

Lots of coyote callers expected to participate in weekend event

By Karen Krien

This weekend marks the third annual Midwest Coyote Calling Event and hunters from at least 10 states are expected to participate.

The event has worked its way to one of the top three such events in the world.

According to Brent Rueb, coordinator, the winner of the Midwest contest has a chance of taking home the Triple Crown Award. The award is given to the team which wins the national and world contest along with the Midwest contest.

"The event in St. Francis is ranked at the top because it is a well-run contest, enjoyed by everyone participating and is centrally located," Mr. Rueb said.

He added that there is a lot of local support from the community.

"Farmers have become acquainted with many of the hunters, wanting them to come back to their land and help get rid of the coyotes."

Two men make up a team. Teams will meet at Riverside

Recreation from noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday with their coyotes. A banquet will be held in the evening and the winners will be announced.

"We are expecting teams from North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Wyoming as well as Kansas," said Mr. Rueb.

For more information, contact him at 785-332-3402.

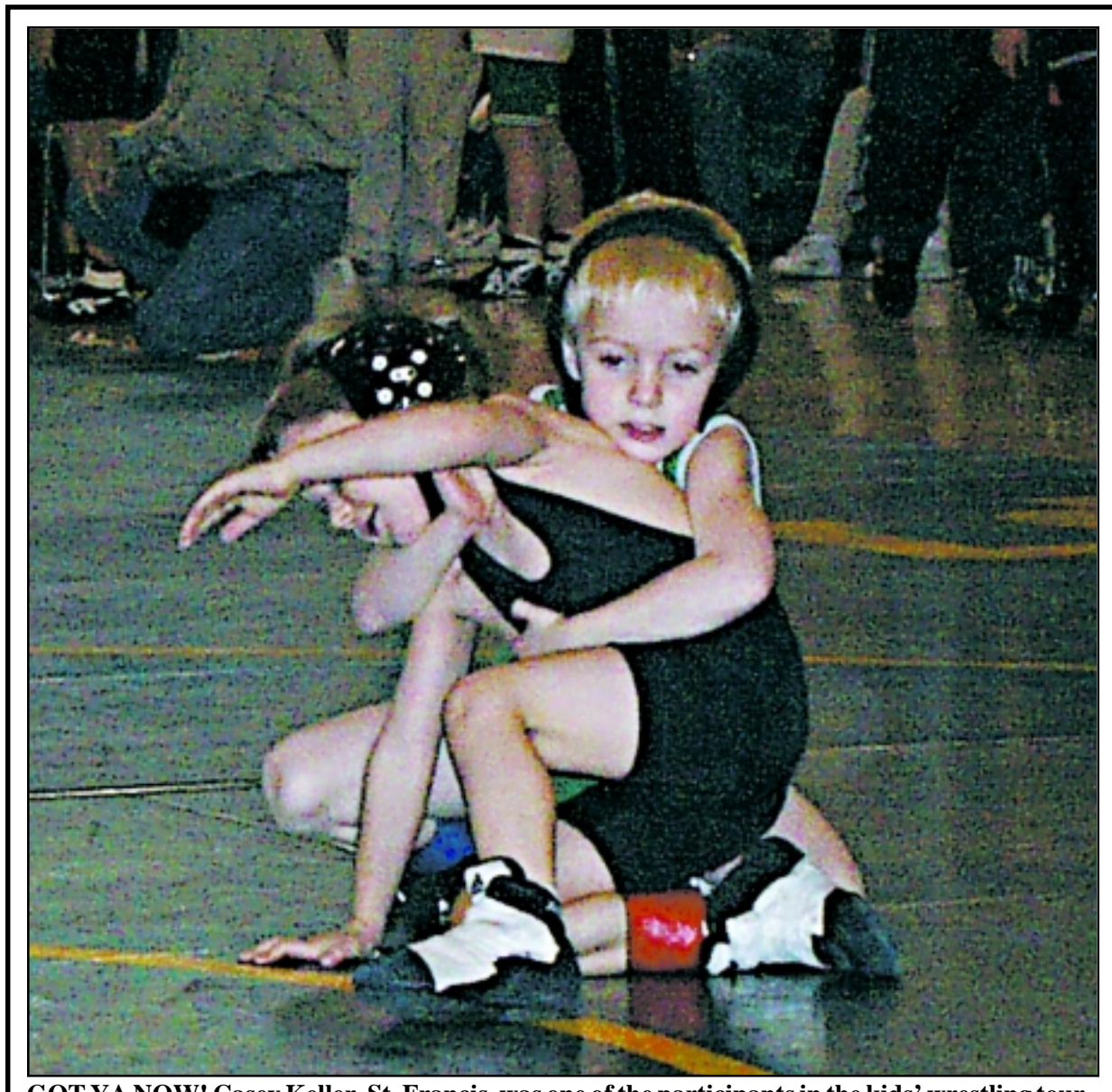
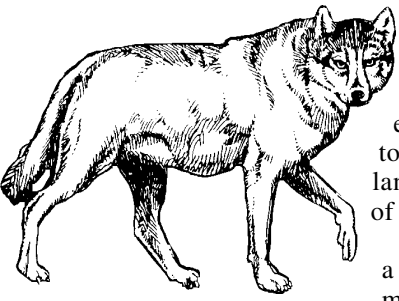
The contest brought in protesters from Colorado last year. They claimed the contest was inhumane but there were several farmers and ranchers who did their share of protesting against the protesters.

