



CHRISTMAS EVE program at St. John Lutheran Church ended with a live Nativity with Ethan Young as Joseph, Stephanie Busse as Mary and the baby Jesus was played by Taos Dale, son of Tana and Darren Dale. Other performers were (left to right) Mikaela Barnett, Tilyn Bell, Makenzie Barnett, Joshua Keltz, Caleb Keltz, Craig Busse, Jeremiah White, Ty Carmichael, Jacob White, Joey McCormick, Rachel and Elizabeth Keltz, Ellie Waters, Brynn Waters, Cassidy and Tate Busse and Sydney Busse. *Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*

Local farm supply business sells out after 35 year stretch

By Melinda Basnett

Ken Krien has sold Krien Farm Supply with plans for retirement. Mr. Krien and his wife Sherry started their business Feb. 4, 1970, in a small, rented scale house and office next to the railroad tracks. "I had a lot to learn and had to learn it fast, as I knew nothing about fertilizer and chemical," Mr. Krien said. "I had no idea that leaving the construction business would turn into longer hours and harder work." In the beginning they had one employee, Gene Daniels, who they had purchased the business from. "Mr. Daniels told me that we could pay him when we made some money and had a little extra." The purchase included two 1949 trucks, one U-Minneapolis tractor, a 44 Massey tractor used to pull the two 30-foot sprayers, six ammonia tanks, and two 15-foot ammonia applicators. Mrs. Krien's uncle had co-signed a note at the bank for operating capital. "Back then, the fertilizer and chemical season only lasted two or

three months in the spring. The rest of the year, I had to supplement our income by lining up welding jobs, repair work and erecting some steel grain bins," Mr. Krien explained. In 1971, they introduced the first "floater" to northwest Kansas. In the years that followed, the growing number of irrigation wells being drilled made the season grow to a full-time occupation. "During the years of 1976-1977, we built a state-of-the-art fertilizer plant to enable us to use refined raw materials to make our own fertilizer grades. This made it possible to formulate custom mixtures to match soil test results," said Mr. Krien. In 1978, the Lawn Ridge Ammonia Plant was established to make deliveries to customers in that area more efficient. Farming hardships in the 1980s slowed the growth of the business, but as the economy rebounded in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the business was doing better than ever. The introduction of chemical-tillage concepts to the area

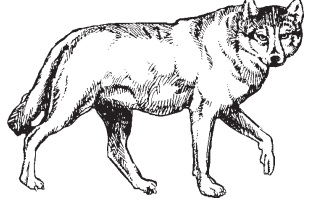
helped a lot. Their oldest son, Kerby joined the company in 1992. They also purchased the Atwood Coop fertilizer plant at that time, and upgraded it to a full-service facility. In 1995 the McDonald ammonia facility was established. The year 2000 saw the business grow to employ 13-15 people and then the beginning of the drought caused many cutbacks. "All though the drought has caused some setbacks, we are optimistic that with some adequate moisture, the farming industry will bounce back to where it was and probably better," Mr. Krien said. After a lot of hard work and determination, Mr. Krien said "This business has allowed me to stay in this community and raise my family and remain close to agriculture which I so enjoy. The loyalty, support, and friendship of the customers has been our most valuable and enjoyable asset." The business has been purchased by Frontier Equity Exchange and is scheduled for a Jan. 1 takeover.

Contest to bring in 115 teams

By Karen Krien

Fox Pro'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.predatorsnipers-tyx.com. More information about the coyote calling event will be published in next week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Meetings set for key irrigators

Producers, landowners and lenders alike have expressed concern about the high energy costs related to irrigated-crop production in northwest Kansas. Several meetings have been set including one in Cheyenne County from 2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds in St. Francis. Economists Mark Wood and Todd Ziegler, with the Farm Management Association, will review historical and projected 2006 costs of produc-

tion for typical irrigated crop enterprises in northwest Kansas. Irrigated crop enterprise cost of production examples will be discussed with various water availability and tillage scenarios. Lease arrangements that represent equitable sharing of risk and profits will be discussed in light of the anticipated irrigated crop enterprise profitability or 2006. Other meetings scheduled around the area are:

- Sheridan County 4-H building, Hoxie, 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 4.
- Thomas County 4-H building, Colby, 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 4.
- CAB building, Sharon Springs, 1 to 4 p.m. mountain time, Jan. 5.
- Sherman County 4-H Building, Goodland, 9 a.m. to noon, mountain time.

Those planning to attend the meeting should contact their county Extension office. In Cheyenne County, the number is 785-332-3171.

Looking back, many happenings occurred this last year

The past year has been one full of challenges and changes in Bird City. Here are some of the events that happened.

