



First baby of the year receives 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 2007. The "First Baby of the Year 2007" 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 the St. Francis Equity, a \$25 gift certificate from St. Francis Super's, \$50 bond from Bankwest, a \$50 bond from First National Bank, Bird City/St. Francis, a baby photo album or frame from Schultz's, a baby gift from Owens True Value, a baby gift from Krien Pharmacy, two bottles of champagne from Burr Liquor, a spinal adjustment for Mommy and baby plus a tube of Biofreeze from Poling Chiropractic and Family Health Center, a \$25 gift

certificate from Hilltop General Store, and a year's subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.



The first baby of the year will also receive a special quilt from the Prairie Piecemaker Quilt Guild, Goodland. Bonnie McQuillen, member, said the Guild is making baby quilts for both the first babies born in Cheyenne and Sherman counties. Mrs. McQuillen will leave the quilt at *The St. Francis Herald*.

The parents of the new baby will need to pick up their gifts or claim their services within 60 days after the birth.

Since most babies are not on schedule, it's hard telling when the first baby of 2007 will be born.

2006 First Baby of the Year

At around 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2006. Damon Rickard, Bird City resident, called from Denver to tell *The Herald* staff that he and his wife Billie were the parents of twin girls. The twins were born at 1:09 and 1:22 p.m. mountain time. Their twin brothers welcomed them home.

Coyote contest set for Jan. 6, 7

By Karen Krien

FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event has been set for Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 6 and 7, in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. This is the 10th year for the event in St. Francis.

A rules meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5. Callers are urged to come early and check out sponsors' booths and products, meet each other and swap calling techniques.

The contest starts on Saturday and Sunday 1/2 hour before sunrise. No night hunting is allowed. The coyotes will be brought in on or before 3 p.m. on Sunday. Interested people are urged to stop by and talk with the hunters, sponsors and other people on Sunday afternoon.

Biggest in nation

Coordinator Brent Rueb reports that the contest is the biggest in the nation. There is a limit of 115 two-man teams participating; 65 Midwest teams and 50 Sportsman's teams. There will also be a Coyote Caller Of The Year contest limited to six callers who will perform four different calls.

As of Dec. 15, Mr. Rueb said both the Midwest teams and Sportsman's teams limits had been met — well before the Jan. 2 deadline.

"Coyote calling is the fastest growing shooting sport in the nation," Mr. Rueb said. "Everyone wants to be a part of this contest because they know this event is one of the best-run events — everyone can compete and know they are being treated fair."

The Midwest teams are made up of the more experienced hunters while the Sportsman division is the novice hunters.

New this year will be the name change of the Midwest class

"The Midwest class will now be called the Predator Extreme class, named after Predator Extreme Magazine," Mr. Rueb said. "The magazine is the number one publication for predator hunting."

He said that the Predator Extreme Magazine executives wanted to get more involved with the event. Re-

naming the Midwest team to Predator Extreme was adopted.

The Sportsman's Warehouse sponsors the Sportsman's team, a division which is designed to complement 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.

Entries/prizes

There is an entry fee of \$200 per team for the Predator Extreme 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.

"Because it is the 10-year anniversary, we are expecting nicer trophies and prizes," Mr. Rueb said. "It will be a bigger and more elaborate contest than in year's past."

Last year, participants received approximately \$30,000 in prizes. This year, Mr. Rueb is expecting at least \$35,000 in prizes.

Mr. Rueb said there are a couple of film crews planning to cover FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event in St. Francis. He said one of the film crews may be entering the contest and filming during the two days.

"We are getting a lot of national coverage," he said, adding that coyote calling is growing by leaps and bounds and people are wanting to know more about it.

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

Result information about the coyote calling event will be published in Jan. 11 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.



HO, HO, HO! Santa (Rick Connell) holds a little angel. Young Ivory Rose Maret was one of the many children that attended the Christmas in McDonald event on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Many brave cold for McDonald's Santa Day

It was a cold, cold Saturday with the mercury staying under freezing, but it did not affect the crowd at the McDonald Legion. There were long lines of hungry people trying to get out of the cold and into the building.

The McDonald Lions estimated they served 170 plates of pancakes and sausage. They had to go to the store and purchase more disposable plates. As always the food was delicious and the service was great.

People were still drinking coffee when Santa arrived. He was a jovial old man and after visiting with the children and distributing his treats, he hung around for quite a while. He seemed in no hurry to be on his way.

The tables of gifts were uncovered and the bingo cards were passed out. Leonard Vyzourek had a hard time calling bingo, but finally people quieted down and listened to the numbers being called. There were so many prizes that players could win over and over again. It was through the generosity of the people in the community that McDonald Area Development had so many gifts to offer.

Many families come home for Christmas and spend the day playing bingo together.

Members of the McDonald Legion were kept busy with their turkey and ham shoot and pitch games in the basement. Whatever their idea of a good time was, it



MCDONALD LIONS CLUB served up pancakes for the crowd. Those helping are (left to right) Les Loker, Cathy Loop and Deb Smith.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

could be found in McDonald on Saturday. When the Lions, the Legion and the McDonald Area Development combine their activities, it makes a fun-filled day for all.

Christmas Lighting winners

The Christmas Lighting Contest winners were tallied and the five winners were Jay and Rose Gordon, Bill and Lois Schaff, Greg and Suzan Moyer, Amelia Banister and Tunney Loker.

Among the homes decorated for the Christmas season were Dennis and Lila Howard, Joan Tongish, Keith and Marie Statley, Dave and Sylvia Hubbard, Jim and Lois Morelock, Amelia Banister, Betty Lewis, Les and Tish Loker, Gail and Kay Miller, Tunney Loker, Bill and Lois Schaff, Jay and Rose Gordon, Johnene Cheney, Kent and Joan Banister, Brian and Connie Sabatka, Duane and Rita

Hawkins, Dean and April Miesner, Don and Melinda Basnett, Ray and Marlene Johnson and Pastor Greg and Suzan Moyer.

McDonald Area Development recognized the efforts of all those who decorated for the contest. It made McDonald very festive, as did the Lions Club tree and decorations at the entrance to town.



JAVIER RAMIREZ TAKES AIM (far left) during the trap line shoot. Sportsmen, and women, competed for holiday turkeys and hams. Warm clothing helped the hunters.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

