

# Group takes over 'scrip money' job

When the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce dissolved at the end of 2011, the St. Francis New Generation Fund and Community Foundation took over the responsibility of distributing "scrip money."

Scrip money was generally used around the Christmas season by businesses in Cheyenne County.

Anyone can purchase scrip money, said Carla Lampe. It would be a great gift and can be used for anything from Senior Center meals, to paying your utility bill, to purchasing gas, groceries or gifts.

Money can't be given back on purchases but its not hard to spend \$25, \$50 or \$100 denominations.

It's a great way to support our local businesses and help the local economy.

The committee in charge of

scrip money, Tom Keller, Gloria Bracelin, Dennon Flemming, Dara Carmichael and Carla Lampe, met on March 6 to lay out the plan for distributing the money.

First of all, anyone wanting to give scrip money needs to have the money deposited before the scrip money will be printed. Secondly, each check will have the "bearer" in payee line. To track outstanding checks, the purchaser should write in the name of the payee behind "bearer."

Scrip money can be purchased at any of the three local banks – Bankwest, First National Bank and Western State Bank. Mrs. Lampe or Gloria Bracelin will be in charge of printing the money.

"We will have the checks ready within two days of the purchase," Mrs. Lampe said.



**WORKERS** were busy at the emergency building changing the county radios over to narrow band.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Radios changed

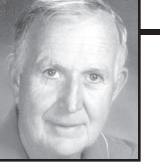
At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Cheyenne County began replacing and reprogramming radio equipment wide band to narrow band. All radios in the fire trucks, ambulances, law enforcement and other emergency vehicles, portable radios, tornado sirens and repeater towers were changed over.

The Federal Communications Commission has mandated that anyone having Federal Communications Commission licenses and communication equipment in the private and public sector, from farm to emergency responders, must complete the changeover by the Jan. 1, 2013.

We decided to change the emergency services ahead of time in case there are any problems, said Ryan Murray, emergency manager. This would allow us time to adjust and make changes in the current communication systems ahead of the deadline.

## Legislative News

By  
**Ward Cassidy**



*120th State Representative*

An item of real significance to our state and all of our schools is that last week the Deputy Commissioner of Education, Dr. Diane DeBacker, filed a waiver with the Federal Department of Education for Kansas to opt-out of the No Child Left Behind Act. It will remove the requirement for 100 percent of all tested students to meet proficiency by 2014, and let Kansas set new attainable measures. I will discuss some of those measures in future articles when the waiver is attained. It is not certain we will receive the

waiver, but I believe we have an excellent chance of receiving one.

An issue I was concerned about, before coming to Topeka, was our state's ability to export our products. I discussed this with our commerce director, Pat George (he is from Dodge City and served many years in the state legislature), and feel that he is working hard in that direction. The federal government has been pushed to open-up new markets for our Kansas products.

In 2011, exports have increased by more than 16 percent over

2010. We are currently at the second highest level on record, rising to \$11.57 billion of exported products. Our largest gains were in cereals (101 percent), pharmaceutical products (54 percent), and meats (36 percent). Our top five export markets are, in order, Canada, Mexico, Japan, China, and Nigeria. I am confident Secretary George is making good progress opening up new markets for our products.

Another bit of good news is that the Department of Revenue Secretary, Nick Jordan, reported that Kansas collected \$29 million more in taxes in February than expected. He reported that it is a sign the Kansas economy is recovering and more people are getting jobs. Since the beginning of this fiscal year, in July, tax collections have been \$3.7 billion – about \$32 million more than expected.

There is little in the way of new information regarding KanCare, as much of the details cannot be released by the Brownback administration because of the

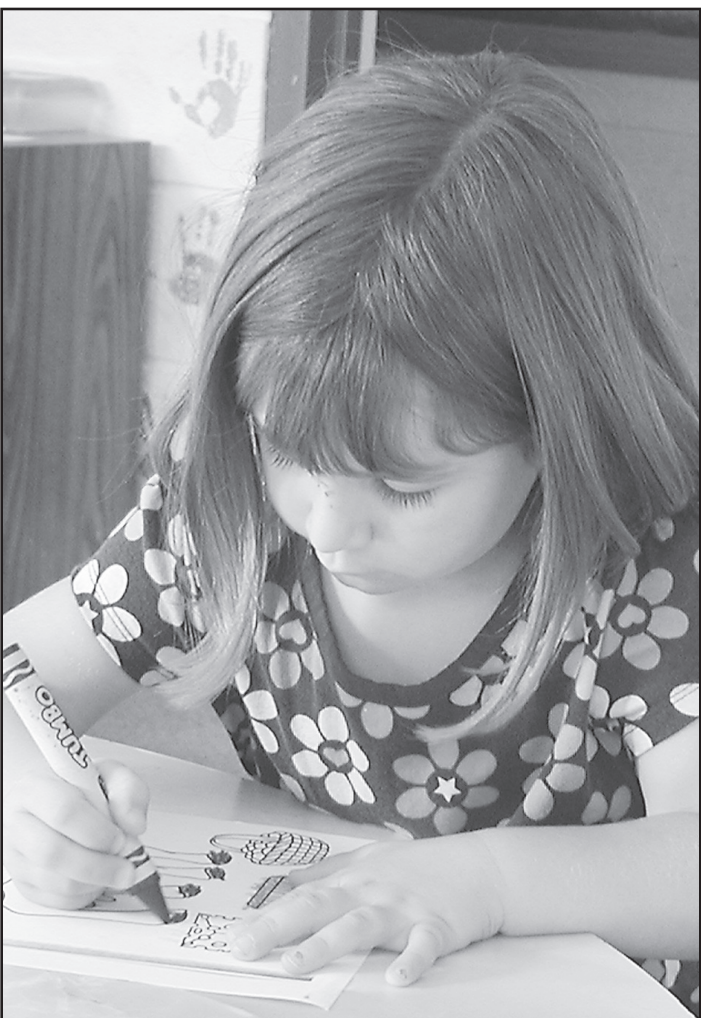
nature of the contract negotiations they are involved in. It prevents them from divulging any details of the proposals made by the health care companies until the contracts are signed and finalized. The process is expected to take until mid to late summer to have the list of the three companies the administration has chosen. I have heard many concerns about the KanCare plan and have continued to express our concerns with this administration. It is very important as to how this will affect our providers and clients in our communities.

A reminder – all of the articles I have written this year and my contact information are on my website [www.wardcassidy.com](http://www.wardcassidy.com). On this website, I will also have an update on what is happening to Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) and will change the information as the process develops.

## Helpful Hints

Look what you can do with Alka Seltzer.....Clean a toilet: Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China. Clean a vase: To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets. Polish jewelry: Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes. Clean a thermos

bottle: Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary). Unclog a drain: Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of white vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water.



**MATILYNN SMULL** colors a picture at preschool.  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact: Tim Burr at

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## Spring School Section

Featuring students involved in sports, vocal, band, drama, honor society and journalism



**Smile it's Spring!**

Advertise your business in the **SPRING Home & Garden Special Sections** Coming Soon!



Don't Miss The Upcoming Special Section Promoting **U.S. 36!**

## Don't Take Chances. Call Before You Dig.

Remember to call **811** at least two working days before you begin any digging. This free service coordinates local utilities to mark underground pipes and wires before you start your project.

**Don't take chances.** A call to **One Call 811** will help you avoid potential expense—and the possibility of serious or fatal injury.

For your own safety, call **811** before you dig.

