

## Regulations are issued for melting down coins

Proving once again that government knows what's best for us, the U.S. Mint has issued regulations against melting down coins to sell the metal for scrap.

"We are taking this action because the nation needs its coinage for commerce," said Director Edmund Moy. "We don't want to see our pennies and nickels melted down so a few individuals can take advantage of the American taxpayer."

Our bet is someone out there already is taking advantage, given the fact that the copper and zinc in a new nickel cost the government 6.9 cents and the metal in a penny is worth 1.12 cents.

Only your government could come up with economics like that: Making coins that it sells for 60 percent of the cost of production. (The Mint says a nickel costs 8.34 cents to make and a penny 1.73 cents.)

A penny isn't worth picking up at today's prices. A nickel is an executive decision.

So why does the Mint keep making money-losing coins?

Apparently, because Americans hate change in the system and want to hang onto their coins. There are some alternatives.

The government could just stop making pennies and nickels. The ones in circulation would disappear rather quickly, and we'd make do with dimes, quarters and the new dollar coins.

Maybe the Mint could come up with a \$5 or \$10 coin to ease the burden on our pockets. That'd save

the Treasury the cost of printing billions of \$1 bills every year.

That's too sensible, though. Consumers and retailers already know a penny isn't worth counting. That's why stores have a "penny tray": if you're short, just take one.

We already know that a dime today will hardly buy what a penny would get you when most of us were kids. If a dime was the smallest coin we had, people would just make change in dimes. Credit card transactions could still count the penny, but why bother?

Good question.

Tradition, mostly.

Fear that merchants would beat us out of a penny when rounding up prices.

Nothing worth the enormous cost of producing small change each year.

Another plan involves redenominating the dollar: Making \$1 worth \$10 in today's money. Mexico did that a few years back, and it helped stabilize the peso. Of course, they had to trade something like \$1,000 in old pesos in for \$1 new.

Either solution probably is way too sensible for Washington, so we'll continue to drag pennies around — and the government will keep making them — until some smart guy melts them all down.

Oh, did we mention that older pennies, made before 1982, were 95 percent copper? Those, if you can find 'em, are worth 2.13 cents melted down.

What a system. — Steve Haynes

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



It seems like we live in a world of those who get it and those who don't. Here's an example.

Last weekend the 10th Annual Midwest Coyote Calling Event was held in St. Francis. It drew a large crowd of hunters from several states. From Friday to Sunday afternoon the two-man teams went into the country and called in coyotes. There were 210 dogs killed.

One of the major sponsors for the contest was Sportman's Warehouse out of Midvale, Utah. The company participated despite requests by the

American Humane Society of the United States not to.

From Washington, D.C., the Humane Society "asked the group to stop promoting the killing of animals for fun and money."

Sportman's Warehouse response was "that it believed coyote killing contests are important to keep wildlife in balance."

Ask any rancher about coyotes preying on their animals. They are a predator that is at the top of the food chain. The only animal above them around here is man.

I do think the Humane Society does a great job in cities where stray dogs and cats need a home. But the huge lobbying power of groups like them and PETA can do a lot more damage than good to the rural landscape.

As for the coyote population going down by 210, 752 more dogs were spotted roaming the countryside. Maybe someone in Washington can tell me how many more were not seen?

## Time to bring the troops home

Letter to the Editor:

Enough is Enough!

The simple thought of sending yet more young Americans to Iraq to support a failed plan borders on insanity. The so called Government in Iraq "Grudgingly" agreed to "try" to match our troop strength,

## Letters to the Editor

but caveated that by saying that they didn't know if their troops would show up or fight if they did.

And! To further insult the American people, particularly the people of

our high plains, our Government proposes to spend some \$3 billion on a jobs program to pay the Iraqis to clean up their streets and paint their buildings. Are they so out of touch with us that they don't know how hard WE work to establish just a few jobs here, in our piece of the country?

We must always support our troops in the field, at whatever cost to us, but, it's time to call this off, bring them home and pay attention to what needs doing in this Country. Let your elected officials at all levels know how YOU feel about this, and do it as often as is needed till they pay attention.

C.W. "Chuck" Kribs  
Bird City

## Crews are commended

Letter to the Editor:

We would like to thank the Bird City and St. Francis crews, Cheyenne County crew, Kansas State Highway crew and all the volun-

teers for the many hours spent cleaning our sidewalks, streets, county roads and highways during the last storm. That is what is nice about living in a small community — Everyone pitches in and helps. We were able to get the ambulance to the scenes thanks to the hard work of everyone which made our tasks so much easier.

The Cheyenne County EMTs

## Ribeye's returned

Editor's note: The following letter is in response to last week's Letter to the Editor.

Letter to the Editor:  
Thanks — I think! Two packages of 15-ribeye steaks were returned to Riverside on Friday. This does not erase the crime nor does it pay for the steaks. I would not serve these steaks to my customers.