January

Newly elected sheriff Troy Garner took over law enforcement for the county. Bird City resident Mark Davidson was his choice as undersheriff. Cheyenne County received the Community Development Block Grant to purchase new fire trucks. The 76th Kansas Day celebration was a lively day with the theme Kansas Dancin'. February Cheylin Junior High scholars compete. They placed second in competition with nine other teams. The Cheylin Board of Education approved the agenda for the senior trip. The trip to Denver included stops at the Butterfly Pavilion, the U.S. Mint, and the Museum of Nature and Science. DeAnza Church joined the staff of the *Bird City Times* as an associate editor. She takes the job with much enthusiasm. Frontier Equity moved their tire shop and fuel sales to the site of the Philling Station previously owned by Troy James. Mr. James moved to the building formerly occupied by

the Frontier Equity Tire Shop.

March

The Cheyenne County Conservation District held its annual awards dinner at the American Legion Hall in Bird City. A three-on-three basketball tournament was held in the McDonald gym with 26 teams participating. Proceeds from the tournament went to the Cheylin FFA. Fanny Peacock celebrated her 100th birthday with an open house at the Good Samaritan in Atwood. Marine Corporal Jason Smith was welcomed home by family and friends from Iraq. April Bird City area resident Dan Busse showed his amazing collection of ancient artifacts to the Cheyenne Historical Society at Ye Olde Country Church. Fourth graders from Cheylin entertained at the Arbor Day festivities held in McDonald by the Garden Club. May Josh Johnson was awarded Star Greenhand for the Northwest District FFA at a banquet held in Hill City. Larry Henry took the office of mayor and two new council members filled the vacant seats on the city

council. The Awanas finished their year with awards and a fun night at the Federated Church of McDonald followed by a rodeo at the Lazy H Ranch. Cheylin graduates included Justin Antholz, Tiffany Antholz, Ailyssa Carpenter, Edgar Carpenter III, Alex Hengen, Andrew Marshall and Rebecca Mason. June The back of the Bird City Theatre was torn down by city workers after the building was determined to be an unsafe structure. Alumni reunions drew many to the area to reminisce. Heartland Childcare Center opened, filling a need for adequate daycare for working parents. The facility is operated in the United Methodist Church. The McDonald Grocery store opened under new ownership. Barb Garner purchased the business from Brenda Johnson and plans to serve customers for a long time. Bird City was awarded grant funds for a walking trail for the Park Improvement Project. Kori Underwood was named 2006 Cheyenne County Young Miss. July

California family Richard and Earla Connell with their children Ricky and Nicole moved to McDonald to open the Frosty Mug. The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show made it's 52nd year a time for young and old alike to have a good time despite temperatures in the triple digits. August The Cheyenne County Fair provided all the traditional entertainment and events and still found something new to keep people coming back for more. A mud bogging contest was held during the Demolition Derby to entertain folks while the cars were being readied for the next competition. Bird City welcomed Jana Diers as the new city clerk. She filled the vacancy left by Laura Miller's resignation. September Former Cheylin graduate Michael Sager escaped the fury of Hurricane Katrina with other members of his Tulane University football team. The team was taken by bus to safety in Mississippi. Many bargains could be found at the city-wide yard sales with 20 sites registered for sales that day. About 50 Cheyenne County resi-

dents attended a meeting at the American Legion to discuss the economic development needed for the county. October Cheylin Homecoming King and Queen Jacob Jensen and Kori Underwood were crowned during festivities held in Bird City. Century II hosted a hog roast and town meeting to discuss projects planned and the direction of the community for the future. The American Legion Auxiliary celebrated it's 85th anniversary with a fun program featuring entertainment by Millie and Mollie. November The Halloween chili cook-off filled everyone with good spirits and tasty chili. Proceeds are to help fund the Park Improvement Project. The faculty and staff and Cheylin Schools were treated to a Cajun shrimp boil by the board of education and administration to say "thank you" for a job being well done. The Cougar bus arrived and ready for the many trips the Cheylin students take. December Science Fair displays filled the cafeteria as students demonstrated their skills and knowledge.

The area continued to dig out from the blizzard that hit the weekend following Thanksgiving. Farmers and ranchers searched for missing cattle as stranded travelers headed home after taking shelter in local schools and churches. A new business was introduced in Bird City. Mike and Dona McGilvary brought their wagon and buggy business as well as 24 Clydesdale horses to the area from Colorado. The Cheylin Board of Education discussed ways to cut down on the work load students have, and offered a waiver of enrollment fees to qualifying families. Holiday celebrations county-wide show what talent and caring the area has to offer.

