



Big flakes of snow mixed with the colored Christmas lights overhead on Main Street looked like a picture on a Christmas card Wednesday evening.

Ice, snow closes schools, highways

By Karen Krien

Tuesday (Dec. 19) afternoon, it began to rain, then snow. Temperatures dropped to 20 degrees that night — enough to leave a sheet of ice under the rapidly falling snow. Tuesday had dawned bright and the high reached 36 degrees. But the clouds could be seen building in the southwest. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis, weather observer,

reported 1.14-inches of moisture and, by Wednesday morning, there was 4 inches of snow and it was still falling.

Schools across northwest Kansas were closed including the St. Francis and Cheylin schools. It was the final week before Christmas break began on Friday. There were semester tests but Rob Schiltz, assistant superintendent of the St. Francis schools, said

teachers would work through any problems when school resumed on Wednesday.

The Sainty junior high girls' musical scheduled for Tuesday evening was postponed to Jan. 4. The high school basketball games with Colby on Thursday were rescheduled for Feb. 22.

I-70 was closed from Colby west bound on Wednesday. K-27 and U.S. 36 were

closed and motels had some travelers Wednesday night. Mrs. Woodcox, owner of Homesteader Motel, said most of the travelers had chose not to fight the storm.

The storm had been predicted early and the traffic was light, especially for holiday travel.

There were a few minor accidents and Candi Douthit was in a rollover but no inju-

ries were reported. However, on Monday, Delbert Barnhart was riding his bike when he had an accident on the ice and ended up in the hospital.

By Thursday morning, roads were opening up. Roads and highways were still snow packed but the highway, county and city crews were out clearing the way for travel. See CLOSERS on Page 7



SNOW-PACKED ROADS were the reason for closing highways. Above, the sign was warning travelers to stop. Left, Garrett Figgins scooped the snow off the walks in front of the post office.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Calling contest to bring in 115 teams

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."

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Last year's stats told

Last year, there were 536 coyotes seen and 229 killed. The Midwest teams averaged 3.64 coyotes per team while the Sportsman's teams averaged 1.30 per team.

Winning first in the Midwest teams competition was the team of Petersen, Lamar, Colo., and Gugelmeyer, Lakin, with 15 coyotes. Second place went to the team of Rockwell and Rockwell, Wray, nine coyotes; and Guernsey, Benkelman, and Smith, Sidney, Neb., also with nine coyotes claimed third place. The local team of Pete and Tanner Kinen, St. Francis, was fourth with eight.

In the Sportman's Warehouse class, the team of Holste and Holste, Manhattan, had four coyotes. Claiming second were Chambers, Culbertson, Neb., and Gerih, McCook, four coyotes; and Emig, Goodland, and Denton, Kanorado, brought in three coyotes for third place.

The St. Francis Kinen team had the largest coyote, weighing 37 pounds.

Montie Levin, Flagler, Colo., won the Predator Caller of the Year contest. Kevin Lukens, Huaehuca City, Ariz., was awarded Sportsman of the Year.

First baby contest begins Jan. 1



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 gifts from sponsors.

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