

The Saint Francis Herald

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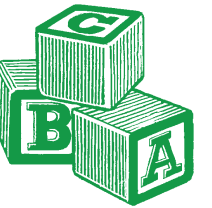
Thursday, January 21, 2010

126th Year, Number 3



FIRST BABY, Alexis Faith, was born on Jan. 13. She is pictured with parents, Clay and Erika Zimbelman.

First baby arrives



By Karen Krien
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The first baby of 2010 born at the Cheyenne County Hospital arrived Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 11:14 p.m.

The daughter of Clay and Erika Zimbelman, Alexis Faith weighed in at 5 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 18-inches long. She was delivered by Dr. Rebecca Allard.

Grandparents are Ron and Marsha Zimbelman, St. Francis, and David and Mary Lehman, Gardner. Her great-grandmother is Edna Zimbelman.

Many gifts

There are seven businesses along with the Cheyenne County Hospital supporting the First Baby of the Year contest. Alexis and her parents received a number of gifts including: a \$25 gift card from St. Francis Super's; \$50 savings bond from Western State Bank; \$25 Busy Bee's Savings Account at Bankwest; baby gift from Krien Pharmacy; baby gift from Owens True Value; \$25

Gift Certificate from the St. Francis Equity; and a subscription from The Saint Francis Herald. At the hospital, Dr. Allard gave a "Soothing Womb Bear." There were two outfits with "1st Baby of the Year at Cheyenne County Hospital" embroidered on them. Deb George, Deb's Embroidery & More, donated the embroidering. There was a case of diapers and an Avent starter bottle system.

In memory of Bonnie McQuillen, a quilt was given to Alexis by the Prairie Piece Maker Quilt Guild.

Last year

Last year's first baby was Amy Dianne, daughter of Viviana and Juan Yanez. She was born at the Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis on Jan. 12. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20-inches long.

In the last four years, the first babies of the year were girls. Before that, there were twins (one of each), another girl and two boys.

Arikaree Breaks among finalists

The Cheyenne County Arikaree Breaks is one of five finalists in the 8 Wonders of Kansas Geography. People are urged to go to the internet site, www.kansassampler.org/8wonders/geography.php and vote. Vote up to three times from each e-mail address.

The voting stops at midnight on Wednesday, Feb. 17. The winner will be announced on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The other four finalists are: Geographic Center of U.S. - Smith County; Mt. Sunflower - Wallace County; Post Rock Scenic Byway - Russell County; and Sternberg Museum - Ellis County.

The Breaks is a finalist because the steep-sided, rugged canyons and short-grass prairie make this a distinct and scenically-dramatic part of Kansas.

The Breaks are a rugged landscape of canyons that have formed

in a type of windblown silt called loess. In general, this loess was deposited by the wind during the past few million years.

Loess is often rich in clay minerals which allows these deposits to hold together and form a steep face. Thus, as water erodes away loess deposits, they often form steep-sided canyons, an environment that is especially noticeable here.

The Breaks is covered by short-grass prairie, particularly buffalo grass, and, in places, yucca plants and prickly pear cactus. This is a relatively arid area; average annual precipitation is less than 20 inches per year.

Its elevation, more than 3,000 feet above sea level, along with its location on the northern edge of the state, combine to make this one of the colder parts of the state.

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CLEARING THE ICE — After weeks of below-zero temperatures and a couple of broken water mains, St. Francis' Main Street had solid ice buildup on the south side of the street. City crews took advantage of the warm weather last week and broke up the ice so it could melt.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Co-op shows profit

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Equity had a very successful year in 2009 with total earnings of \$854,747. Patronage dividends of \$661,515 will be distributed to Equity stockholders in the coming weeks. Checks were also passed out following the annual Equity meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Greg Daughhete, auditor with Lindburg and Vogel, Hays, congratulated the patrons and board for an outstanding year. There were a lot of reversals in commodity prices, he said. Grain, fertilizer, gas and chemical prices were all down. The Equity had local earnings of \$612,006 which, he said, was over \$81,500 from last year.

