

# Ambulance purchase is approved

The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at their Dec. 15, meeting, approved the purchase of an ambulance for \$104,645. Larry Gabel, emergency medical service director, said he had asked for bids on an ambulance from three different companies but only one, Rocky Mountain Vehicles, had returned a bid by the specified time. The

\$104,645 bid includes a \$5,000 government and fleet discount. The new ambulance should be delivered within 90 to 120 days. Director Gabel said a radio would need to be installed in the new ambulance and he had a bid of \$668 from K-N Communications. The commissioners also approved

this bid and the money will be taken from the 911 Fund. Earlier in the meeting while approving vouchers, the commissioners were concerned about three emergency medical technicians who had left a tip of 47 percent. Technicians are limited to \$10 each per meal on ambulance

runs. The tip had left the bill at \$30.01. The commissioners asked the director if he was aware of the situation? He said he was and he had talked to the technicians about the tip. The director said that he did not encourage the technicians to take that type of action but that he felt the "tip" was making a statement to the commissioners.

When asked what type of statement, Director Gabel said that some of the technicians felt the \$10 meal allowance was too small. He went on to say that he felt the system worked fine when he was allowed to supervise it, noting that sometimes the meals were more and other times, they were less. **See AMBULANCE on Page 9A**

## Winner claims \$1,000 in scrip

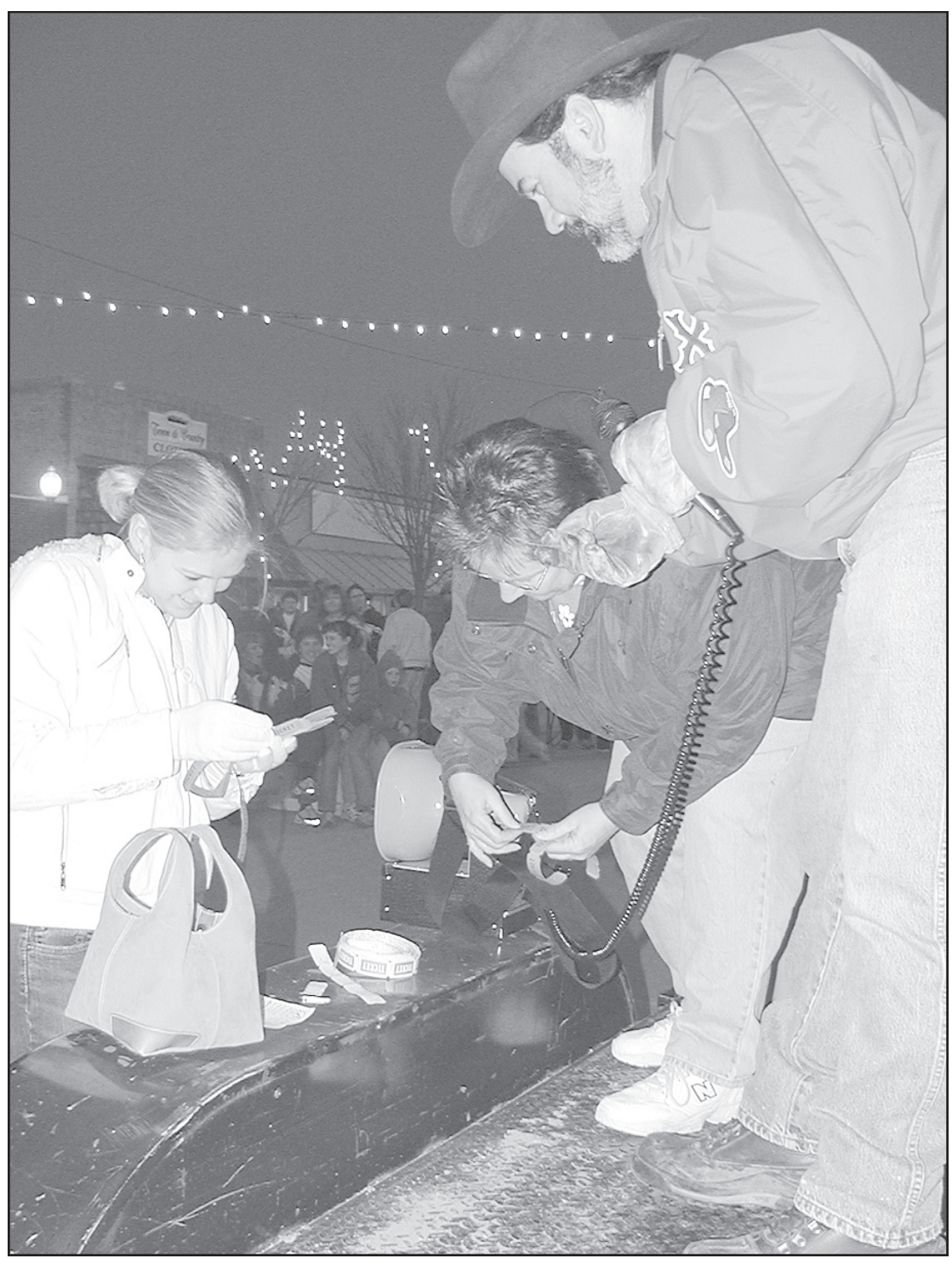
There were 13 St. Francis businesses who joined together to sponsor the Christmas On Us promotion. On Thursday evening, Kodi Lauer, St. Francis, was the delighted winner of \$1,000 in scrip money to be spent in those participating businesses. Ron Ewing, St. Francis, took home \$100 in scrip and Madeline Roberson won the \$50 scrip.

