

# The Saint Francis Herald

\$1 (Tax included: 73¢ delivered at home)

18 Pages Including Special Section

Thursday, December 31, 2009

125th Year, Number 53

## Holiday week plagued with snow storms

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

The holiday week started with fog and drizzle Tuesday evening and, by morning, there was ice and snow beginning to fall. The weather forecasters were saying those wanting to go somewhere for the Christmas holiday needed to be on the roads by Wednesday or be prepared to stay at home.

By Saturday, I-70, U.S. 36 and K-27 had been closed because of the road conditions caused by snow and winds gusting to 45 miles per hour. The high during the period

between Wednesday and Saturday was 23 degrees and the low bottomed out at 8 degrees.

In Cheyenne County, the state crew was out trying to keep the highways cleared but Bill Lee, county department head for the state department of transportation, said during the worst of the storm, the crew was reporting zero visibility in some areas.

The state crew had used 45 to 50 tons of chemical and 6,800 gallons of salt brine trying to keep the highways clear and free of ice.

See STORMS on Page 5

## First baby contest begins



By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

The first of the year is here and the contest for the First Baby of the Year 2010 has begun. The contest starts Friday (Jan. 1) and will end when the first phone call comes in that the first baby has arrived.

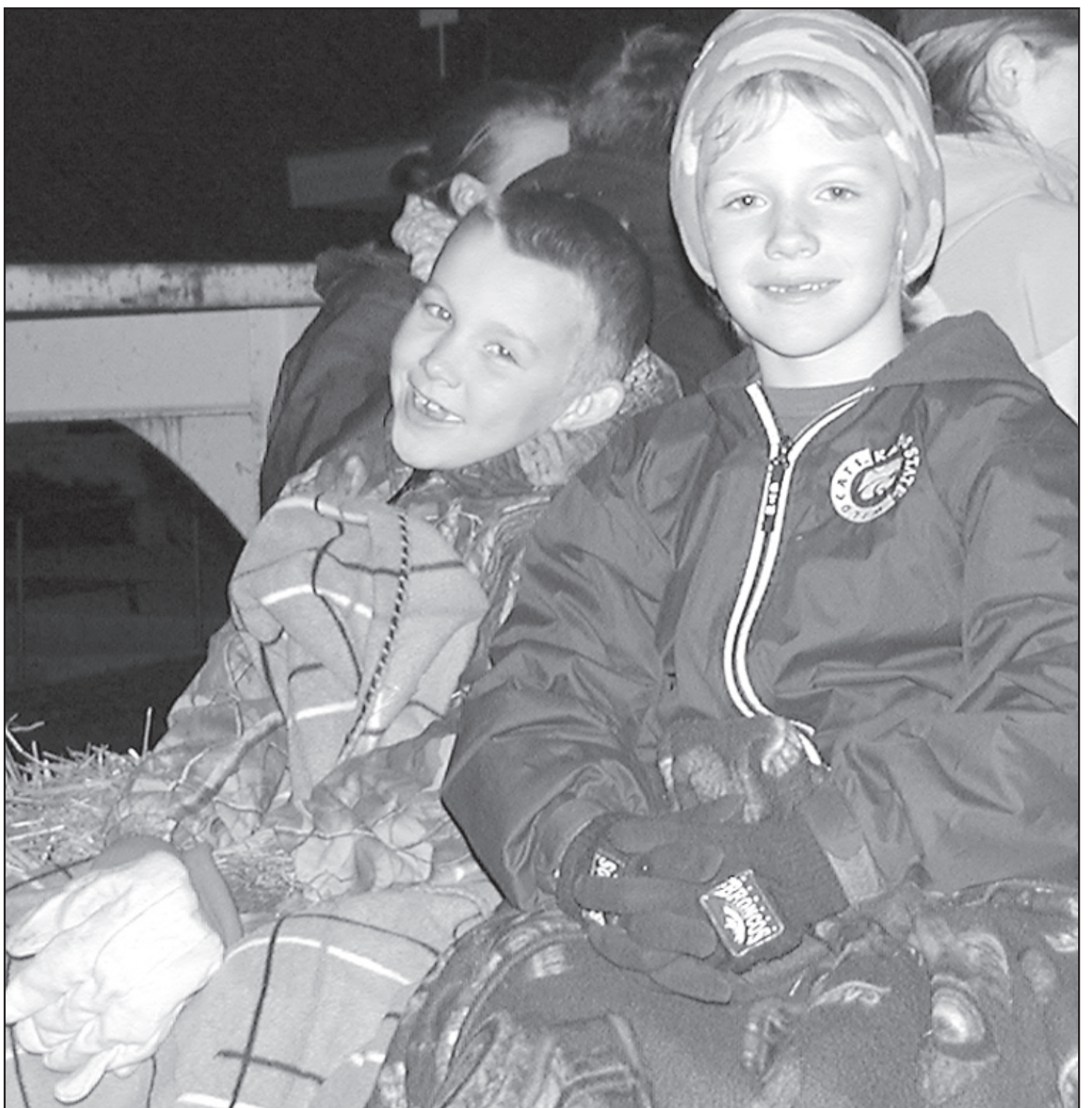
With the arrival of Dr. Rebecca Allard, babies are now being delivered at the Cheyenne County Hospital. This opens the contest up to the parents of any baby, whether it is from Cheyenne County or from