Most have seen a calf, lamb or even a full-grown sheep eaten or half eaten by coyotes and, with the calving-lambing season nearing, they are anxious to take care of as many coyotes as possible in order to protect their herds and flocks.

It may be that the winter has been exceptionally cold but farmers and ranchers have reported seeing a lot of coyotes and they seem to be less afraid of humans, often coming up on them while they are working with the livestock.

Those farmers and ranchers who have noticed more coyotes and would like to see the callers come on their land should call Mr. Rueb.

Anyone can enter the contest. All that is necessary to hunt coyotes is a hunting license and permission to hunt on the landowner's property.



GOT YA NOW! Casey Keller, St. Francis, was one of the participants in the kids' wrestling tournament held in St. Francis on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Shawna Blanka

Commissioners drop phone charges

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met in a special session Wednesday morning, Dec. 20 to discuss the phone bill at the sheriff's office.

Ron Krien was unable to attend but there was a via conference call to discuss the matter of \$290 in what the commissioners determined to be "personal" calls. The other two commissioners present were Tim Raile and Jane Brubaker.

In the end, the commissioners reluctantly agreed to "chalk the bill up to experience" by paying it but noted that all phone bills or other bills which look suspicious will be questioned and the budget will be amended to limit the costs to attend meetings. (Commissioners cannot determine which meetings are deemed necessary. The department head makes the decision.)

When the meeting began, all three commissioners wanted to deduct the

cost of the calls which they felt had been personal phone calls from Sheriff Ben Smull's pay check.

Kari Milliken, county attorney, and Kevin Berens, assistant county attorney, were at the meeting to give their opinions. Attorney Milliken had been contacted by Sheriff Smull after he had received a letter from the commissioners concerning the phone calls. He felt that the commissioners' action was unfair and he had contacted an attorney

in Kansas City and, if they continued, he would proceed with a lawsuit to sue each of the commissioners as well as the county.

Attorney Milliken pointed out that, throughout the four-year term, there had been some expenditures in the sheriff's office which the commissioners had questioned but had not corrected or followed up on.

Commissioner Brubaker said that in

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Top 10 happenings during the past year

By Karen Krien

During the year of 2000, there were a number of happenings — some good and some not-so good. This year, those happenings have been narrowed down to the top 10.

Election

The election probably had the most impact on more of the people than any other happening throughout the year.

There was the presidential race which was not decided until weeks after the election. It found George W. Bush winning over Al Gore.

The county offices up for election were sheriff, clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, attorney, district magistrate judge, and commissioners District 3 and District 2. Before the general election arrived in November, most of the candidates were running against the same candidates they had run against in the primary only they were running as "write-in" candidates.

District magistrate judge Tammy Zimbelman won again over her candidate Larry Brunow but Eddie Dankenbring ran as a write-in against Randy Millburn who had won the primary and won.

The sheriff's ticket was the most talked about as Mr. Dankenbring campaigned the county. Mr. Millburn, St. Francis Chief of Police, had made no secret that he wanted to implement a county-wide law enforcement plan and it appeared that many of the voters were not in favor of the plan.

Andy Beikman also ran on a write-in ballot against the incumbent Ron Krien for the position of commissioner, District 3, and when the ballots were counted, Mr. Krien was elected to serve a second term.

Other elected officials which will take office on Jan. 8 are: Dolores Jenik, county treasurer; Terry Miller, county clerk; Mary Morrow, register of deeds; Tim Raile, commissioner, District 2, and Kevin Berens, county attorney.

The election also had several questions on the ticket which had brought the residents out to vote.

First, the county hospital was asking for a \$3 million bond issue to be approved so the hospital could be reno-

vated and an addition be put on the west end. This ticket was defeated.

Secondly, the matter of Liquor by the Drink, which would allow many of the restaurants in the county to serve liquor without the person being a member of the restaurant's club.

Liquor by the Drink had been approved in the primary but an official of the Alcohol and Beverage Control protested that it should not have been voted on the primary but in the general election. There was considerable controversy on this matter before the county attorney decided it was best to put it back on the general election ballot. It was approved for a second time.

100-year-old resident

Bertha Bacon, former Bird City resident, now a resident of the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 24.

Cloud seeding

Cloud seeding was finally stopped in Cheyenne County but people in Decatur and Thomas counties also ordered the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District 4 to cease seeding clouds over their counties. In November, the District voted to cease cloud seeding in northwest Kansas.

