

Grant delay caused by no report

By Sandy Barnhart

The St. Francis City Council was told that the grant for the new fire and ambulance equipment building is being held up by an inspection report.

Councilman Dale Weeks told the council that the Community Development Block Grant could not be closed until the Kansas Department of Health and Development turned in the inspection report and the written approval for the fire and ambulance equipment building project. His report came after speaking to Michelle Kippes, economic devel-

opment coordinator from the Northwest Planning and Development Commission.

The proposed building is to be financed by Community Development Block Grant funds which are awarded in January, but if the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's part is not completed by the end of 2005, the KAN STEP grant application will be placed on the bottom of the list until the necessary paperwork has been turned in.

Once the paperwork is completed See REPORT on Page 5

Coyote calling contest to bring in 115 teams

By Karen Krien

FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event has been set for Jan. 7 and 8 in St. Francis.

Organizer Brent Rueb reports that the St. Francis contest is the biggest contest in the nation. He expects there will be 115 (the limit) 2-man teams participating.

Of the 115 teams, there will be 65 Midwest teams and 50 Sportsman's teams. The Midwest teams are made up of the more experienced hunters while the Sportsman division is the novice hunters.

"Coyote calling is the fastest growing shooting sport in the nation," Mr. Rueb said.

Mr. Rueb said the "Sportsman's Warehouse class" is designed to compliment the Midwest Coyote Calling Event.

"It has no skill level requirements and is open to any and all callers," he said.

The event has a lower entry fee and thus a lower payback return than the Midwest event."

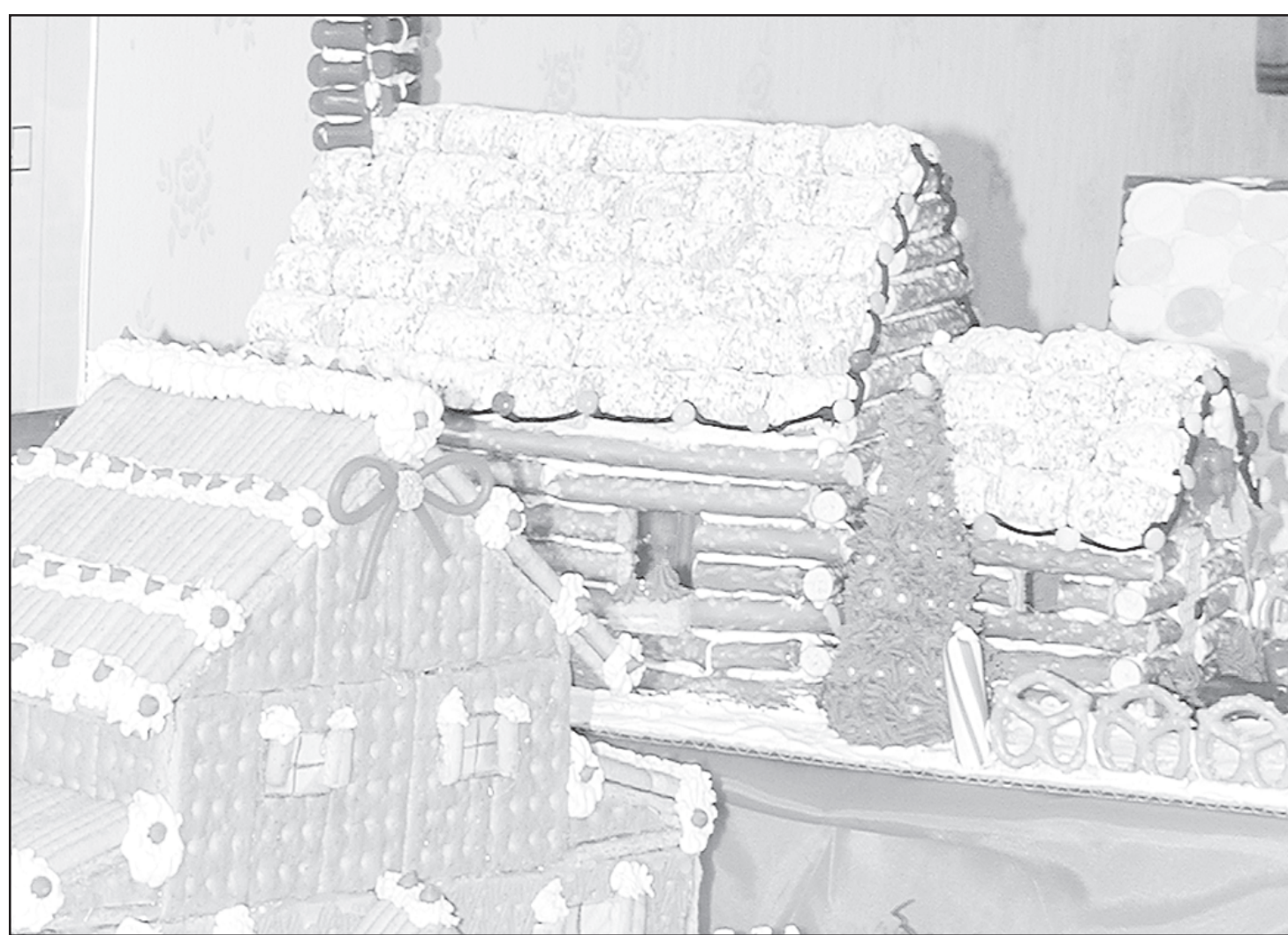
"This class is intended to help promote the sport of coyote calling and get more hunters introduced to the popular sport of predator calling," he said.