Brenda Nelsen  
St. Francis

**GOD SAYS**

**He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.**

**Psalms 104:14**



## News From the Past

10 year ago - 1997

"A Monster Ate My Homework - A Musical" is being performed at the high school. Amber Lyons is playing the part of the student who lost her homework while Lori Gohl is the English teacher.

Dr. Abdullah has passed his internal medicine boards which makes him a diplomat in internal medicine.

Sheriff Ray Lee is retiring on Jan. 13. He has been the Cheyenne County Sheriff for the past 28 years.

June Henderson, register of deeds, hosted a "thank you" open house. She will be retiring at the end of her term.

Scott Jenkins, St. Francis Community High School senior, has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners have agreed to fund the Cheyenne County Development Corporation.

Over 100 members and guests attended the annual Equity meeting and witnessed the burning of the mortgage.

The Cheyenne County 4-H horse judging team received the National Overall Team Award at the National 4-H Horse Classic Western Division at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Members of the team are Megan Douthit, Chad Douthit, Nikki Krien and Katie Keller. Sue Zimelman is the coach.

25 years ago - 1982

Three St. Francis men announced their retirement at the end of 1981. Van Burrus and Lawrence Hilt retired from Tri-State lumber and Ken Holliman retired from Krueger's Mens Wear. Burrus sold his interest in

Tri-State Lumber to partner

Milton Lampe who now assumes full ownership. Hilt has been employed at Tri-State Lumber since February 1968, working in the lumber yard and office. Holliman ended his career on Main Street after more than 50 years in the clothing business in St. Francis. He started at the Thompson and Jeffers Drug Store in the fall of 1928 while still in high school, moving to Boardman's Toggery and then to Krueger's Mens Wear.

The Bird City theme for Kansas Day this year is "Schools and Yesterday."

Maynard Oretgren is the new Chamber of Commerce president with Mary Bier being the outgoing president.

Mary Lee Frewen and Kelly Frewen will move the Frewen Insurance Agency into its new quarters near the end of February. The new brick-faced building is located between the city office and Cooper's Barber Shop.

50 years ago - 1956/57

A banquet was held at the Veterans Hall Friday honoring Mrs. Elizabeth Nolan who has completed 30 years of service for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Lawrence Gordon, lessee of the Texaco Service Station recently constructed at the intersection of US 36 and College Avenue, is announcing the establishment is open for business.

Henry Hickert, Cheyenne County Savings Bond Chairman, reports that a total of \$332,088 in Series E and Series H United States Savings Bonds were sold in Cheyenne County in 1956.

Dr. H.J.A. Peck was named chairman of the Cheyenne County Chapter of the American Cancer Society at an organizational meet-

ing.

The three top prize winners in the Christmas Decorating Contest were the George Rogers home, the Van Burrus home and the Fred Zweygardt home.

Marlene Schlepp is the new president of the Cherry Creek 4-H Club. Karen O'Brien is the president of the Pleasant Hill 4-H Club.

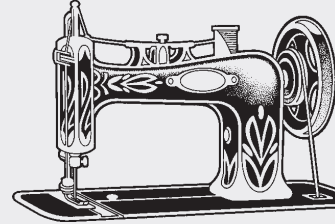
L.L. Trumbull was elected vice chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

75 years ago - 1932

The surveyors, sent here by the state highway department, have practically finished their work. The road surveyed was the link between St. Francis and Wheeler. Work will begin in the spring.

Over a million dollars in resources, to be exact \$1,154,372.29, is shown by the three banks and the Cheyenne County Building & Loan Association of St. Francis in statements published in the Herald.

E.L. Cain, instructor of the debating teams of the St. Francis Community High School took his debate teams to Scott City for a tournament. The topic was "Resolved that Compulsory Unemployment Insurance should be adopted by the several states." The St. Francis affirmative team was composed of Fred Carman and Ernest Rowand. The negative team was composed of Dale Moody and Elizabeth Clapp.



**Church of Christ**  
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424  
502 W. Spencer  
Norman Morrow - Minister  
Bible Class 11 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

**United Methodist**  
Church Office 332-2292,  
Church 332-2254,  
512 S. Scott  
Pastor Morita Truman  
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
332-3002  
Pastor Chris Farmer  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
625 S. River • 332-2680  
Fr. Roger Meitl  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**First Christian Church**  
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.  
Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Grace Assembly of God**  
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899  
208 E. 2nd  
Rev. Rob Meyer  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30  
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

**St. Francis Community Church**  
332-3150  
204 N. Quincy Street  
Pastor: David Butler  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
Pastor Mike Larson  
Sabbath School 9:30  
Morning Worship 10:45

**First Baptist Church**  
2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
Pastor Ken Hart  
Sunday School 9:30  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,  
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
202 N. College  
Pastor Ken Hart  
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Clough Valley Church of Hope**  
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
Pastor Jason Howard  
332-3152  
Saturdays 8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT



**St. Francis Equity**

**Knodel Funeral Home**  
202 S. Benton • St. Francis  
785-332-3131

**First National Bank**  
Member FDIC

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
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