

Coyote calling event brings in 114 teams

By Karen Krien

Over the weekend, there were many pickups and trailers in St. Francis carrying four-wheelers with guns hanging on the handles. They were in town for the annual Midwest Coyote Calling event.

Brent Rueb, coordinator, reported there were 60 Midwest teams and 54 Sportsman teams for a total of 114 two-man teams participating in the event.

"This was one of the biggest calling ever," he said.

There were a number of local area callers—a number which increases each year.

The cash prize paybacks ended up being \$22,430 and, with the door prizes, there was an estimated total of \$30,000 given out Sunday afternoon. Some of the door prizes included two rifles and a Fox Pro coyote caller.

The teams reported seeing 781 coyotes and killing 242.

Winning first place in the Midwest division was the team of Jim Craig and Kevin Shively from Flagler and Wray, respectively. They brought in 13 coyotes for a total of 341.6 pounds. Taking first place in the Sportsman division was the team of Holste and Holste from Manhattan with eight coyotes. Second place in the Sportsman division was the local team of Pete Kinen and Tanner Kinen, St. Francis.

Chad Rockwell and Brandon Larson had brought in the largest coyote which weighed 36.6 pounds. Bringing in the smallest coyote, 17.6 pounds, was Dustin Fromholtz and Derek Fromholtz, St. Francis.

Winning the Predator Caller contest was Tim Schmid, St. Francis. Sportsman of the Year award went to Ronnie Robinson, Orange, Texas. The Sportsman of the Year award started when Curt Spears made his last coyote hunt at the St. Francis event and six months later, died of cancer. Mr. Robinson has a neurological disorder but loving to hunt, designed a wheelchair which would take him over rough terrain. He had planned on being in St. Francis over the weekend but just couldn't make it. Mr. Rueb said the plaque will be sent to him.

Mr. Rueb recognized a number of sponsors including Varmint Hunter Magazine and Fox Pro. He encouraged everyone winning a prize to contact the person or company to thank him (them).

Mr. Rueb said that someone had stolen a coyote out of the back of a pickup while the callers were eating at a restaurant. He also said that, in the rules, it states that callers must ask landowners before going on their land. One team said they had misread the map and ended up on land where the owner was very unhappy to have them. They were disqualified from this event but will be able to enter next year.

"Every team has to contact the landowner and get permission—it is just one of the rules," Mr. Rueb said.

He also said the callers were very appreciative of meeting and eating at the newly remodeled fair building. They also said the food served by the St. Francis junior class was excellent.

"The class members thought the callers were very courteous and generous as some left tips to help with their moneymaking projects," Mr. Rueb said.

Next year, the Coyote Calling event in St. Francis will be held on Jan. 6, 7 and 8.

Winners of the contest are listed below. Many of the first names were not known so they are listed only by last names and towns.

Midwest

First: Craig and Shively, Flagler/Wray, 13 coyotes.

Second: Hughes and Johnson, Brush, Colo./Saratoga, Wyo., 10 coyotes.

Third: Gugelmeyer and Peterson, Lakin/Lamar, Colo., nine coyotes.

Fourth: Reystead and Briggs, Haswell, Colo., eight coyotes.

Fifth: Deckard and Wangen, Reedsburg, Wisc./Hayward, Minn., eight coyotes.

Sixth: Brandon and Myers, Anselmo, Neb./Broken Bow,

Neb., eight coyotes.
Seventh: Guzman and Kolman, Brush, seven coyotes.

Eighth: Jarrett and Gallegos, Wray, seven coyotes.

Ninth: Rockwell and Larson, Wray, six coyotes.

Tenth: Keller and Centa, Wray, six coyotes

Eleventh: Baucke and Mekelburg, Yuma, six coyotes.

Twelfth: Humrich and McArthur, Burlington, six coyotes.

Sportsman Class

First: Holste and Holste, Manhattan, eight coyotes.

Second: Kinen and Kinen, St. Francis, seven coyotes.

Third: Levina and Kostka, Flagler/Berthoud, Colo., four coyotes.

Fourth: Smith and Brent, Limon, Colo./Arriba, Colo., four coyotes.

Fifth: Howe and Bremenkamp, Riley/Topeka, three coyotes.

Sixth: Roesener and Poore, McDonald, three coyotes.

Seventh: Fulton and Cox, Sharon Springs/Weskan, three coyotes.

Eighth: Armagost and Snelling, Yuma, three coyotes.

Ninth: Poling and Pittman, St. Francis/Wamego, three coyotes.

(Editor's note: The coyotes were weighed when they were brought in and the placings were decided by the most weight and so forth.)