Improvements

The residents of the county and city of St. Francis found several new improvements made during the year. The construction of a new grandstand at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds was finished before the August fair arrived. Both the courthouse steps and the band shell received face lifts.

The commissioners also held an amnesty time for the collection of old tires. This effort rid the county of over 4,000 used tires.

The St. Francis water tower received a cleaning and fresh coat of paint. Unfortunately, the company painted the top of the tower a bright red. For a number of years, the water tower roof had been green which is also the school color of the St. Francis schools. Unhappy residents contacted the city supervisor and city council members and the company, whose trademark is red roofs, agreed to come back and repaint

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'A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC' was performed on Sarah Trembly by January Fiedler, left, and Amy Rieger. The play will be presented by the high school advanced music students on Sunday.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Music students present play Sunday

Let the St. Francis High School Advanced Music Class put "A Little Bit of Magic" in your life on Sunday, Jan. 7. They will be presenting a musical in the high school auditorium beginning at 3 p.m..

Designed for young audiences, "A Little Bit of Magic" encourages children to accentuate the positives within themselves. Equipped with nothing more than a toy shovel and pail, Dale Nothing Dale appears to be a wizard in name only. Laughed at and excluded by her colleagues, Magnificent Mervin and Wonder Wanda, Dale sets out on a journey to find her own "little bit of magic." Queen Marilyn Melody of Musicland and Coco the Clown,

Queen of Laughterland, do their best to help her, but it's not until her encounter with the evil Weatherman on the Planet of Sad Flowers that Dale discovers just what it is that makes her unique.

Members of the cast include Amy Rieger, Tom Powers, January Fiedler, Tara Neitzel and Tyler Howard. They are directed and accompanied by Debbie Fiala.

"A Little Bit of Magic" was written by Gail Golden with music and lyrics by Grant Golden. It is produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., of Englewood, Colo. There will be a small admission charge at the door with preschoolers admitted free.

First 2001 baby born to receive nice gifts

The first baby of the year born to any parents living in Cheyenne County for one month or more will be awarded gifts from sponsors.

The rules are simple:

- As stated, the parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
- The St. Francis Herald office must be notified as soon as possible. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
- Last year's first baby of the year was Mallery Lynn Mills, daughter of Mark and Julie Mills, St. Francis, on Jan. 12. She tipped the scales at 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 18 1/2

inches long. The parents of this year's first baby winner will receive a full car wash from the St. Francis Equity, \$50 savings bond from Bankwest, \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, a toy from Van Allen Inc., \$15 gift certificate for baby food or formula and new born diapers from Sainty Super Foods, size "0" bib overalls from Town and Country Clothing, and a year's subscription to *The St. Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*. The parents receiving the gifts should pick up their gifts or claim their services within 60 days.

Year-end moisture adds to less than 14"

By Karen Krien

The year 2000 started with many predicting computer outages, lack of food and power or possibly the end of the world. However, Jan. 1 arrived with few or no happenings and in Cheyenne County, it was just another New Year's Day.

Since this is the middle of farming country, the main talk throughout the year was the weather and there was lots to talk such as "It's hot" day after day. And it was hot — 14 days of 100 degrees and over.

May 28, the temperature reached 99

degrees and the next day, it was 103 degrees. Most of the summer the temperatures ranged in the 90s and 100s. School started and students and instructors endured 90- and 100-degree temperatures. On Oct. 1, the temperature was still 91 degrees.

The lows through the winter in the early part of 2000 were also warm with the lowest recorded at 10 degrees in February. It wasn't until later on Nov. 6 that the temperature fell to 2 degrees and on Dec. 10, the low was a -3 degrees. During the last six weeks of the

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POSTMASTER Annette Miller, left, retired Friday. Among those present for open house was Kerry Kowalski. Gayona McDonald, the interim postmaster, is pictured in the background.

Herald staff photo by Shawna Blanka

Tourney deemed successful

By Betty Jean Winston

The St. Francis Kids Wrestling Club held a wrestling tournament Saturday evening with 30 St. Francis wrestlers entered along with 92 out-of-town mat men for a total of 122 participants.

"We were really pleased at the turnout because this was the first tournament as well as the holiday weekend," said Keely Loyd, one of the tournament organizers. "We will have another tournament on Saturday, March 13."

