

New hospital board member appointed

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners appointed a new hospital board member when they met on Monday, the last day of the year.

Jane Young, Bird City, was the only person who had applied for the position. She replaces Swede Calnon, St. Francis, who had served for the last eight years. Her term will start with the January hospital board meeting.

Mrs. Young said, about a year ago, that, if there was ever a board she would like to serve on, it would be the hospital board.

"I know there is controversy

and decisions to make," she said.

She said that she thought the hospital facility was a wonderful facility and she would like to learn more about it. Mrs. Young brings to the board 25 years of banking experience and feels that she could be an asset to the board.

The commissioners asked if there would be a problem with her employer in getting off to attend the meetings. She said she had cleared the issue with them, noting that the board only meets once a month and occasionally for a special meeting.

Andy Beikman, chairman, said he knew that she was a new

board member but hoped that the administrator and board would come to a couple of meetings a year to bring them up to date on what is happening at the hospital.

The county gives \$256,051 in ad valorem tax to the hospital plus a number of years ago, the voters agreed to raise the sales tax 1 cent per dollar which is also given to the hospital. The sales tax varies from year to year but in 2007, they collected \$375,306.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said, looking into the future, who knows what it will take to keep it updated and what it will cost. He also noted that the hospital was important to the county.

Midwest top coyote callers to meet in St. Francis for rules

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkansas.com

On Friday, the hunters will be coming into St. Francis for the rules and regulation meeting for the 11th Midwest Coyote Calling contest. These hunters will be looking to place in the top coyote calling contest in the nation, said Brent Rueb, coordinator.

Some of the top coyote callers from 13 states around the Midwest have entered.

Mr. Rueb expects over 300 people will be crammed into the 4-H building at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds. Once the teams have had a good meal and are given the rules and regulation of the event, they will be turned loose to travel to where they will begin the hunt on Saturday morning.

After a hard hunt, the teams

will again converge on St. Francis and bring back their harvested animals. Teams will hunt in three different states, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

After all the coyotes have been checked in and the final statistics have been tallied, there will be champions named in two classes the Sportsman's Warehouse and the Midwest classes.

Callers will receive guns, calls, optics and a host of other door prizes that will be given away. Prize money and prizes totaling \$35,000 will be awarded, making this the largest purse in the coyote calling circuit.

Last year the callers battled over 2 feet of snow but, this year, the weather forecasters are predicting warmer weather than the area has seen for several weeks. Even with

the high price of fuel, Mr. Rueb reported the classes have filled up and there will 130 teams.

"I have ran out of room to hold this contest," he said. "The fairgrounds building is at its capacity with 130 teams."

"I never dreamed it would be such a huge event".

Of special interest this year, the American Outdoorsman Television show will be covering this event. The American Outdoorsman show televises big game hunts during the first half of the year and predator hunts the second half. They have five teams entered in the event and will be filming as well.

Predator calling is the largest growing sport in the shooting industry and the attendance at this event proves it!

Couple talks of miracles and faith

By Linda Schneider

dublins@hotmail.com

Lynn Glasco said, "I have lived my whole life on the midwest plains, but I have never seen a tornado." Even on the evening of March 28, when a tornado that measured a half a mile across destroyed the house he and Candy, his wife, had lived in for 15 years.

Both Lynn and Candy said, "March 28 was a day of miracles." That was a strange thing to say coming from two people who had lost their home in a matter of minutes. However, on that particular evening and with that particular tornado, they witnessed things that could only be explained as miracles.

When Lynn and Candy returned home from church activities early that evening, reports had placed the tornado to pass right through the town of Bird City. They knew that the town residents were praying fervently for the tornado to pass by, Lynn and Candy were also praying for the safety of Bird City.

While talking on the telephone with their son, Terry, the phone went dead and the electricity went off. Without any form of communication, Lynn and Candy were still praying for Bird City, believing the tornado was headed toward Bird City, cutting a path through town going northwest. However, they had no idea the tornado had suddenly turned northeast away from Bird City, and was now headed toward their own farm!

