.

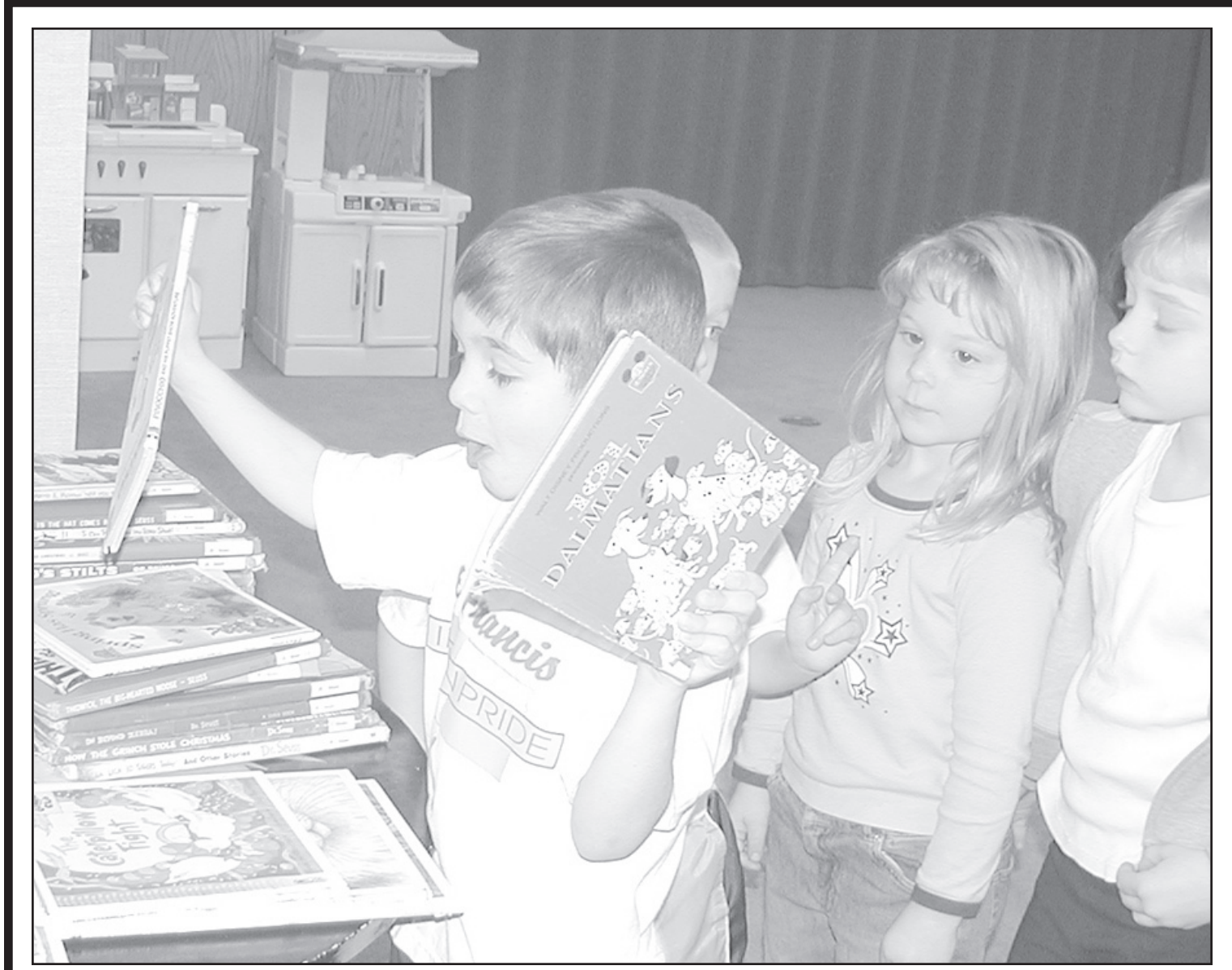
“It’s going to be an interesting Legislative session.”