This shows patrons are supporting their Equity, said Karol Lohman, Equity manager.

Steve Yost, president of the board, welcomed the crowd and introduced the board and their spouses. The customers were served a dinner of chicken with all the trimmings topped off with apple cobbler.

During her report, Ms. Lohman recognized the employees for their hard work and dedication. She



ST. FRANCIS EQUITY Board members were present at the annual meeting held Wednesday evening. Pictured, l to r, Eddy Schultz, Alex Peterson, Spencer Schlepp and speaking, Steve Yost, chairman.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

also had a power-point presentation showing the facilities, operations, equipment, and employees of the Equity.

She said that the grain tubes had been paid for when the last payment was made in November.

Some of improvements made the last year in St. Francis included:

- A new roof on the feed mill and roofing repairs to the feed store building.
- New computer and software upgrades.
- A new larger office shredder which helps keep the business in compliance with privacy laws.
- New larger portable corral which patrons can rent.
- New 60- by 80-foot shop

building for equipment maintenance and repairs.

- Four new liquid fertilizer trailers.
 - Refurbished the Freightliner stretching the frame and adding a new tank for it to pull the nitro spray rig.
 - Purchased a 1999 Kenworth semi tractor to haul the other nitro spray rig and support material.
 - Added a new pro-panel roof and put in an overhead door in the warehouse building.
 - In the St. Francis station, a new auto lift, a tire balancer machine and more efficient lighting have already been added.
- In Haigler, improvements were:
- Upgraded the cardtrol system to be able to accept major credit

cards for fuel.

- Purchased two lots on Highway 34 so the billboard promoting the Equity fuel could be erected.
- Purchased two other lots adjoining the property and cleaned the lots up.

After two years of researching, the board has decided to build a new bulk fuel plant.

"This was the only feasible approach to the challenge of staying in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency rulings," Ms. Lohman said.

Construction will begin in the spring. By building, customers will not have any down time when fuel cannot be delivered. They

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Coyote callers' experiences told

By Casey McCormick

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The FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event is known to attract hunters from other areas. But this year's contest saw two enthusiasts come all the way from the east coast to participate in the annual roundup, held on Jan. 8 - 10.

Jason Tippett and Andrew Tennyson made the trip from Ridge, Md, near the shores of Chesapeake Bay, to spend a weekend on the high plains, calling coyotes.

"We came across Brent Rueb's website on the Internet," Mr. Tippett said. After a couple phone calls and filling out the entry form online, the hunt was set.

Mr. Tippett had been to Nebraska before, but Mr. Tennyson was making his first trip to the mid-west. After flying into Denver International Airport, the men rented a pickup truck and drove to their lodgings in Goodland.

"Most of the driving around was a bonus," Mr. Tippett said.

They were welcomed at the Friday night sign-in by Mr. Rueb, Martin Hilt and other hunters at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds in St. Francis.

Once on the road they drove east on U.S. 36 to Atwood. Back tracking they turned north,

through McDonald up to the Nebraska border.

Although the team did not bring in any coyotes, they were able to sight several.

One difference between hunting on the east coast and the plains is the size of fields.

"At home the largest fields are about 200 acres," Mr. Tippett said, "But some of the spots we hunted were several thousand."

The hunters were also impressed with the long distances to be seen.

"It's unbelievable how you can sit in one spot and see so far," Mr. Tippett said.

In addition to hunting water fowl and Whitetail deer, the only predator of numbers near their home are fox.

"We'd have to drive down to Pennsylvania or western Maryland to find many coyotes," Mr. Tippett said.

A return trip is already in the works for next year's contest.

"This year was a learning curve and it helped to talk to the other hunters," Mr. Tippett said, "Next year we'd like to drive out and bring some oysters."

The men appreciated the help and hospitality they received from Mr. Rueb and Mr. Hilt for the pointers and map of the area.