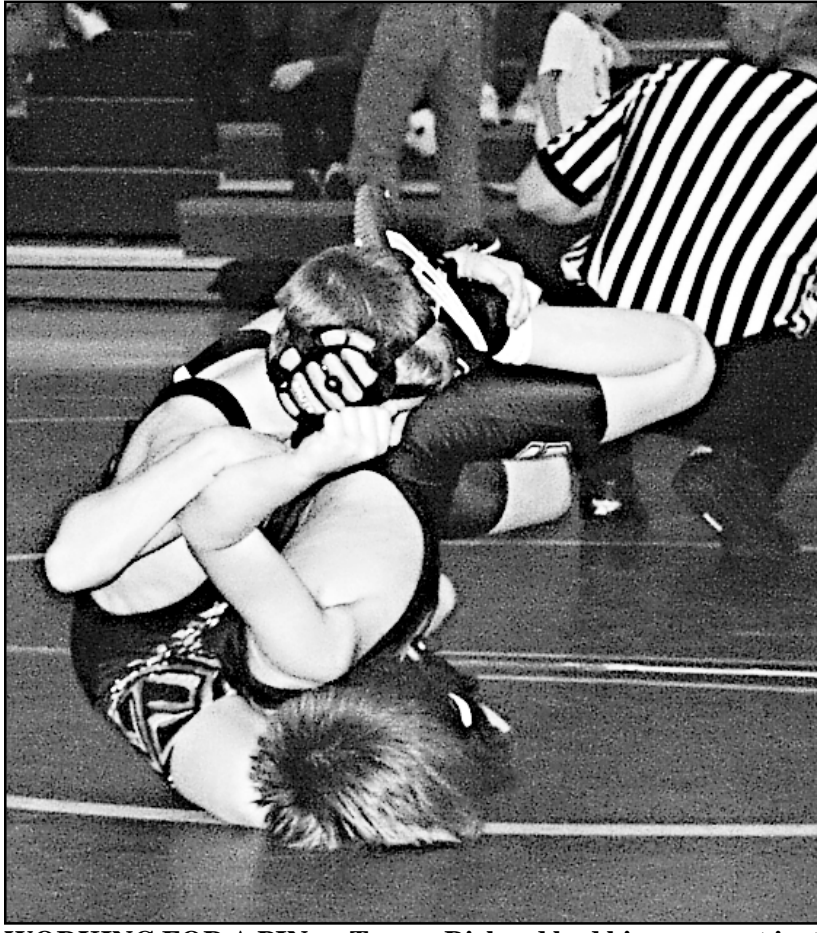
Young St. Francis wrestlers will be participating in a number of area tournaments in the next two or three months with 13 kids planning on going to Hoxie for a tournament on Saturday.

The St. Francis Herald will be publishing the results as the season progresses.

The St. Francis wrestlers had the following results:

Six and under: Casey Keller, second; Keegan Sherlock, Dillion Straub, and Isaac Schiltz, all third; Foster Grant, fourth

Eight and under: Brett Lampe, Darris Keller, Adam Guthmiller, all first; Cody Sherlock, Blake Studer, Benjamin Neitzel, all second; David



WORKING FOR A PIN — Trevor Richard had his opponent just where he wanted him in Saturday's tournament.

Herald staff photo by Shawna Blanka

Stephens, third; Alex Draper, Trevor Reed and Grady Brunk, all fourth

10 and under: Justin Sherlock, first; Garrett Zwegardt, Sam Sowers, both second; Ethan Zwegardt, third

12 and under: A.J. McAtee, Gabe

Smull, Brennon Wilger, all first; Trevor Richard, Darren Laffond, both second; Joel McAtee, David Guthmiller, both third; Gavin Smull, fourth

14 and under: Dylan Loyd, Derek Ross, Seth Swihart, all first

CHARGES

Continued from Page 1

the last two months, the commissioners had sent letters to the sheriff's office asking him to explain the calls and pay for those he felt were personal but the sheriff had not attended any of these meetings to defend himself. (There is a policy for county employees that all personal phone calls should be reimbursed.)

When Sheriff Smull was contacted he strongly stated that the commissioners had tried to run the sheriff's office from telling him how he could spend the department's budget to telling him that he and his deputy were not to patrol on Saturdays.

Attorney Berens had researched the matter and the attorney general's opinion did not have a statute that would allow the commissioners to withhold money from an elected official's paycheck. He pointed out that elected officials are not employees of the commissioners.

However, if the commissioners were to withhold money from the paycheck, there would need to be a certain procedure followed and there just wasn't

enough time since Sheriff Smull's last pay check would be issued at the end of the month.

Commissioner Krien suggested that the amount be added to his taxes but the attorneys informed him that he could not do that.

Commissioner Raile asked if he could be billed and, if he did not pay, take him to small claims court.

Attorney Milliken asked if the commissioners were absolutely sure that these calls were all personal calls. The answer was "no."

She pointed out that the commissioners and sheriff had endured a "tense" four years and, while the commissioners said they were concerned about taxpayers' money, they should not get caught up in the principle of the matter or they would get burned in the end.

That \$290 phone bill could end up costing the commissioners and the county a lot more than just the bill.

"You have to consider the economics," she said. "You could spend a lot more than you would get back."

She said that Sheriff Smull feels like

the action was arbitrary and that he had been under a microscope for the last four years. This will seem even more apparent since the commissioners are taking this action in the last week of the last month of his last year in office.

The commissioners reluctantly agreed to drop the matter of the phone bill but noted that they would definitely watch the bills closer and some changes would be made in the future.

School Schedule

Thursday: Basketball, C-team, Atwood, here, 6 p.m.

