

150 teams compete this weekend

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event will be held Saturday and Sunday in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. This is the 13th calling contest to be held in St. Francis and 150 teams will be competing.

Hunters will be arriving by 4:30 p.m. on Friday for the rules meeting that evening. Callers are urged to come early.

The contest starts on Saturday and Sunday 1/2 hour before sunrise.

The weather is forecasted to be clear with the highs only in the upper 20s on Saturday and up to the 40s on Sunday.

No night hunting is allowed. The coyotes will be brought in on or before 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The biggest in the nation, there is a limit of 150 two-man teams participating; 95 Predator Sniper Class teams and 55 Sportsman's Warehouse Class teams. Last year, there were only 85 teams allowed in the Predator Sniper Class.

Callers are coming from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska as well as Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota, New Mexico, Minnesota, Texas and Missouri.

"The masters of coyote calling just keeps getting better and stronger," said Brent Rueb, coordinator.

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

Kill block

At the Midwest Coyote Calling Event, Mr. Rueb said, we

have always been very conscious in making sure the event is honest and promotes the rules of a fair chase.

This year, a new style of kill block has been implemented. It is a "bench mark" in the contest-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.

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.

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.

County waits for first baby of the year

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The First Baby of the Year contest has begun but, according to a hospital spokesperson, the first baby isn't due to arrive at the Cheyenne County Hospital until February. However, since most babies do not arrive on schedule, it's hard telling when the first baby of 2010 will be born.

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 the baby is born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. These parents and their newborn 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 card from St. Francis Super's, a \$25 Busy Bee's B-E-E A Saver Savings Account from Bankwest of Kansas, a \$50 savings bond from Western State Bank, a baby gift from Owens True Value, a \$25 gift certificate from the St. Francis Equity, a baby gift from Krien Pharmacy, and a year's subscription to The Saint Francis Herald or Bird City Times.

The parents of the new baby will need to claim their gifts within 60 days after the birth.

2009 First Baby of the Year

Last year's first baby was Amy Dianne, daughter of Vivana 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.



EVEN WITH NO SNOW FALL IN RECENT DAYS, Bird City residents have been waking up to an icy fog that has left the community looking like a winter wonderland with icicles forming on trees, roof overhangs, and even automobile antennas. However, by the late afternoon all the icicles have melted, only to return the next morning. Above, Eric Bartels, city maintenance, makes daily rounds by stopping at the Van Doren Park

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Mayor appoints councilmember

By Linda Schneider

dublinlms@gmail.com

The Bird City City Council meeting began with public comments and discussion on the decision to move the Cheyenne County Sheriff Office into a proposed construction of an office in the city shop. In addition, allowing Century II Development Foundation to occupy the vacant office space in city hall (see related story on page 3).

Following the discussion, Mayor Troy Burr appointed Dennis Wright to the council seat that had been vacated by the resignation of Ray Magnani. Then the meeting continued with the usual business of the month.

Councilman Hal Sager requested and was approved by council members to display several copies of the council's monthly meeting agendas in businesses and the post office prior to the meetings. This was prompted by Darlene Burr who suggested that the community should know what is going on at the meetings, especially if taxes are raised.

A building permit was approved for Dale Hazuka Sr. for new construction of a backyard shed at 304 E. 3rd Street.

Mayor Burr talked about the Middle Housing Project that was in progress across from the Cheylin Elementary School. It was noted that all was going well considering the weather and construction had moved inside the buildings.

It was decided to display the Community Development Block Grant sign in front of city hall. However, due to the frozen condition of the ground, temporarily attach the sign to the flag pole along with two steel posts.

The sign is a requirement from the Community Development Block Grant for the Rehabilitation Grant.

Last month, the council voted in a 3.7 percent pay increase for city employees, but overlooked



DENNIS WRIGHT (l) is sworn into office by DeAnza Ambrosier (center), city clerk and Mayor Troy Burr.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

the city treasurer, Phyllis Carson. Motion carried to give the city treasurer a 3.7 percent pay increase.