outside the county, to win the baby contest as long as it is born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. These parents and their new-born infant will be awarded gifts from sponsors.

The Saint Francis Herald office or staff must be notified as soon as possible following the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162 or call 785-332-3246.

The parents of this year's first baby will receive a \$25 gift certificate.

See BABY on Page 5



IT WAS COLD as 4-H'ers Jesse Baxter, left, and Shadryon Blanka, rode on a hayrack for caroling at the Good Samaritan Village.

Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider



'I SEE YOU!' Addy Christensen, left, and Makaila Matthies had their animal masks on during the ABC Preschool program.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## St. Francis man dies in two-vehicle accident

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

A former brand inspector died following a two-vehicle accident in St. Francis early Thursday morning.

Tony Rodriguez, St. Francis police officer, was called to the 400 block of East Second Street at 5:23 a.m. where he found a 1994 GMC Sierra pickup belonging to Marvin Zwegardt, had hit the back of a parked 2008 Ford F350 pickup belonging to Pete Jensen.

A call had been made to 911 and the emergency medical technicians were on the scene. They took Mr. Zwegardt to the Cheyenne County Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

Mr. Zwegardt was the son of Tobe and Irene Zwegardt. He was born on the family farm on Feb. 22, 1941, the youngest of four children. He attended school in St. Francis, graduating with the

class of 1959.

He became a brand inspector in 1971 but also had several other jobs that kept him busy.

He married Brenda Bracelin in 1969 and they had one son, Jeff, who survives.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday at Peace Lutheran Church, 202 N. College, St. Francis, with burial in the St. Francis Cemetery.

See Page 5 of this issue for a complete obituary.



MAKING COOKIES for Christmas boxes were 4-H'er, Kaycee Williams, right, and her helper, Sydney Allard.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Annual coyote calling contest draws many competitors

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansan.com

FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event will be held Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 9 and 10, in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. This is the 13th calling contest to be held in St. Francis.

The response has been tremendous, said Brent Rueb, event coordinator. In fact, because of the response, the decision was made to increase the number of teams.

This year, there will be 95 Predator Sniper Teams (compared to 85

last year) and 55 Sportsman's Warehouse Class teams.

The Sportsman's Warehouse Class is full but there is still a chance for competitors to get in the Predator Sniper Teams. Callers are coming from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska as well as Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota, New Mexico, Minnesota, Texas and Missouri.

People who are not participating in the event are urged to come to the fairgrounds during the two days and see the activities. There will also be sponsor booths and products.

It is a good time to talk to the hunters, callers like to swap calling techniques and it is just an interesting event to be a part of.

### Two-pointer coyote

Last year, the two-pointer coyote competition was a success, Mr. Rueb said. A two-pointer coyote is a coyote that has a predominately white-tipped tail (80 percent or more white than black).

There will be an additional \$10 added to the cost of entry fees which will be set aside for this competition. The fund will be added to until

a two-pointer coyote is harvested during the contest.

The extra fee, Mr. Rueb said, will have no effect on the regular payback and the two-pointer will still have its same value as the rest of the teams' coyote count and total weight.

Mr. Rueb said there are plenty of two-pointer coyotes out there! Hunters usually see anywhere from six hairs or more but normally no more than 20 or so in a coyote's tails. A two-pointer, he said, is easily detected and it is very apparent

that almost all the hair in the tip of the tail is white.

### Kill block

A new style of kill block has been implemented. It will be a "bench mark" in the calling industry.

Ron Dir with GameTraks, which produces an electronic, wireless game call, has stepped up to be the sponsor of the new GameTraks Kill Blocks.

GameTraks, Mr. Rueb said, is very interested in supporting the competitive calling industry.

This newly designed kill block

will dramatically stop the chances of pooling coyotes and cheating.

The Midwest Coyote Event will have their kill blocks laser engraved with the GameTraks logo. This will stop teams from making extra kill blocks of their own and also stop teams from pooling coyotes from other hunters in order to increase their harvest count.

"This is another effort that we are taking to make sure that the Midwest Coyote Calling Event is honest and promotes the rules of fair chase," Mr. Rueb said.