

Singers ready to perform

Students in the St. Francis Community High School Music Department are once again making preparations to deliver "Singing Valentine Telegrams" on Feb. 14. The signing valentine consists of a helium-filled balloon with a small bag of candy and a love song.

This year, students are also offering the option of an additional gift (a small plush Valentine animal) for a few extra dollars.

Proceeds from the project will be used by the department to attend a dinner theater production in the Denver area later this year.

Order forms for Signing Valentines are available at the high school office, the post office bulletin board, or from any of the band, vocal, or advanced music students.



SINGING TELEGRAMS — Katie Ford, Sarah Guthmiller, Lauren Zwegardt and Jodie Hilt practice their songs they will be singing to the lucky recipients on Valentine's Day. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Tax men awarded for work

St. Francis men, Rowland Roelfs and Wayne Keeker, as AARP tax-aides, were recently recognized for helping elderly people file their income tax. The Margaret Drescher E-File Site Award was presented to him, noting that they have been dedicated to increased e-filing.

Mr. Roelfs said he started as an AARP tax-aide about 14 years ago.

"It is satisfying doing those little returns that the professionals don't like to do and it helps the elderly," he said.

Mr. Roelfs estimates that he helps 100 to 200 people with their taxes each year.

They are expected to take three days of schooling to do tax laws and tax preparation.

Mr. Keeker said he started in 1998 and will be working part-time this year.

Help is available

Both Mr. Roelfs and Wayne Keeker will be available to help people with their income tax filing starting Wednesday. Not only do they help prepare the tax return but also file it on the internet.

Mr. Roelfs will be at the St. Francis Public Library at 121 N. Scott from 2 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. On Thursdays, Mr. Keeker will be at the St. Francis Senior Center at 322 W. Washington from 2 to 5 p.m.

To make an appointment, call Mr. Roelfs at 332-3490 or Mr. Keeker at 332-3428. Walk-ins are welcome but there may be a wait.

Granddaughter's survival featured

Editor's note: The following article, written by Stacie Miller, Journal-Advocate, Sterling, Colo., features the granddaughter of Bonnie Bishop, St. Francis.

It was the phone call no parent ever wants to receive.

On the morning of Dec. 6, Rick Cox was told his 31-year-old daughter, who was eight and one-half months pregnant with her first child, and her husband were critically injured in a car crash on Highway 113, north of Sterling, and likely would not survive the transport to Swedish Medical Center in Denver.

"The years of raising your child kind of flashes before your eyes," Mr. Cox said. "I had lost a son eight years ago, and my initial thought was 'I can't lose another. God, please don't let me lose another child.'"

Miraculously, husband Scott Anthony, 36, wife Kimberly, 32, and baby Mckayla, all survived the crash, in which their vehicle fell 48 feet into a ravine. The Anthonys credit the quick thinking and actions of Sterling firefighters and Life Care paramedics for saving their lives.

"The doctors told us there was a 10 to 15 minute window to deliver the baby before it would have been too late," Mr. Cox said. "If the firefighters and paramedics hadn't gotten them out as quick as they did, I don't think I would have my beautiful granddaughter here today."

The Anthonys were driving southbound on Highway 113 around 10:40 a.m. Dec. 6 when their vehicle drifted off the right side of the road into a narrow ditch. The car traveled for 84 feet, collid-

ed with an electric fence, traveled another 168 feet into a field before plummeting 48 feet into a ravine. The front of the vehicle struck the bottom of the ravine causing the car to flip onto its top before coming to a final rest.

Mr. Anthony was knocked unconscious and remembers nothing of the accident. Kimberly remembers a few moments.

"One second we were laughing and joking in the car, and the next moment I'm upside down. I was so terrified about the baby and I just remember this firefighter named Chris telling me it was OK and he wasn't going to leave me and that the baby was going to be OK. I knew from the pain I must be pretty badly injured, but just hearing that I was going to be OK, it gave me some sense of home," Mrs. Anthony said.