Biggest coyote

First: Rockwell and Lee, 36.6 pounds.

Second: Reystead and Briggs, 36 pounds.

Third: Craig and Shively, 34 pounds.

Fourth: Kinen and Kinen, 33.6 pounds.

Fifth: Krien and Sherlock, 33.4 pounds.

Sixth: Keller and Smull, 32.8 pounds.

Smallest coyote

First: Fromholtz and Fromholtz, 17.6 pounds.

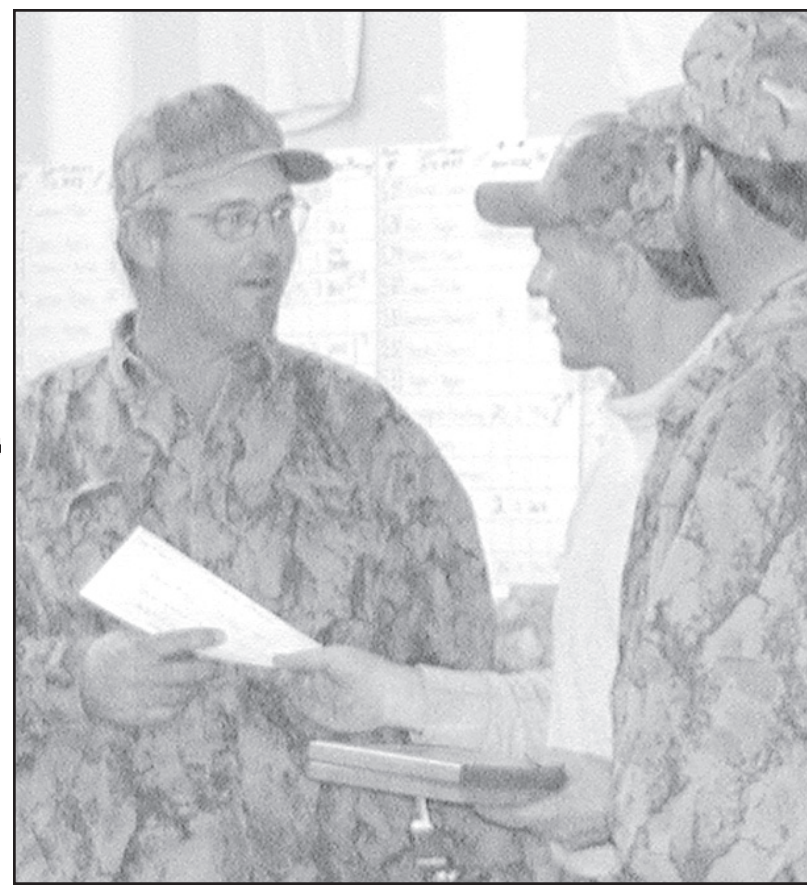
Second: Smith and Brent, 18.2 pounds.

Third: Huber and Denke, 18.6 pounds.

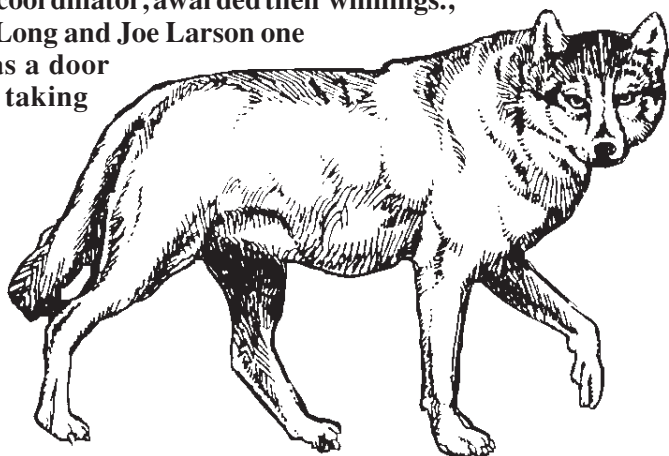
Fourth: Keyser and Phillips, 18.8 pounds.

Fifth: Humrich and McArthur, 19.2 pounds.

Sixth: McLemore and Reavis, 20.0 pounds.



CHECKING OUT THE BOOTHS in the Midwest Coyote Calling event on Sunday were Brett Poling and Bruce Roelfs; Clockwise: Mr. Rueb reported the event was the 'biggest ever'; Jana Carpenter and Rose Miller had the job of keeping track of all the teams and standings; first place winners were Jim Craig and Kevin Shively. Brent Rueb, coordinator, awarded their winnings; Roy Elffers showed Lance Long and Joe Larson one of the rifles given away as a door prize; Harold Tygart was taking coyotes in.



Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick and Karen Krien