There were seven members of the court which upheld part of a lower court judge’s decision in 2003 that the state wasn’t providing enough money but did not agree with the judge’s finding that the current funding formula was unconstitutional.

The Legislature has until April 12 to come up with more funding and a plan. In a 2002 study by Augenblick and Myers, a private consulting firm in Denver, indicated that the state needed to provide an additional \$512 per student. Kansas schools now receive \$3,863 per student. There is also a low-enrollment “weighting factor” which is figured in and gives the smaller schools additional funding.

The Dodge City and Salina school district argue that the present formula allows some districts to benefit more than others and that is why it is a violation to the constitutional provision requiring the state to provide all students with an adequate

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**LIBRARY HOUR is great fun for pre-school children. Tate Busse was first in line to pick out the books he will be taking home to read. Others (left to right) Tim Lambert, Shalyn Zweygardt and Zoe Sundstrum. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien**

# Calling contest brings in many

**By Karen Krien**

Coyote callers will be coming into St. Francis throughout the week to catch the start of the ninth annual Midwest Coyote Calling Contest which will be held this weekend.

Brent Rueb, coordinator, expects 75 to 100 two-man teams from Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Illinois and New Mexico, along with Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado to attend the contest.

“We have become probably the largest, most popular coyote calling contest in America,” Mr. Rueb said.

He said at least one, perhaps two, film crews will be in St. Francis to document the event for Outdoor channel, and other television shows and DVD releases.

The location of the start and other activities of the contest has changed from Riverside Recreation to the newly remodeled exhibit building at the fairgrounds (north side of St. Francis).

“The new location will offer a larger facility for the growing number of hunters,” Mr. Rueb said.

Last year, hunters reported seeing 396 coyotes and 163 were killed. The team of Schmid and Schmid of Colorado Springs brought in the most coyotes (11) and also had the largest coyote weighing 37 pounds.

Two men make up a team and there are two divisions: the Midwest division (experienced) and the Sportsman division (novice

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**HAPPY GREETING and so early in the morning — Glenn Schliep, city employee, was out sanding Main Street before the sun came up on Tuesday morning. The streets were already a sheet of ice.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Cold temperatures, icy roads close schools in area

Schools were closing from Hays to Oakley by 10 p.m. Monday night and by early morning, both the Cheylin and St. Francis schools were also called off because of road and weather conditions.

By 8 a.m. on Tuesday, there was a light rain falling which was immediately freezing to roads, cars, utility lines and trees. By noon, all highways including I-70 were snowpacked and icy. Travel was not advised.

In the county, there was some light snow but up to 12 inches was being predicted. The highs steadily fell and it was to reach a low of 1 degree by dark.

The National Weather Service was telling residents in this area they could expect very cold temperatures on Wednesday with additional snow. There was a prediction of anywhere from 2 to 6 inches through the two-day period.

The temperature is supposed to slowly increase and by Saturday, should be 39 degrees.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, recorded the following temps through the week:

| Date    | High | Low | Prec. |
|---------|------|-----|-------|
| Dec. 28 | 60   | 23  |       |
| Dec. 29 | 52   | 24  |       |
| Dec. 30 | 62   | 25  |       |
| Dec. 31 | 40   | 25  |       |
| Jan. 1  | 30   | 24  |       |
| Jan. 2  | 30   | 19  |       |
| Jan. 3  | 31   | 20  | Trace |

# No substitutes for blood, donors

The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13, in the grade school gym in St. Francis.

Thirty years of research and more than \$1 billion have been invested in developing an artificial blood product.

However, Dr. Mei-Chien Fucci, American Red Cross Central Plains Region Blood Services chief medical officer, said that nothing has come close to providing a substitute for blood.

“Red blood cells carry oxygen from the lungs to your body’s organs and tissues, and carry carbon dioxide back to the lungs to be exhaled; white cells fight infection, plasma transports water and nutrients to tissues and carry proteins to help clot and fight disease; and platelets help stop bleeding,” he said.

