



ELLA MILLER, granddaughter of Dave and Dawn Fry, gave Santa a big hug after telling him what she wanted for Christmas.



RILEY BURR, daughter of T.J. and Sarah Burr of Evans, Colo., enjoys her first visit with Santa Claus.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Extension Notes

Tips for keeping cats from attacking the Christmas tree

By Tye Faulkender



If you're tired of Morris' reign of terror on your Christmas tree, here is a few suggestions.
A cat's classic curiosity is the main cause of his mischief. Most cats get into the tree because of curiosity. An option is to distract the cat with a new toy or game to keep it occupied.
If this idea doesn't work, taking a more active — and noisy — approach is another option.
Booby trap the tree a few days before decorating it. Stack a bunch of empty soda cans and either wait for the cat to go up the tree and rig them to have them fall, or set them up in the tree so if the cat jiggles the tree they'll fall. Putting coins in the cans will make more noise.

A motion detector with an alarm that will sound when the cat is near the tree is another option to steer the cat away.
A less noisy suggestion is to spray citrus or citronella sprays around the bottom of the tree. It can be effective without a strong odor.
Merging pets and holidays doesn't have to be a holiday nightmare, it just takes some patience and common sense. Here are tips for keeping your pets safe during the holiday season.
Decorations
Tinsel not only has sharp edges that can cause intestinal problems, it is also harder for the animal to digest and pass.
Place glass and valuable orna-

ments high on the tree and pick up after decorating, especially making sure no hoods remain on the ground. Some wrapping paper may contain lead, so pets shouldn't eat it. cover up electrical cords or tape them to the floor. Provide appropriate supervision for your pets.
Never leave a lit candle unattended with rambunctious pets around. Don't forget animals with asthma or other respiratory problems may be particularly sensitive to burning incense or smelly candles.
Plants
In general, it is wise to keep holiday plants out of pet's chewing reach. However, when mischief and curiosity prevail, it helps to know harmless from harmful.
While pine needles have no significant toxic effects, they can become lodged in a pet's throat. Mistletoe, holly and holly berries, Christmas cactus and the Christmas rose have various toxic effects.

Forum will be held on Jan. 18

A forum is defined as "a discussion involving a panel of presenters and members of the audience." That's exactly what is planned for area livestock producers.
The Ranchers Forum will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, at The Route 36 Grill on Highway 36 in Idalia. Registration, coffee and rolls will begin at 9 a.m. The forum will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reserve your seat by Friday, Jan. 12. Call (970) 332-3173 extension 3 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., email "Julie.elliott@co.usda.gov" or fax 970-332-4425.
To get things rolling, two speakers will present their views on where ranchers should be headed in the livestock business. Then they will join a panel of innovative ranchers who will share their ideas, experiences, and answer questions.
Chip Hines is the owner of Total Management Consulting and a former rancher north of Kit Carson. He will talk about the importance of understanding the natural world and how everything works. Then he

will discuss making ranchers operations work within those features, fine-tuning them where they can. Mr. Hines was among the first people to implement an intensive rotational grazing system in Cheyenne County. His ranch was a year round grazing operation on sandy native range. Cows had to make it on their own except in the worst weather. He also tried interseeding and used livestock to reclaim blow-outs.
Kit Pharo and his wife Deanna, own Pharo Cattle Company. They ranch north of Cheyenne Wells. He will speak about rotational grazing and capturing sunlight energy to feed livestock. The impact of cow

size on forage demand and how production relates to profit will also be on Kit's agenda.
The Pharos have built their business from the ground up. They are now recognized as one of the more innovative cattle producers in the U.S. He is known for his outspoken nature and firm beliefs.
You may or may not agree with the two main speakers and the others, regardless, they are sure to give you something to think about and will challenge conventional wisdom.
"Some Folks Follow Old Wagon Tracks. Others Break New Trails." (Kit Pharo)

Student News

Garden City Community College
Tanner Kinen, St. Francis, agricultural business major, earned one of the most prestigious scholarships awarded for the 2005-06 school year. He has kept the scholarship active for his final year.
He graduated in 2005 from St. Francis Community High School, where he participated in football, basketball and track, plus volunteered for numerous community service. He has participated in football at Garden City.
Tanner is the son of Pete and Alice Kinen.

Fort Hays State University
Kelsey Andrist is one of 59 Fort Hays State University seniors who has been featured as national outstanding campus leaders in the 2007 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.
Since 1934, students have been selected for the listing by campus Nominating Committees and editors of the annual directory based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

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"Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will have memories to last a lifetime."
Happy Birthday, Grandpa Schlittenhardt, and thank you for teaching me how to catch the "big ones." The best times I have are when I get to go fishing with you and my dad!!! Have a Happy Birthday!!
From your #1 fishing buddy, Taylor Stevens

Happy Birthday Norvin!

From the Herald Staff

Introducing CADEE ADALINE HAUGNESS
Zoey Rae Haugsness would like to announce the birth of her baby sister, Cadee Adaline, on Dec. 5, 2006 in Topeka. She weighed 7 lbs., 12 ozs., and was 21 in. long. Zoey & Cadee are the daughters of Chris & Vinea Haugsness of Topeka.
Grandparents are Stan & Becky Krien of St. Francis, Craig Haugsness & Diane Leupold of Topeka, Dave & Diane Taylor of Topeka. Great-Grandparents are Dean Krien of St. Francis and the late Deloris Krien, Irvin & Mary Alice Lassman of Chanute, and John & Mary Ann Haugsness of Topeka.

York College Concert Choir
presents its
WINTER TOUR PROGRAM
FREE CONCERT
The York College Concert Choir will be touring four states during the winter break. We invite you to attend this enjoyable and uplifting experience.
Wednesday, January 3
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