The evening was mild and just right for a Christmas drawing. There was plenty of light to see the tickets and, while there were a few people who had brought blankets, most were comfortable in coats and jackets.

The Christmas On Us drawing had brought many people to town in hopes of taking home the grand prize along with the other prizes including the Chamber's \$300 in scrip.

The first drawing for \$50 in scrip took only one ticket pulled by Santa. He had to draw twice before Mr. Ewing had a matching number. It was quiet as Santa drew for the grand prize. The first ticket had no one claiming the number. However, with the second draw, there was a squeal from the back of the audience as Kodi realized that she had the matching number. Her ticket had come from

Others winning \$50 in scrip by matching ticket numbers which appeared in Christmas On Us business ads were: Billie Hilt, Patrick Delano, Tom Hnizdil, Robert Zwegardt, Heidi Straub, Barb O'Leary and Mary Nicklos. "We have had some tough economic times but St. Francis



**EXCITEDLY CHECKING TICKETS** — Kodi Lauer was the winner of \$1,000 in scrip at the Christmas On Us drawing held Thursday. Helping her check tickets were Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary, and Casey McCormick, announcer. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

businesses pulled together and were able to offer a total of \$1,500 in scrip throughout the Christmas season," said Karen Krien, publisher. "It helped bring a little excitement to the holiday season and certainly helped some of people have a little brighter Christmas season." After the tickets were calculated,

it was estimated that approximately 45,000 tickets had either been given away or given with each \$10 purchase. That was approximately \$450,000 spent in St. Francis during the Christmas On Us promotion. Those businesses participating in the promotion were: Bier's Hometown Store, Burr Liquor, Cheyenne

Bowl and Dairy King, Dusty Farmer, Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Krien Pharmacy, K-Store, Owens True Value, Parkhill Restaurant, St. Francis Super's, Schultz's, St. Francis Equity, The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times.

## Hospital board makes plans for future projects

*By Karen Krien*  
The Cheyenne County Hospital Board spent time at the Dec. 13 meeting looking and planning for the future. At the top of the list was setting a time frame for strategic planning and completing the ambulance entrance and physical therapy improvements.

The ambulance entrance improvements have been talked about for several years. When the hospital renovations were first planned for, the ambulance entrance was also included but because of funding, it was put on hold.

Swede Calnon, board member, said he was against asking the taxpayers for any more money. Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said he thought the ambulance entrance and PT departments would make a good application for the tax credit program. He also thought it might be possible to address improving the main entrance in the front with the same proposal.

The clinic remodeling and addition as well as the hospital heating and air conditioning systems were built with tax credit money. The Tax Credits let taxpayers steer their taxes back home. The income tax credit is a way of donating money to the hospital and getting a credit on the state income tax.

When the taxpayer makes his qualified donation, 70 percent of the donation will be returned to the taxpayer as a Kansas income tax credit.

At this time, the hospital administrator has not made an application for a tax credit because this year's applications are not yet available. The board talked about scheduling a strategic planning meeting for sometime in March. Jackie Johnson, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, said she would plan to be at the meeting and help the board.