“So far, research has focused only on the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood, and the research in this one area is stagnant.”

A recent survey conducted by the Red Cross estimates 29 million people in the country think there are blood substitutes for hospital patients.

“As blood shortages continue to become more severe and more frequent, we all hope there will be progress in the development of artificial blood products,” Dr. Fucci said. “But the reality is that right now, there are 5 million patients each year that need blood and we need to direct our attention to increasing the number of blood donors. We don’t know how long we will have to wait for something else, and in the meantime, we need to make sure blood is there to save lives.”

Currently, there is 5 percent of the population giving blood but 60 percent of the population is eligible to give.

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# Military decals now available

**By Karen Krien**

Military decals for veteran vehicle tags are now available at the county treasurer’s office.

Dolores Jenik, county treasurer, reported that the decals are in.

“Veterans can get a decal for the branch of the service they were in and one bronze star and one silver star,” she said.

The branches available are: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines and Navy.

“There is no charge for the decals,” Treasurer Jenik said.

“Veterans must present a DD-214 military discharge paper which indicates the branch of the service they were discharged from and proof they were awarded either or both the bronze and silver stars.”

Decals will be issued to automobiles, trucks up to a gross weight of 20,000 pounds and motorcycles. They will be issued to owners of veteran’s tags only.

For more information about the decals, call the treasurer’s office at 785-332-8810 or stop by and talk to Treasurer Jenik or any of the staff.



# Contest awaits birth of baby

By Karen Krien

As of Tuesday, there had not been a report of a baby born to Cheyenne County parents. Since the article came out in last week's newspapers, there have been rumors that there is a baby or two expected within the next month.

The "First Baby of the Year 2005" contest began Saturday. It will end when the first phone call comes in and the baby/parents meet the rules of the contest.

The only rule or requirement is that the baby be born to parents living in Cheyenne County for one

month or more. These parents and their new born infant will be awarded gifts from sponsors.

The rules are simple:

- As stated, the parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.

- The Saint Francis Herald office must be notified as soon as possible following the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.

The parents of this year's first baby winner will receive a car wash from the St. Francis Equity, a \$50 gift certificate from St. Francis Super's, \$50 bond from Bankwest,

a \$50 bond from First National Bank, a baby photo album from Schultz's, a baby gift from Owens True Value, a baby basket from Krien Pharmacy, two bottles of champagne from Burr Liquor, a spinal adjustment for Mommy and baby plus a tube of Biofreeze from Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center, and a year's subscription to The Saint Francis Herald or Bird City Times.

The parents of the new baby should pick up their gifts or claim their services within 60 days after the birth.

## Haigler News

By  
Opal  
Collicott



### Family Christmas

Christmas, 2004, was the year for the Dale Faylor clan to be together for Christmas.

On Wednesday, Dec. 22, Sherri (Faylor) Morabito flew into Kansas City, Mo., from Kentucky, where her sister, Daneen Hilger, picked her up and took her to the Hilger's home near Topeka.

On Friday, Dec. 24, several family members arrived at the Faylor Ranch home of Dale and Dode. Matt Hilger, who attends Montana Wilderness School of the Bible arrived first. He had been working in Modesto, Calif., during the mid-school break. Next, Yvonne (Faylor) Clemans and her husband, Royce from Burlington, Colo., arrived. Later afternoon and evening arrivals were Daneen (Faylor) Hilger, husband Phil, and son Josh; Sherri Morabito, daughter Mindee and son Layton Reynolds from Abilene; Sherri's older daughter, Shauna Boyd, husband Brent and three children from Wichita and the Hilgers' oldest son, JJ, from Topeka.

Christmas Day, Dale, daughters, Sherri and Daneen, went to Wray and brought Dode's mother, Dorothy Rathbun, to the Golden Inn in Haigler where the family gathering was

held.