Friday: Wrestling, Hoxie here; Basketball, Hoxie, there, 6:30 p.m.,

Monday: Basketball, C-team, Dundy County, there, 6 p.m.

Thursday: Junior high girls basketball and boys wrestling, here, basketball at 4 p.m. vs Colby; wrestling at 5:30 p.m. vs Colby and Wray; board of education meeting, 8 p.m.

Obituaries

John T. Wearden

Feb. 7, 1937 - Dec. 13, 2000

John T. Wearden, 63, of Haigler, Neb., died Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2000, at Dundy County Hospital in Benkelman, Neb. He was born Feb. 7, 1937, in Albuquerque, N.M., to Thomas and Gertie (Greable) Wearden, and graduated from Albuquerque High School.

As a young man, John farmed and ranched for several years, and on April 27, 1956, he was united in marriage to Betty Jo Armstrong, at Moriarty, N.M. They continued to make their home in New Mexico until 1969 when they moved to Lubbock, Texas, where John attended the Sunset School of Preaching, and graduated in 1971. He also received his BA in Business from York College in 1994.

Throughout his life, John and his family have spread God's work across the United States, from Florida to Texas, from Ohio to Wyoming and through missionary work around the world. He served as the director of the Midway School of Biblical Studies in Sabetha for six years, and was very active in his mission work in Ukraine. In his spare time, John enjoyed time with his family and friends, hunting, making custom knives and model railroad-ing. He was a kind and caring person who was loved by many people of different cultures throughout the world. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, one sister, and five brothers.

Those who remain to celebrate his life include his loving wife of more than 44 years, Betty Jo Wearden; children, Russell Wearden and wife, Janice of Pine Mountain, Ga.; Karen Aponte of Montgomery, Ala.; Ken Wearden and wife, Rhonda of Littleton, Colo.; Jeff Wearden and wife, Melinda of Fremont, Neb.; Leah Swenson and husband, Tim of Haigler, Neb.; Joel Wearden of Denver, Colo.; one half-brother, Tom Junior Wearden of El Paso, Texas; half-sister, Jessie Wearden of South Texas; 11 grandchil-

dren; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, 2000, at Westside Church of Christ in Imperial, Neb., with Bill Lewis officiating. Service concluded in the church and a private committal service will take place at a later date.

Memorials may be given in his name to continue his work.

Keith Floyd Amack

May 7, 1928 - Dec. 23, 2000

Keith Amack was born May 7, 1928, in Collinsville, Okla., to Floyd and Ruth Amack and died Dec. 23, 2000. He was brought to St. Francis when he was two years old. He attended the St. Francis school until he quit to help support his family. He married Shirley Warner in St. Francis and they were blessed with three boys: Gary, Jim and Marvin.

Keith worked on ranches in Cheyenne and Sherman counties for several years then went to work for the

Sherman County Highway Department and worked there until his health made him retire.

Keith and Shirley moved to Bird City in 1992 after Shirley retired from work. He spent the last several years in and out of hospitals and at home. Home Healthcare has helped take care of him the last two years.

Those preceded him in death were his father, mother, infant son, and three brothers: Duane, Bernard and Wendell.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Shirley, three sons: Gary and his wife Vickie of Denver, Colo.; Jim of Colorado Springs; and Marvin and his wife Karen of Phoenix, Ariz.; two brothers: Alvin of St. Francis, and Larry of Denver; a sister, Doris of Craine, Mo.; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 28 at the Wesleyan Community Church with Rev. Perry Elkins and Rev. Arthur Sorg of Medicine Lodge. Internment was at the Lawn Ridge Cemetery.

Plain Sense

People urged to 'keep it'

High Plains Mental Health By Karen Beery, MS, LCPC

Of course not! It is very difficult to actually toss out items that are associated with a loved one, particularly when that person is no longer alive. And it is important for your personal well-being to carry some mementos and memories along to help in the adjustment to your new home.

We keep such objects because they evoke special memories. Perhaps you can accomplish the same reminiscing with fewer items. Consider giving some of those objects to other family members or long-time friends.

Those particular trinkets then become even more special to someone else who may have just the right place for them.

You can also preserve the memories by reducing the space taken. From a collection, keep a minimal amount to allow for nostalgia such as one plate or teacup from that first set of dishes that is no longer used.

Take a picture of items that are memorable but not really useful anymore, or that are difficult to store or transport.

Your situation may be more of a need for better organizing and deciding what is really necessary. You don't have to throw out all those special treasures, but there are some that are less necessary and easier to part with.



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To my customers, my friends—

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant."

It is ironic to me that this author, a relative of the same Captain Emerson who was instrumental in naming the town of St. Francis should make a statement that certainly sums up the 47 years that I have been in business in this same town.

Some of you will remember my little sayings, but when I read Emerson's quote, I find it to be quite true for me.