Council Loren White brought up the issue concerning a trailer house that has been sitting for a while. Discussion followed about several trailers in the same condition and what was going to be done about them.

Councilman Sager added that another trailer has been moved in back off of the street between George Cruz and the Boyson house. Kevin Berens, city attorney, said he would get together with Brad Schneider, city superintendent, and check them out and process.

Committee reports

Councilman White on the Equipment Committee reported that Bird City survived the recent snow storms. The skid loader has been repaired and Mr. Schneider said that the Case was in the shop for repairs.

Councilman White inquired if

a log was being used for repairs and maintenance of the equipment. Mr. Schneider said that at this time there was not but there should be.

It was discussed by council the importance of having a repair and maintenance log for information for future needs. It was agreed to begin a service log by city maintenance.

Councilman Frank Serrano on the Utilities Committee reported that his main objective for the year is to find out where the water loss is coming from. Last month showed a 54-percent loss.

He wants to begin investigation of the water meters throughout the city and to look into the water system billing program to make sure it is all running properly.

Councilman Sager on the Streets Committee said that he and Mr. Schneider had recently done tar seal on cracks on the small area in front of the city shop and was very pleased with the job.

Discussion followed concerning the cracks in the asphalt on the streets throughout the city. With ice melting and freezing, filling and expanding the street cracks, it would not be long before large chunks of asphalt would be displaced leaving huge potholes. The matter was tabled until next meeting.

Mayor Burr appointed Councilman Wright to the Personnel Committee.

Miscellaneous items

The council members ending the meeting discussing the following:

- Approving the addendum to change the amount to \$33,000 on the Cheyenne County Sheriff Department contract.

- Scheduled a two-year planning session for Feb. 8, for the city council members to discuss future planning and the water loss issue.

Next meeting

The next meeting scheduled for Feb. 1.

Commemorative rifle now on display

Bird City's Quasiquicentennial, or 125th year, celebration, will soon begin with special events and activities that will lead up to June 12, the day of the big celebration.

Already, the residents of Bird City have seen the start with the auction held in October to help raise money for the event.

The committee and a vendor have on sale a commemorative rifle that will depict several historical buildings in Bird City as well as the 125th-year logo.

Committee President Ken Krien said he was asked to come up with the design for the rifle that would reflect the history of Bird City.

"This was a good project of me while I was recovering from back surgery," said Mr. Krien.

He went online and found the American Guild of Engravers and started with 20 con-

tacts. Soon he had it narrowed down to 10 and began the process of finding the right company to do the work.

He began by sending each company pictures of a centennial rifle that had been designed for the 1985 centennial celebration to give them an idea of how the 125th year rifle should look.

Mr. Krien said he drove around town, taking pictures and drawing several designs using an outline of a rifle on paper. He thought about what the Bird City logo was and asked several people if they knew.

"No one knew, but in the pictures of the City Hall, I noticed on top of the building was something I might use," he said. "I took a closer picture and presented it to the committee and was approved as the official quasiquicentennial logo."

When it came to choosing the right rifle,

Mr. Krien said he wanted an American-made gun and choose the Henry rifle.

He decided the City Hall and Scout House would be engraved on one side of the rifle, since both buildings are almost 75 years old. On the other side would be the words "Bird City, Ks., Quasiquicentennial." He chose yellow and white-gold colors. On the stock, the official quasiquicentennial logo will be displayed.

"On the rifle, the Bird City sign above the city hall door can actually be read and the flying flag has the red, white and blue," Mr. Krien said.

There were 10 rifles made and three of them are left for public purchase (see classified ad).

Out of the 10, one will be auctioned off and another will be given to the winner of a drawing on June 12.



KEN KRIEN DISPLAYS the rifle that will commemorate Bird City's Quasiquicentennial in June.