**Remodeling**  
Administrator Lacy reported that the remodeling of the county health clinic in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis was coming along on schedule and was on budget. He said the sheet rock had been hung and the contractor was ready to start taping the sheet rock.

The administrator also said that as the hospital remodeling nears completion, it is also on budget and on time, even with the change orders related to the X-ray and CAT scanner. The board approved a change order of \$2,209 that will add nurse call stations to the X-ray room so additional help can be called if necessary from the patient's side.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• Tammi Sherlock, St. Francis, said she was planning on attending nursing school. Administrator Lacy set up a sponsorship agreement for her application to the Kansas Nursing Scholarship Loan Program, noting that Mrs. Sherlock had worked for the hospital and was a strong student. **See PLANS on Page 9A**

## Winter weather expected to be cold

The first day of winter dawned cold. The National Weather Channel reported a high of 26 degrees early in the morning but the wind chill was only 17 degrees.

The sun came up at 8:02 a.m. and went down at 5:23 p.m.

On Monday, the wind and dirt and thistles blew. Richard Grace at Grace Flying Service, St. Francis, reported the strongest gust clocked in at 58 miles per hour.

Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, had a high of 61 degrees but with the steady breeze, it felt much cooler.

That 61 degrees will be the high for the week as a cold front is to be

moving in. On Thursday, there is a chance of snow and the high is forecast to be only 10 degrees and the low, a -3 degrees. Friday, the temperature is supposed to warm up to 26 but drop again to 12 degrees.

However, Christmas Day will be bright and sunny and the high is predicted to be 47 degrees.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Dec. 14	40	14	
Dec. 15	54	27	
Dec. 16	52	25	
Dec. 17	55	21	
Dec. 18	54	23	
Dec. 19	56	19	
Dec. 20	61	21	

## Schools recognized for excellence

Both the St. Francis High School and Elementary School have been recognized for having attained the Standard of Excellence on the 2004 statewide assessments. The fourth grade math and fifth grade reading classes both had a high level of academic performance. In the high school, 11th grade and eighth grade

classes were recognized in writing. Attaining the Standard of Excellence requires having a significant portion of the student body scoring at the advanced and exemplary levels. Standard of Excellence schools must also show evidence of moving students out of the lower performance levels on

the state assessment. Statewide, 13.7 percent of the schools reached the Standard of Excellence in eighth grade writing and 15.2 percent of the schools reached the standard of excellence at the 11th grade level. At the grade school level, there were 210 out of the 844 school

reaching the Standard of Excellence in fifth grade reading and 403 out of the 867 schools achieving that performance in fourth grade math. "Attaining the Standard of Excellence speaks highly of the efforts of the school staff to ensure all students are learning," said Janet Waugh, **See SCHOOL on Page 9A**

## Lighting Contest winners —



Art Krueger - 120 W. Spencer



Larry and Terri Finley - 415 S. Scott

# Idalia News

## Trips

Cynthia Paul just returned from a business trip to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, though it borders Saudi Arabia, the population is Amix from across the globe. Arabs represent only 10 percent of the permanent population. At this Christmas time, it's nice to know that Christmas across this world will be sharing the Christmas holiday with us.

Ralph and Beverly Weyerman, Glenn and Estalene Wudtke and Bill and Lois Lippert left Nov. 7 for Orlando, Fla., to attend the young farmers convention for a few days and were vacationing for two weeks and returned home Wednesday.

## Idalia FFA District Winners

Idalia FFA District winners in recent district competition at Hi-Plains High School.

Mallord Rose will compete in the State Creed contest and Andrea Knodel will compete in the public speaking contest.

## 2004 Make It Yourself with Wool

The "Make It Yourself With Wool" contest was held in Burlington, Dec. 4.

Andrea Knodel of Idalia won second place knitting and crocheting award senior division. Leah Kettelson, Spotlight award winner, Junior division and Robbie Parker of Idalia second place winner, pre-teen division.

## Bicentennial Family Education Community Education

Fifteen members and two guests attended the annual Idalia Bicentennial Family Community Education Christmas party. Hostesses were

Sheryl Wudtke and Roberta Moellenberg. After a delicious meal of Fondue, presents were passed out and secret pals were revealed. Christine Sharp was welcomed as the newest member. Rosemary Shanks, president, called the December business meeting to order. Installation of the 2005 officers was held. They were Priscilla Lindsey, president; Roberta Moellenberg, vice president and Kathy Fonte, treasurer. Rosemary Shanks brought the scholarship basket, which was won by Janice Souther.