The wonderful customers that I have met through the years on Washington Avenue are certainly special to me. Their support was always there and greatly appreciated — the same support through the early years that Chick was given. The wonderful employees through the years will always have a place in my heart because of their dedication: Larry Brunow with 42 years and our fantastic four who have garnered a total of 96 years. The approximately 200 high school students who worked for us gave us hope for the future.

For a business to survive for so many years is a definite tribute to the people of St. Francis and the surrounding area. As I walk out the door on the last day of my 47 years, I won't forget all the wonderful days which truly were not only "loaded but also fragrant."

Thank you for a wonderful lifetime of memories and support.

Pauline Hixon

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Parents Rules:

1. The parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
2. The St. Francis Herald office must be notified as quickly as possible. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162.
3. A 60-day limit following the baby's birth is required for taking advantage of these outstanding gifts & services.

CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS! CONGRATULATIONS!

Idalia News

Weather (high/low)

Dec. 18: 51/18; Dec. 19: 54/10; Dec. 20: 55/13; Dec. 21: 30/3; Dec. 22: 33/8. On the 20th there was wind and snow flurries.

Graduation

Virginia Lengel and son Mark Lengel and daughter Abby drove to Lubbock, Texas, Friday morning to attend Brad Gersten's graduation from the University of Texas Tech. He is the son of Gene and Donna Gersten of Hurst, Texas. Others attending were Mark and Diana, Matthew and Daniel Fletcher of South Lake, Texas. They returned home Saturday night. Brad will start work Jan. 4.

Decorations

Idalia is decorated really pretty. Baptist Church has a Nativity set lit up, cross and other things. The school has Santa Claus and reindeer on the roof. Bankwest has ornaments and lights up, too. There are also a number of houses lit up both outside and inside and a tree in the middle of Main Street.

Baptist Church news

Pastor Fore delivered 170 sacks this week in the community from the Baptist Church. If you did not get one call him at 354-7822.

Bachelor party

A bachelor party was held at the Homestead Memorial Building Dec. 22 for Duane Richards. He and Lisa Tyler were married Dec. 30 at Beecher Island Sunday school chapel.

National Rodeo

Ronnie and Polly Lengel, Bob and Terry Brenner, Roger and Suzie Richards, Duane Richards, Nicole Shaffer, all of Idalia, Justin Franz of Burlington, Kim Herman of Otis, Brian Steerman of Idalia, Katie and Jake Dahl, Kristy and Bryan Harris and son, Rhett, all of Colorado Springs, Darcy and Jason Trent of Oklahoma all attended the National Finals Rodeo at Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 7 through Dec. 11. They all enjoyed themselves.

Galen Lengel was a Thursday morning visitor of his sister Ruth Richards.

Clark and Mildred Rolow were pleasantly surprised Thursday with a visit from grandson, Brad Long, Nancy, Alex and Preetal of Burlington. All enjoyed lunch at LaFamilia restaurant and had a nice afternoon visit.

Clark Rolow visited Jim Hutton at Cedardale Care Center in Wray last Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Jerry Weisshaar attended the Christmas dinner at Grace Manor Care Center in Burlington Thursday with her mother, Fern Summers. There was a party also.

Ted and Donna Mosier were Christmas dinner guests of her sister Karen Student and boys in Denver.

Roy Clark, Virgil Lundvall of Burlington and friend were Christmas dinner guests of Violet Knapp.

John and Michelle Cure and family were Christmas Day dinner guests of J.E. and Debbie Cure in Burlington.

Susan and Garvin Hill attended Christmas dinner with her Grandmother Hendricks.

John and Michelle Cure and family were Christmas Eve dinner guests at the Thompson home in Stratton with all the family members attending.

Melanie Lumpkin spent Christmas weekend with her parents, Ron and Mary Lumpkin at Russell.

Philip and Jeanne Steven and Morgan of California flew to Denver Dec. 24 and rented a car and will spend until

Jan. 7 with her parents, Dave and Debbie Moellenberg.

Wayne and Amy Gardner and Levi of Pueblo arrived Friday night to spend the weekend and were Christmas dinner guests of his sister Julie and Terry and mother, Lori Gardner at Colorado Springs.

Christmas dinner guests of Dave and Debbie Moellenberg were Betty J. Moellenberg, Dennis and Laura Lengel, Brian and Kevin, Wayne and Amy Gardner and Levi of Pueblo, Philip and Jeanne, Steven and Morgan, Melvin and Dorothy Mast of Bird City, Steve and Karen Mast of Chicago, Ill., Dave and Jane Uphoff, Brent and Kevin and Danielle Moellenberg.

Travis Crites of Houston, Texas, arrived Friday to spend Christmas weekend with his parents, Terry and Debbie Crites. Trisha Crites of Greeley will arrive Sunday for Christmas with her parents and relatives.

A number attended the potluck supper and farewell for Dave and Janie Uphoff and boys at St. John fellowship hall Wednesday night.

Freeman and Diana Morris and Ross and Josh Morris were Christmas dinner guests of her mother, Lee Busby in St. Francis. Other guests were Jeanne and Les Gelvin of Fort Collins. Ross, a student of Chadron College of Chadron, Neb., arrived home Dec. 8 to spend the Christmas vacation with his family.