Others arriving were Dwight and Kim Faylor and Kim's mother, Trudy Voorhies; Brad and Courtney Faylor and four children; Kelley Faylor and Cody Pettibone; Lance and Stephanie Clemans and two sons; Vvette and Dave Korbelik and children. There were 37 gathered to dinner.

All of Dale and Dode's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present with the exception of grandson-in-law, Justin Reynolds, who was not able to get anyone to tend to his feedlot.

Later Christmas Day, Dwight Faylor took his three sisters horseback riding. The girls had been wanting to do this for some time. Toward evening, JJ Hilger returned to Topeka. Matt Hilger went to his parents' home near Topeka. Others who live close to the Faylor Ranch also returned to their homes and Dale took Dorothy Rathbun back to Hillcrest in Wray.

On Sunday, the Hilgers, Mindee Reynolds and son, and Brent Boyd returned to their homes to be at work on Monday. On Monday morning, Sherri Morabito helped her dad and brother sort some cattle and she and

her dad then took Yvonne Clemans to meet her husband, as the Clemans were to baby sit their two Korbelik grandchildren for a couple of days.

Tuesday, Dec. 28, Sherri Morabito and Shauna Boyd and children left. Sherri stopped off at daughter Mindee's home for a few days near Abilene and will spend a few days with daughter and family in Wichita. She then went to sister Daneen's home and Daneen will take to Sherri to Kansas city, where she will depart by plane for Kentucky.

What a blessed time was had and the dear Lord was thanked for the blessings of a close-knit family and His goodness.

Skip, Melissa and Alayna Mulligan of Saginaw, Mich., arrived in Denver by plane on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 26. They will be spending the week in the home of Skip's parents, Charlie and Myrna Mulligan and visiting with family and friends until their departure on Jan. 1.

## BUDGET

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gotten the itemized receipts for the two vouchers, which were several months old, and the vouchers were going to be paid.

According to the minutes, Commissioner Brubaker would take the receipts to Director Gabel, ask him to submit them again and they would be paid.

### Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, presented a highway permit for Energy Alliance to trench across a county road. At that point, the supervisor asked if the commissioners were still considering charging the company and farmers (the county cannot charge phone companies) for crossing county roads with lines. He said that Yuma County charges \$500 for trenching across county roads.

The commissioners talked about a charge of \$50 for each permit. This minimal charge would cover drawing up the paperwork and checking on the work following the trenching/boring.

However, in the end, no decision was made.

Supervisor Flemming listed three projects he would like to see on the county's 5-Year Plan. They included: 1) replace the Olofson Bridge north of St. Francis; 2) applying asphalt overlay on the South River Road; and 3) replace the Runzel Bridge west of St. Francis. The two bridge plans are partially funded (80-20 percent) by the Federal Government however, the state controls the money. A county can have only two projects in one year. Last year (2004), the county had the health clinic and St. Francis city sewer projects.

Supervisor Flemming said to receive a grant for one of the bridges, it would be necessary to contact everybody in that area.

Supervisor Flemming asked to encumber \$4,275 to cover a bridge inspection and \$2,740 for a culvert.

The county has been trying out a "road groom" which is a grader pulled behind a pickup or tractor. After talk-

ing to another county supervisor, Supervisor Flemming said this groom, a 11.5 footer, was too big and a 10-foot grader would be better.

He said he thought he could purchase two used mowers for less than \$1,000, through the Federal Reserve and he had purchased two concrete vibrators from the state auction for around \$200.

The supervisor briefly went over what road and bridge work had been done in the county in 2004 and what was planned for 2005. Commissioner Raile said he thought a little more work needed to be done on the Neilan curve.

### Health insurance

The commissioners discussed the health insurance plan but didn't feel they had enough information to continue so, at a special meeting on Monday, they reviewed and approved the county's health insurance plan through Corporate.