## St. John United Church of Christ News

St. John United Church of Christ invites everyone to come join them. Sunday school and adult study is at 10 a.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m.

The youth fellowship, sponsors and pastor were in the area Sunday afternoon Christmas caroling. Then went back to the church for supper and a movie.

Youth fellowship and children will have their Christmas program at 7 p.m. Dec. 24, with refreshments served afterwards.

There were nine Poinsettia's on the Altar Sunday donated by people in memory of a loved one.

Christmas dinner guests at the Gary and Sharilyn Mansfield home were Todd, Jennifer, Cade and Brittany Novak of Golden, Ron and Jeanne Jackson of Hickman, Neb., and Jill Mansfield and fiancée, Ron Scott both of Greeley and Jean Brenner of Burlington.

All the Beckman family plan to be

By  
Elsie  
Shanks



home for Christmas with parents, Larry and Janie Beckman.

Tom and Marie Mandis were Thursday till Monday guests and visitors of their son and wife, Rick and Renee Mandis at Fort Collins.

Larry and Janie Beckman took his mother, Annabeth Beckman of Wray to Jewelsburg Saturday to watch her granddaughter, Stephanie Beckman play basketball against Holyoke which they won.

Idalia girls and boys played Liberty Thursday night. Friday night both girls and boys played Woodlin and they all did well.

Idalia school staff enjoyed Christmas dinner at Route Steakhouse in Burlington Saturday night.

Trisha and Dr. Guy Coberly of Loveland, Travis and Kristal Crites and Kennedy of Houston, Texas will arrive Wednesday to visit their parents, Terry and Debbie Crites and enjoyed Christmas holiday until Monday. Others will join them for Christmas dinner.

Lucille Helling will host Christmas dinner at her home with all her children and families attending plus Alma Helling.

Dorothy M. Bazyn is not doing well and would appreciate cards and letters from friends in the area. Her new address is 1020 Patton Street, Fort Collins, Co. 80524-4018.

Mike and Phyllis Beecham and Sarah of Pueblo West were last weekend guests and visitors of her parents, Harlan and Shirley Boden.



FOUR GENERATIONS were together and had the above photo taken. Great-grandmother Alma Walter holds Kandance Hardin. Her mother Tracy (Williams) Hardin is standing and her mother Linda (Walter) Williams kneels.

# SCHOOL

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State Board of Education chairman. "This accomplishment is something in which the entire community can take pride."

School officials were pleased with the performance of the students on the state assessments and were quick to credit the efforts of students and faculty.

"Our staff and students have been continually striving to be the best. This falls in line with our rich heritage of wonderful students and staff and a true step to the future of maintaining that excellence," Scott Carmichael, junior-senior high principal, said.

"This is a good example of the fine quality of education our students receive in the St. Francis school system in spite of the budget shortages," Larry Gabel, elementary principal, said. "I really believe we get more bang for the bucks in Cheyenne County."

The school received a certificate of achievement from the State Board of Education for the accomplishment.

# AMBULANCE

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less. All in all, the meal costs evened out without problems.

Commissioner Tim Raile said he hoped employees wouldn't spend up to their limit on anything budgeted but, instead, would try to spend under if possible. He went on to say that it is the commissioners' job to monitor spending county dollars.

## Road and bridge purchase

Jarold DeBoer, Penco Engineering representative, and Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, discussed upcoming county projects.

Supervisor Flemming submitted bid proposals for new mowers. After discussion regarding the differences in mowers, the commissioners told the supervisor to use his judgment in the purchase. One old mower will be used as a trade-in and two new mowers will be purchased.

## Ambulance billing

Janelle Bowers, ambulance billing secretary, presented \$2,643 in contractual write-offs which were signed by the commissioners.

Secretary Bowers said that once a Medicare bill has been deemed medi-

cally unnecessary, she submits the bill again for review. After review, she will get a notice of payment, write off, or bill the patient. If the bill was denied, it is submitted for a hearing. The hearing may take three to six months to receive a reply. The reply will tell the Secretary Bowers if the bill will be paid, written off or the patient will be charged. The commissioners said they didn't want to ask for hearings on the bills but would prefer the patient ask Medicare for the hearing.