Still unaware that the tornado's path had turned toward them, they wanted to look out the window to get a glimpse of the tornado from a distance. As they watch the sky, not knowing the tornado was headed right toward them, Candy said, "We both felt a warning at the same time to go down into the basement."



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, Lynn and Candy Glasco hang ornaments on their tree. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Being people of faith they trusted that warning, went down into the basement and waited.

Above them, the tornado did what tornadoes are known for: destruction. However, in the basement Lynn and Candy felt sheltered and protected, not even hearing the roar that is typical of a tornado as it moved overhead.

The only thing they noticed was the smell of cedar and thought the windows had been blown out. In the quietness of that basement, together they gave thanks for the protection of Bird City residents and sang hymns.

The last time a tornado came through the Glasco farm was in the 1940s and the windmill was the only thing it took. As Lynn and Candy opened up the basement door, it was dark and they could not

clearly see. Using a flashlight, they saw straw blowing down the stairs leading up to the second floor. As they climbed up the stairs, they saw sky where a roof had been. They knew not much of their farm was left standing.

Still, their faith led them to be grateful, even when all hope of rebuilding their farm was gone.

Today, Lynn and Candy live in Bird City in a home they have recently purchased. A home, they both agree, where the timing of its vacancy was in perfect timing with their need.

The Glascos lost their house to a tornado in a matter of minutes and in the process received a stronger faith, more gratitude in the things that matter most, and experienced the power of miracles.



THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT for Joslyn Ketzner and Ivan Kemp as the two went snow sledding during the holiday break from school. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Youth overcomes obstacles

By Linda Schneider

dublins@hotmail.com

Weston Ribeau is only 19 years old, but he has overcome more obstacles than the average person will ever see in their lifetime.

Weston was born with spinal bifida, a condition where the spinal cord is exposed and the vertebrae did not cover the cord. His mother, Betty Williams, knew of her unborn baby's condition before his birth and was able to take some precautions while still in the womb. However, Weston's damaged spinal cord was so extreme at birth, his body never formed properly.

Weston was also born with hydrocephalus, water on the brain, and mental retardation — the doctor's prognosis for his future was not encouraging.

Today, he lives in a wheelchair and deals with health issue daily. He has had 51 operations. But that did not stop Betty or his two brothers, Jason and Cole, from encouraging him to always do better.

Weston was 9 years old when he and his family moved back to Bird City. It was at that time he began bowling and competing in the Special Olympics. Before he joined Special Olympics, Weston believed he was the only person who was truly disabled. Special Olympics has been a great program for Weston, and being with other handicapped individuals helped him to overcome his shyness, Mrs. Williams said.

She said the Bird City community has helped in many ways, but it is the Cheylin school staff and students that deserve the real credit.

"Kudos to the senior class and thanks for including Weston in school activities," she said.

At Cheylin High School, Weston is just one of the students. He was able to go to his high school prom because the senior class provided the transportation for him. Mrs. Williams went with her son, it was her first prom also. They made the dance floor wheelchair accessible for him and he ended up dancing with all the girls from his class.

Weston will be graduating with



WINNING A SILVER AWARD, Weston shows his bowling skills with the aid of a Special Olympics volunteer.

the Cheylin class of 2008. However, he will have to attend one more year to get all his credits. This is still quite an accomplishment for someone who had such a dismal prognosis at the beginning of his life.

After finishing up with next year's classes, Weston and his mom will be making some life choices. Weston is dependent on Betty, so wherever he goes she goes.

They are starting to look at what is available so that Weston can continue with independent life skills. They have been looking into the Prairieland Development Center in Atwood, because it would be close to Bird City and her sister, Dianna Carpenter, who helps Betty with Weston.

Another option would be to go

to Hays. Mrs. Williams has family in Hays and there would be more opportunity for Weston to get employment. If possible, he would like to work with golf carts.

Weston is a young man who looks to the future anticipating the best possible outcome. His life started out very different from where he is now and he has beaten the odds. It will not matter where Weston goes, as he will certainly be known as an overcomer.