Harlan Boden visited Cyral Hoag at Good Samaritan Village last week and took him his birthday and Christmas present. Cyral is his uncle. He also visited Walt and Dolores Kincheloe.

Hall Christmas party and gift exchange was held on Saturday hosted by Eddie and Jan Hall at their home with 36 attending.

Tim and Kim Hall, Lorna and Steve Argo and Nicole of Longmont and her mother, Jerri Berkes of Fort Morgan were Christmas dinner guests of Eddie and Jan Hall.

Virgil Lundvall was admitted to Kit Carson Memorial Hospital in Burlington for a few hours and returned home Thursday morning.

Chuck and Sheila Stewart of Aurora were Sunday until Tuesday house guests of her parents, Buzz and Bonnie Gartrell. All of the family were Christmas Eve supper guests of their parents, Buzz and Bonnie Gartrell.

Christmas dinner guests of Bill and Lois Lippert were Susan and Alan Greene and family of Aurora, Bob Lippert and Anna Lippert, both of Idalia area.

Christmas dinner guests of Kenny and Nancy Helling, Will and Stephanie were Edmund and Roberta Helling of Wray, Angie Vrome of Boulder, Colo.

Kenny and Nancy Helling and family hosted an early Christmas at their home Saturday evening. Guests were Raymond and Joyce Helling, Kevin and Ken, Kaylene Helling of Albuquerque, N.M.

Darrell and Rose Mary Shanks were Thursday supper guests of Elsie Shanks at the Mittens Restaurant in Burlington and then toured Burlington to view the beautiful lights.

E.J. and Briar Carpenter hosted an early Christmas dinner at their home Friday. Guests were Aaron Blanchard of Broken Bow, Neb., Gilbert Blanchard and Brook of Cheyenne, Wyo. Mary got sick and stayed in Yuma with her parents, Bill and Myrle Oliver. Celeste talked on the telephone to her parents, Perry and Mary Blanchard of Sidney, Mont. Perry

was doing fine but weak after his emergency gall bladder surgery Thursday at Sidney Health Center. He returned home Friday. Aaron's girls, Taylor, Cheylene and Sierra of Wray were Christmas Day guests.

Jerry Crites was a Monday afternoon visitor of Shirley Boden and brought her a cake.

Clark and Mildred Rolow were Tuesday visitors of their daughter, Phyllis Long at Goodland. They also did some

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strangways, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wieser and Katie and Bernie Oberg went out to eat Wednesday evening helping Roger Wieser celebrate his birthday.

This has been a busy week at the Nettie May Welton home. Wednesday Darlene Strangways, Trudi and Katie Wieser visited. Dave and Sue Welton were Wednesday and Thursday guests. Thursday Patty Kinnear, Brian and Dustin came to spend a few days.

Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Larry Allen, Judy Shively and Doris Osmus flew down to Tahlequah, Okla., and had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Glen Davenport. Linda Fliam and family of Indonesia

shopping.

Betty J. Moellenberg was a Tuesday afternoon visitor of Harlan and Shirley Boden and brought her gifts.

Christmas weekend guests of Ronnie and Polly Lengel and Tara were Darcy and Jason Tent of Oklahoma City, Katie and Jake Dahl, Kristy and Bryan Harris and son, Rhett, all of Colorado Springs and June Redman of Wray.

Sunday Christmas Eve guests of Larry and Janie Beckman were Robbie and

were Sunday and Monday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Allen. Linda is a niece of Fern Allen.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Rose and family and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Blessman left Friday morning for Idaho Falls, Idaho, to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Madsen and Kinsey. They returned home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simmons were Thursday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Perila and Laura. They went on to Fort Collins Friday and picked up Amber Simmons to bring her home with them for a few days.

Suzy Richards had lunch with June Richers Wednesday.

Beecher Island News

Benkelman the past 10 years, celebrated her 93rd birthday on Saturday, Dec. 23. Visiting her that afternoon to celebrate with her was her sister Opal Collicott and daughters LaNeta Carlock and Myrna Mulligan.

Dick and Laura Pearl Wall hosted their usual family brunch on Christmas Day. Attending were Carol and Jay Flaming, Heather, Greg and Logan Klein, Duane and LuAnn Wall, Betty Lee Green,

March Beckman and Tyler of Fort Lupton, Ryan Beckman and friend Jennie, both of Basalt, Colo., Amber Beckman and Kyle Gelvin, both of Fort Collins, Tim and Angela Toledo and Chelesea of Aurora, Richie and Sarah Beckman, Jake, Cole, Beau and Page.

Gary and Marilou North of Burlington, Donald North and family of Flagler,

Continued from Page 1
the roof green in the spring.

Accident
In October, the county was saddened at the loss of two young men, Charles Carman and Dustan Wright, in a two-vehicle accident. Troy James was flown to Denver and still remains there at the first of the year however, there are reports that he is slowly improving.