## In other business

In other business:

- The commissioners signed the law enforcement agreement with Bird City for \$25,000 and will have the county attorney draw up a draft of the contract.

- Mary Morrow, register of deeds, and Dolores Jenik, treasurer, asked permission to purchase computers. Treasurer Jenik said her computer was old and was continually locking up on her. She has the money in her budget to make the purchase. Mrs. Morrow will purchase the computer out of the Technology Fund. Both purchases were approved if there was

the money to do so.

Clerk Terry Miller said he is also ordering a computer. The secretary of state is asking that county election officers have a computer dedicated for election management.

- Mike Day, attorney acting in behalf of the county attorney, called an executive session to discuss a legal matter and no decision was made when coming back into session. Keven Berens, county attorney, was not handling the case because of a conflict of interest within the Milliken Law Office.

- The \$250 Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development dues for 2005 were approved.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been changed from Dec. 31 to Dec. 30 as the courthouse will be closed on the regular meeting day. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

*Editor's note: Much of the above article was taken from the unapproved Dec. 15 commissioners' meeting.*

# Haigler News

By  
Opal  
Collicott



## Haigler Girl Scout Troop 598

Haigler Girl Scout Troop 598 met on Dec. 11. The girls enjoyed their annual decorating of the Welcome to Haigler signs at the east and west ends of town.

T-shirts and necklaces were handed out to everyone. Cammi was recognized as the top peanuts sales-girl for 2004. Each of the girls made pine cone wreaths that they were able to take home for Christmas. Stephanie provided snacks.

The next meeting will be scheduled in January and Girl Scout cookies sales will be the agenda.

## United Methodist Women

The Haigler United Methodist Women met in the church on Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. President Laura Pearl Wall called the meeting to order with all repeating the Purpose. Sally Leinen gave devotions. Roll call, "Tell a Christmas Story", was answered by 10 members. Reports were given including Myrna Mulligan giving the Mission Report taken from *Response* magazine.

A contribution will be sent to Epworth Village. The members also pay for the treats to be distributed following the Sunday school Christmas program.

There were 35 calls made in November. As this was Laura Pearl Wall's last meeting as president, she gave "The Key" to Sally Leinen, who will be the new president.

Myrna Mulligan was program leader, with the help of her husband, Charlie. Part of the display for the program, a trio of candle angels spelling out the word "Joy", was given to Laura Pearl Wall as a gift for the joy that she has brought to the group in serving as United Methodist Women president for so many years.

The Program Committee served as hostesses. The next meeting will be Jan. 7 and will be the Pledge Service.

## Christmas Tea Party

Sunday afternoon, Dec. 19, was a festive occasion at the Carlock home in Haigler, as The Classy Canners (LaNeta Carlock, Myrna Mulligan and Galena Webster) hosted their second annual Christmas Tea Party. Ladies from Haigler, Benkelman, St. Francis, Bird City and Laird enjoyed seeing all of the lovely holiday decorations and tasting the many Christmas baked goodies, candies, cookies, bars, mints and tea sandwiches.

Refreshing drinks of punch, coffee and tea were also served. Many of The Nifty Red Hatters of Haigler attended the party, dressed in their holiday red hats and purple outfits. Following the tea party, many of the guests attended the Methodist and the Lutheran churches for their Christmas programs.

## Rainbow Unit

The Rainbow Family Community Education Club met at the home of Laura Pearl Wall on Dec. 16. MerryLu Simmons was a guest. Christmas games and quizzes were played. Refreshments were served. Lillian Mahon will host the Jan. 20 meeting and Melba Harford will present the lesson about preventing falls in the home.

## Christmas Eve service at United Methodist Church

A Christmas Eve Service will be held at the United Methodist Church on Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. mountain time. This service will be taking the place of the regular Sunday service on Dec. 26.

## Bible study

The men's and women's Bible study program which is held in the basement at the United Methodist Church will resume meeting the first week of January at 7 p.m.

## Red Hatters meet for party

The United Methodist church basement was filled with ladies dressed in red and purple finery the evening of Dec. 14. A Christmas gathering, hosted by Marilyn Banister and Theo Wishon, brought out most of the members of The Haigler Nifty Red Hatters. Everyone brought a finger food and enjoyed visiting while indulging in a variety of delicious goodies. Carols were then sung, games were played, door prizes were won, and a grab bag gift exchange was enjoyed while listening to a poem read by Marilyn Banister. One had to listen closely in order to know whether to pass the gift they were holding to the right or to the left. Everyone was pleased with the final gift they received. Theo had also made something for each of those present. The evening came to a close with the singing of several more Christmas carols.