The commissioners agreed to drop the \$200 deductible plan and give employees the choice of a \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000 plan. Employees with family plans will have \$84.62 taken out of their checks for the \$500 deductible. Other amounts withheld are: \$35 for \$1,000 deductible; or nothing for \$1,500 and \$2,000. The county will pay \$700 per employee toward health insurance.

### Ambulance runs

Mrs. Bowers, ambulance bookkeeper said the county's four ambulances (two in St. Francis and two in Bird City) had made 241 runs in 2004. Of that, 205 runs were made by St. Francis technicians and 36 by Bird City technicians.

Since the CAT scanner had been installed in the Cheyenne County Hospital in mid-October, the number of runs to Goodland had dropped significantly. She said that before the CAT scanner had been installed, the technicians had made two to four runs a week to Goodland. In November and December, they had no runs to Goodland for CAT scans.

The director noted that, while there will be less runs for the ambulance, that keeping patients from having to travel to Goodland for the scans is much better for the patients. Also, less runs will mean the ambulances will last longer.

### In other business

In other business:

- The commissioners had received a letter from attorney Mike Day concerning a bill for a cleanup in Bird City which the commissioners felt they should not have to pay. After reading the letter, they stood firm in their decision, saying that it was not the county's responsibility to pay for the cleanup.

- The law enforcement agreement between Bird City and the county will be signed at the next meeting when the new officials take over.

## CALLING

Continued from Page 1A

hunters). Anyone interested in entering the contest should contact Mr. Rueb at Tri-State Lumber, 785-332-2731 or at his home, 785-332-3402.

### New contest

New this year will be the Predator Caller of the Year contest. Ten hunters will perform their calls and show their coyote calling ability. Their peers (other contestants) do not know who is doing the calls and will vote. The best caller will be crowned "Predator Caller of the Year."

"This will be an interesting part of the contest," Mr. Rueb said.

Bob Juleson, Goodland, has donated a mounted coyote bust as the prize.

People are urged to stop by the

fairgrounds and see the activities as the callers return with the coyotes. During the weekend, the St. Francis Community High School junior class will be serving the meals for the hunters as a fund raiser.

### Supporters

National supporters for the event are Foxpro and Sportsmen's Warehouse. There are also a number of other local and area sponsors including Bankwest, First National Bank, Cheyenne County Wildlife, Predator Sniper Styx, Topside Office Supply and Carlson Choke Tubes.

"It is with the help of our sponsors that has helped make this calling what it is!" Mr. Rueb said.

## BLOOD

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"When one in three people will need blood in their lifetime, it is easy to see why relying on 5 percent of the population to supply all of that blood is not reasonable, and why we hear more and more about blood shortages," Dr. Fucci said.

"The seven minutes it takes for the actual blood donation is a short time compared to the lifetime you can give someone else. If we all do our part, we can make sure blood is there when we need it or it is needed for our loved ones."

Those who have not been contacted by a Red Cross representative and would like to be a part of the Red Cross Blood Drive should call 1-800-448-3542 for an appointment.

The Rebekah organization will be helping with the drive. People can also call Ruth Moore in St. Francis.

## MONEY

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education opportunity. The 2002 study recommended that the state spend an additional \$229 million.

Superintendent Werner pointed out that the schools have not received additional money in state aid in the last three years.

The state Supreme Court warned lawmakers that they had better act this session and come up with a solution by April 12. The Legislators could be looking at raising taxes (which most Kansans are against), cutting programs or consolidating small schools.

If Legislators do not come up with a solution, the court will take action to carry out the responsibility.

# FIRST BABY

We're celebrating the first special delivery  
of the Year 2005!

The winning baby and parents will receive these  
bundles of gifts, courtesy of these businesses.

## Baby Photo Album



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## FREE Subscription to the:

**The Saint Francis Herald  
or The Bird City Times**  
310 W. Washington • St. Francis  
785-332-3162

### Parents Rules:

1. The parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
2. The Saint Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible after the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
3. A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.