There is an entry fee of \$200 per team for the Midwest class and \$40 for the Sportsman Warehouse class. There is a 100 percent payback of all entry fees. On top of the payback, there are numerous prizes. Last year, participants received approximately \$30,000 in prizes.

Because the event is so popular and the contest is limited to 115 teams, hunters are encouraged to enter as quickly as possible. Mr. Rueb said the contest is already filling but also noted that the event is only a week away. The deadline for entering is Monday, Jan. 2.

For more information, contact Brent Rueb at 785-332-3402. Or go to the web for information and results: www.predatorsnipersty.com.

More information about the coyote calling event will be published in next week's issue of *The Herald*.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE WINNER Deb Gohl, Alex Long and Lori Gohl donated their winnings of \$50 to purchase an ornament off the Village Love Tree in honor of Barb Finley. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Winners donate prize in memory of a resident

By Karen Krien

The Good Samaritan Village hosted a Gingerbread House Building Contest before the Village Christmas party on Dec. 4. The winners of the contest were Deb Gohl, Alex Long and Lori Gohl but the house was built in memory of Barbara Finley who died on Nov. 29.

Mrs. Gohl said she and Ms. Finley had made the plans for the house before she died. It was originally supposed to have sides made of gingerbread but Mrs. Gohl said the gingerbread was crumbling, and Ms. Finley really wanted it to be a log house.

"We had decided to make the sides out of big pretzel sticks," she said.

After Ms. Finley died, Mrs. Gohl decided to carry on the building of the house. With the help of Alex, they spent around 12 hours building it. Lori also helped with some of the details.

They used cherry nips for the chimney and sidewalk; wafer cookies for the door, pointed sugar ice cream cones, carefully cut to different heights and frosted for the trees, round pretzels with peppermint-stick posts for the fence and the roof was shingled with frosted mini wheat cereal. It was all glued together with meringue frosting which, Mrs. Gohl said was almost like cement when it dried.

"As we built, we kept thinking See WINNER on Page 5



ROYCEROBERTS admired the gingerbread houses during a recent party at the Good Samaritan Village

Hospital board accepts low bid for remodeling project

By Karen Krien

Accepting a bid for the two hospital projects was top priority for the Cheyenne County Hospital Board when they met on Friday afternoon. After discussion, they took the low bid for \$371,120.

The projects include the ambulance garage addition and the remodeling of the physical therapy area in the basement of the hospital.

General contracts submitting bids were:

Miller Construction, Goodland, \$371,120; Rhoads Construction, Goodland, \$448,900; and Penn Construction, St. Francis, \$472,000.

Board member Jerry Toler, said he was dead set against taking the bid from Rhoads Construction as he was not happy with the job the company had done with the hospital remodeling. He added that money was still being held with the company until the job is completed to the satisfaction of the

board and administrator.

Several of the board members expressed disappointment that Penn Construction had not gotten the bid because of the professional work he had done in remodeling the health clinic in the basement of the St. Francis Clinic. The board was concerned that there was so much difference in the bids.

Shawna Blanka, administrator assistant, said the architect had called Mike Miller to see if he was confident that his bid was cor-

rect and he had said he was. Mr. Miller had told the architect that he and his crew did much of the work themselves instead of contracting it out.

The physical therapy remodeling will be started first and will include installation of the endless therapy pool, two treatment rooms, an office, and a bathroom in the new basement of the hospital.

The ambulance garage addition will start after the first of the year when the weather

warms up so the cement can be poured. The garage is a drive thru 35- by 40-foot building which includes entrance and exit doors and a storage area. The garage is connected to the hospital by the existing entrance and will be at the level of the main floor of the hospital.

Much of the project will be funded with state income tax credit dollars. Mrs. Blanka reported at the Friday meeting that, of the

See ACCEPTS on Page 5

First baby to receive many gifts

By Karen Krien

The first of the year is just days away and it is hard to say just who is going to be the first baby born in 2006.

The "First Baby of the Year 2006" contest begins Monday. It will end when the first phone call comes in and the baby/parents meet the rules of the contest.

Actually, there is only one requirement and that is the baby must be born to parents living in Cheyenne County for one month or more. These parents and their new born infant will be awarded gifts from sponsors.

The Saint Francis Herald office 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 car wash from See BABY on Page 5



ANGEL TREE GIFTS were picked up by Travis Milne, Association to Benefit Cheyenne County member. He reported that all the names had been taken off the trees and there were going to be some happy girls and boys. Casey McCormick helps gather the gifts.

Energy assistance available for county residents

Priority Oil and Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado are reaching out to help Cheyenne County residents subsidize their winter utility bills from Nov. 1 through April 30.

Robbie Gries, Priority Oil and Gas president and owner, realizes the rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of their energy bill is now available for qualified applicants.

To qualify, a person's combined income (before deductions) of all people living at the address may not exceed the guidelines on the chart below. An adult living at the address must be personally responsible for purchasing heating costs incurred at the residence (payable either to the landlord or to the fuel vendor).

The resident must also be a permanent and legal resident of the

United States and Cheyenne County.

Household income limits:

Size-1 person; income per month \$1,440
2 people; income per month \$1,930
3 people; income per month \$2,420
4 people; income per month \$2,910
5 people; income per month \$3,400
6 people; income per month \$3,890
7 people; income per month \$4,380
8 people; income per month \$4,870
Each addition person, \$500 income per month.

*This is an estimate of qualifications for energy assistance.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program does not guarantee energy assistance will be provided.

The Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program applications became available starting Tuesday See ENERGY on Page 5