

County man develops method of ranking deer

Cheyenne County native, now current Hays resident, David Krien, has developed a method to rank deer antlers.

It might not be a better mousetrap, but it certainly stands head and shoulders above the tried-and-mostly-true manual wire and tape measure method used to rank deer antlers says Mike Corn, in an article for the *Hays Daily News*.

Krien Method Industries uses a relatively low-tech laser and camera system, both handheld, for virtual measuring of an antler taken by a hunter. But it's apparently groundbreaking enough that the National Rifle Association has adopted the technology as a measuring service that it hopes to deploy and hopefully become the standard for ranking antlers in the hunting world.

Not a bad accomplishment, says Mr. Krien, who spends the rest of his time leading Coyote Jake's. That company manufactures a high-end shooting bench and stand at its Great Bend operations.

Mr. Krien is especially proud of the breakthrough in the imaging process that ultimately could do so much more than simply measure antlers.

Already, just to show the flexibility of the system, Krien has had miniature antlers — exact replicas — created, as well as a tie-tack and an acrylic reproduction.

The possibilities are endless, he said.

Krien has his roots in St. Francis where he lived until moving to Hays in 1996. He is married to DeAndrea (Wright), formerly from Bird City.

He had a humble start in the outdoors industry, when his father, Gary, suggested building a better shooting bench than what was generally on the market.

He did just that and tried selling them, with good success, on eBay.

That was the start of Coyote Jakes, the name coming from his father who is coyote hunter and whose nickname is Jake.

"Coyote Jakes has been wondering for opening doors," he said.

He now has two patents, one of which is for the shooting bench.

Coyote Jakes ultimately outgrew its facilities and bought out what used to be Great Bend Manufacturing, a 65,000-square-foot building.

"Which was way more than I needed, but the price was right," he said. "My dad now works full time for me."

At Great Bend, the shooting benches are manufactured — save for the aluminum models, which are created at New Age Industries in Norton.

Now, it's the scanning system that has him excited.

His idea started a few years back when he was thinking about a better way of scoring antlers for the record books. Currently, the measuring and scoring for the likes of Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young is by way of certified scorers who make the measurements by hand.

Ironically, he said, as all this was spinning around in his head, "I ran into a guy at a prairie dog hunt in South Dakota."

Turns out he was a real-live rocket scientist who works for NASA.

That's how a discussion about volume displacement started.

From there, the project turned to ultrasound, which didn't quite fit the bill.

That's when they started looking at the idea of using lasers.

Ultimately, he shipped a set of antlers to Canada where an outfit known as ShapeGrabber Inc. was able to create a computer-generated image.

The only problem was the equipment used to create the image likely cost about \$130,000 and was as big as a small truck.

That's when he found a company that offers handheld lasers that also contains a camera that ultimately creates the image on the computer.

"When the laser hits the object, the camera has to be close enough to capture the image," he said of how it works.

Eventually, the idea went before the National Rifle Association, which agreed to adopt Krein Methods as a means of scoring. The Association then will offer its name — and reputation as a leader in the outdoor industry — as source for scoring antlers. The system needs enhancing, Mr. Krien admits, but one day might be able to score antler with the use of a cellular phone.

For now, it takes a bit of time.

"You just keep scanning it," he said, taking the handheld laser-camera combination and using it as a painter might a brush. "It will take 10, 15, 20 minutes to acquire an image."

Of course, Mr. Krien admits that he's still a bit of a novice to the tech-



David Krien, Hays, scans a deer rack with a special scanning device as he talks about a new method of scoring antlered game animals on 3-30-07 at his home in Hays. Krien developed and

patented the new method which is being adopted by the National Rifle Association as a new method of scoring trophy game animals.

Photo courtesy of Steven Hausler, Hays Daily News

nology and is a bit slow.

That image ultimately is ported over to a software package that "fills the holes" that the scanning system can't quite reach.

For Mr. Krien, what's exciting is the scoring system cuts out the margin of error, save for a few thousands of an inch, and it can all be computer based.

In addition to the sheer number of inches of an antler, Krien Methods can determine the volume of the antler.

It doesn't stop with antlers, however.

"We've done a bear skull," he said. "The skulls will be easy to do. The most difficult to do is the antlered animals."

Mr. Krien has high hopes for the system.

"I hope we can become the measuring standard for every-

body," he said.

That's where the Rifle Association comes in, becoming the official measuring system for everybody, using the Krien Method.

Ultimately, the idea is to make the system affordable enough that it can go into the hands of many, such as taxidermists, who can then

measure animals as they are killed by hunters.

But right now the system costs about \$20,000.

Mr. Krien is talking with the major outdoor retailers, looking into some sort of arrangement that could either put his system in the stores or sell rights to it.

For now, he's dreaming about everything the system might be able to, once it's in the hands of people who can offer it to the public.

"There's just no end to what we can do with this," he said.

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Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

Dark Tort

By Diane Mott Davidson

Diane Mott Davidson cooks up a knockout treat featuring the irrepressible caterer Goldy Schulz

"I tripped over the body of Dusty Routt at half past 10 on the night of Oct. 19..."

Goldy Schulz has a lucrative new gig, preparing breakfasts and

conference-room snacks for a local law firm. It's time-consuming, but Goldy is enjoying it - until the night she arrives to find Dusty, the firm's paralegal, dead.

The poor young woman also happened to be Goldy's friend and neighbor, and now Dusty's grieving mother begs Goldy to find out who murdered her daughter.

Just because the police are on the case doesn't mean Goldy can't

do a little snooping herself. While catering a party at the home of one of the firm's lawyers, she manages to overhear an incriminating conversation and ends up discovering a few clues in the kitchen.

Before long, Goldy is knee-deep in suspects, one of whom is incredibly dangerous and very liable to cook Goldy's goose.


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- Leach Ins. Agency
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- The Frosty Mug, McDonald
- Napa Auto Parts, Goodland
- Park Hill Restaurant
- B&R Bierocks
- Kugler's
- Donna's Gift Palace
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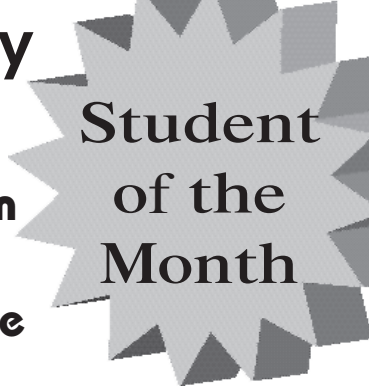




Dale Harley Northrup

Grade: Freshman

Parents: David & Aimee Northrup




Dale, a freshman at St. Francis Community High school, is the May Student of the Month. Dale is involved in volleyball and basketball. She also takes part in 4-H and Church. After St. Francis Community High School, Dale plans on attending college and have a good job. Ten years from now Dale plans to be married, living in a nice home and making a lot of money. Dale's favorite saying is: "I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." —Thomas Jefferson

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