School happenings
There were several happenings in the St. Francis school system. Ward Cassidy retired as junior-senior high principal after serving for 28 years. Taking his place was Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael, who had taught in the school for 17 years.

Daryl Loyd resigned as a member of the school board after Kansas legislation deemed that it was unlawful for an employee of the school to serve on the board. Mr. Loyd was an assistant wrestling coach and bus driver.

Michelle Young and Tyler Raile brought home gold medals for the high school track team. The boys track team placed third in state.

The St. Francis high school football team racked up a 11-0 record before meeting Claflin on a cold, windy field on Nov. 16 for the sub-state title. Claflin was the victor. The game had been postponed because of the weather conditions which had also caused the highways to be dangerous.

50-year celebration
The Cheyenne County Conservation District celebrated 50 years of existence at their annual banquet. Farmers and ranchers having received awards through the years were once again recognized. Bob Gress was the special speaker bringing with him a great horned owl.

Cancer Society Relay for Life
On Aug. 12, people of the county

Mr. and Mrs. Kris Jones and family hosted an early Christmas dinner last Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. Keith Jones, Pauline Duncan, Daniele Jones and friend Joe.

David and Mary Ann Harwood of Colorado Springs were Wednesday and Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Allen.

Veda Douglas called at the Harvey Allen and Delmar Moellenberg homes Thursday.

Visitors at the Bill Mansfield home this past week were Gail Coonts, Sharilyn Mansfield and Monte Mansfield.

Todd Shively was a Wednesday over-

Haigler News

met for their annual meeting in St. Francis on March 18. Milton Lampe, St. Francis, was the out-going president.

MOISTURE
Continued from Page 1
year, the temperatures were cold and most were accompanied by a frigid wind chill.

While it was hot, it was also dry. The entire year's moisture was almost 14 inches and people could count the constant blowing of the wind. The average moisture for the year used to be around 18 inches but in the last two or three years, that average has dropped to around 16 inches.

Because it was hot and dry, wheat harvest came early and yields were less than in years past. The first load of wheat came in on June 9 and was brought in by Larry Flemming from a field north of Wheeler.

In June, the commissioners declared the county to be a "drought area."

The fall harvest was also early and the harvest weather held until most of the crops were in. Again, crops were not what the farmers had expected or needed. Of course, the prices of grain were also not what the farmers needed, having reached last year's lows.

As in every farming community, there is always hope that the next year will be better.

The first day of 2001 dawned cold with Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reporting a low of 6 degrees and it warmed up to only 25 degrees. However, on Tuesday, the temperature was 36 degrees at noon and expected to be in the 40s but, throughout the rest of the week, the temperatures are predicted to be as high as 59 degrees.

Unfortunately, there is no moisture forecasted but, there is always hope.

By Elsie Shanks



Don and Janice North of Watkins, Colo., Kitty Jacobs of Wray were planned for Christmas dinner guests of their parents, Willard and Geneva North.

Stan and Melanie Pratt, Tosha and Sean were Christmas dinner guests of her parents, Ralph and Norma Beek at Cheyenne Wells with other relatives attending.

Evelyn Flick hosted Christmas dinner at her home Monday with all the family attending.

By Bessie Dent



Harvey Allen visited Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Berl Allen and Vada Douglas.

Kris Jones flew to Tyler, Texas, Thursday to bring Heather and Linsey Jones home with him to spend the Christmas break.

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and will have a prosperous New Year.

By Opal Collicott



HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 1

walked with the Relay for Life, raising \$6,000 for the American Cancer Society. This was the first such event held in the county and participants had set up tents and were prepared to spend the night walking. However, about the time the sun went down, a terrible wind storm was predicted. The people were warned by Gary Rogers, emergency manager, and within the hour, the tents had come down and people had gone to the safety of their homes. The committee plans to host the event again in 2001 and are hoping for much better weather conditions.

Doctor awarded \$200,000

On March 7, Dr. Stan Naramore was awarded \$200,000 by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Dr. Naramore had been convicted on one count of murder and one count of attempted murder in Cheyenne County in 1996 but the Court of Appeals had overturned that decision in 1998 and it wasn't long before the doctor was practicing medicine again in eastern Kansas.

Airport runway

At the end of the summer, the county commissioners agreed to have the airport runway resurfaced with the county paying for around \$92,000 and the state department of transportation paying \$180,000, and the work proceeded.

However, the end results of the project were not to the approval of the commissioners nor the department of transportation officials. A meeting with the paving company, state officials and the commissioners was held but, until special tests could be made, the final decisions on repairs or a completely redone job were pending at the end of the year. The construction company reported that they were willing to make the necessary repairs and added a bonus of a better overlay to the top of the runway.

Lions Club

Lions Club members of District 17

Continued from Page 1

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MOISTURE

Continued from Page 1

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Hale Stag

Thursday,
January 11
At Hale Hall

Supper • 6:30-8:30 p.m. MDT



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