Hanging upside down by their seat belts and struggling to breathe, emergency crews had to pry the car doors open to cut the couple out of the vehicle.

Mrs. Anthony was rushed by LifeCare ambulance to Sterling Regional Med Center where doctors performed an emergency C-section and delivered a 6-pound baby girl two weeks premature. Kimberly was then airlifted to Swedish Medical Center. Mr. Anthony was transported by Ambulance to Swedish Medical Center.

Mrs. Anthony suffered a broken neck, sternum, collarbone, hand, 10 broken ribs, two bruised lungs and a cut spleen. Mr. Anthony was treated for a concussion, broken ribs and a broken eye socket, among other injuries. Despite the crash and emergency delivery, baby Mckayla was

uninjured.

Told by doctors she would be on a ventilator for weeks and have 40 percent capability of her right hand, Mrs. Anthony was able to come off the ventilator in three days, released from the hospital two weeks later, and has improved her hand capabilities to 85 percent.

"Mckayla was still in Sterling while I was in Denver, so I think I was kind of spurred on to get better so I could see her," Mrs. Anthony said. "I wanted to be able to hold Mckayla and dress her, and I knew I would need my hand to do it, so whenever I couldn't sleep, I would get out the baby clothes and work on the buttons and snaps."

Parents and child were reunited a week after the crash.

Despite months of recovery still ahead of her, Mrs. Anthony, along with Mr. Anthony, wanted to thank their rescuers and planned the reunion at Sterling Fire Department firefighter Chris Monahan's farewell party.

"We really wanted to let them know we appreciated what they did, and when we heard Chris was leaving, we thought bringing Mckayla would be a good goodbye present," Mr. Anthony said.

Mr. Monahan will begin his new career at the Colorado State Patrol Academy in Goodland.

Lt. Ben Murray said it's rare for firefighters to meet the victims they

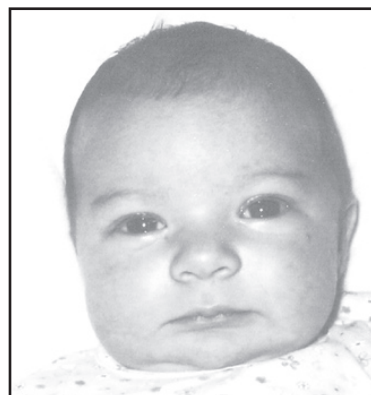
helped rescue.

"This is a special treat for us because we treat (victims) on the scene, but once they get to the hospital, we really don't hear what happens to them after that," Lt. Murray said. "It's not very often we see a success story like this. They were extremely lucky."

The Anthonys are still looking for the stranger who first called 911 and knocked on their window to tell them help was on the way.

Mrs. Anthony continues to wear a neck brace and said she has two sets of grandparents helping care for Mckayla. A scrapbook for Mckayla was signed by firefighters and paramedics at the party.

"My whole perspective on life has changed. Every day is a blessing now. You never really know how fragile life is until something like this happens. It makes you realize you have no control over life and you just need to take advantage of the time you have," Mrs. Anthony said.



Mullen

Introducing

Alexis Nicole Mullen

Alexis Nicole Mullen was born Dec. 6, 2007, at St. Luke South Hospital in Overland Park. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and measured 18 3/4 inches long. Alexis was welcomed home by her brother Brady. Parents are Chris and Lindsey Mullen of Garden City, Mo.

Grandparents are Ron and Arlene Haack of Lutz, Fla., and Richard and Jan Mullen of Marysville. Great-grandmothers are Vernetta Haack, Bird City, Joan Clowe, Beattie, and Vonnie Mullen, Blue Rapids.

Club Clip

Classy Classic Red Hatters

The Classy Classics met at the Cheyenne Manor on Jan. 11. The hostesses were Carol Rogers and Lois Leydig.

The evening began with a pizza

buffet along with tea or coffee. Dessert was cake and brownies.

After the meal, the group played Court Whist. The game is somewhat like bridge but you have a list telling you what is trump for that hand.

The evening concluded after playing the game.

Happy 60th Birthday



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