The three sisters, LaNeta Carlock, Myrna Mulligan and Galena Webster, left early Friday morning, Dec. 17, for

Greeley, Colo. After scheduled medical and business matters, the group went on to Longmont, Colo., to visit and spend the night with Galena's daughter, Daniela Webster. She had prepared a lovely stir-fry and her apartment and the dinner table was very festive with an Oriental decorating flavor. Following the meal, Daniela took everyone to see some of the lovely Christmas lights around the area. Saturday was a funday for all the girls, and after an enjoyable meal at The Fortune Cookie and taking Daniela back to her home, the three sisters returned late Saturday night to their homes in Haigler.

Quentin, Bob and MerryLu Simmons and granddaughters, Laura and Madison Perila, attended the Christmas program at the United Methodist Church on Sunday evening, Dec. 19. They were later guests in the Richard Wall home.

Sally Leinen, Debbie Bush, Phyllis Clark, Virginia Harford and Laura Pearl Wall attended the Christmas luncheon at Benkelman United Methodist Church on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

# PLANS

Continued from Page 1A

dent and dependable employee. The board voted to support her with \$1,000 that the state will match with \$2,500. The program is a two-year program and will begin in June.

- The board was informed that the number of patients both in the hospital and those coming to see specialists had been steady during the month of December.

- The "punch list" of things needing completed on the hospital remodeling project was very long so no hospital construction meeting was held in December.

- The board talked about an open house so people could see the new renovations of the hospital. Administrator Lacy indicated that the building should be ready for this by March, noting that there were several "in-house" projects that would still be underway at that time.

# Thanks 4-H'ers!!!



Pleasant Hill 4-H Club brought the Herald soup mix for those cold Tuesday nights. Presenting the jar were Ashlee Orth, left, Katelyn Jones and Trista Orth.



Emily Walz, representing the Junior 4-H Leaders presented Lezlie Hilt with a plate of delicious cookies.

# The Saint Francis Herald



# JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME

## CARS

- '00 Chrysler Sebring, Gold, 24,296 miles, 2 Dr., Leather, CD, PS, PW, PDL, Tilt Cruise Control
- '00 Cadillac DeVille, Silver, 43,178 miles, 4 Dr., Northstar, Cruise Control, CD, Leather/Heat/Memory
- '03 Buick Park Ave., Silver, 29,554 miles, 4 Dr., CD, PW, PDL, Tilt, Cruise Control, Leather
- '03 Olds Alero, Red, 25,634 miles, 4 Dr., V6, PS, PW, Cruise Control
- '03 Chevy Malibu, Red, 28,191 miles, LS, 4 Dr., CD, PW, PDL
- '04 Buick Century, Beige, 12,896 miles, 4 Dr., Custom, V6, PS, PW, Cruise Control

## SUVS

- '04 Ford Expedition, Maroon, 74,618 miles, XLT, V8, Cruise Control, Cass/6 CD, Bucket, Hitch, 3rd Seat
- '02 Olds Bravada, Pewter, 35,560 miles, AWD, OnStar, 6 CD, Leather/Heat
- '02 GMC Yukon, Blue, 43,747 miles, SLE, 5.3, Cruise Control, PW, PDL, Cass/CD
- '03 Chevy Suburban, Blue, 35,183 miles, LS, 5.3, Cruise Control, 6 Disc CD, Cloth, Grill Guard
- '03 Chevy Venture, Red, 22,714 miles, FWD, Ext., LS, 6G, Cruise Control

## PICKUPS

- '01 Chevy K-2500, White, 71,347 miles, Crew, Long Box, HD, LS, 6.0, CC, CD, Bedliner
- '01 Chevy K-2500, White, 42,830 miles, V8, PS, AC, PW, PL
- '01 Chevy K-2500, Red, 36,872 miles, Ext. Cab, 4 WD
- '02 GMC TC15743, Blue, 33,188 miles, SLE, 6.0, Cruise Control, CD, PW, PDL, Crew Cab, 2 WD
- '03 Chevy CK15703, Red, 14,229 **SOLD** V8, AT, 4 WD, AC, PW, PL, Reg. Cab, Short Box

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