

RETIREES

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The first firehouse was the building which is now Dale Henderson's Paint and Body Shop on 106 S. River Street. It held the 1936 Chevy rural truck (now owned by the Shriners) and the 1951.

In the early 70s, the city bought a 1972 fire truck and it wouldn't fit in the little fire house. The city then bought the vacated armory building on College Street. The equipment was located there until the first of this year when everything was moved to the new St. Francis Emergency Building on U.S. 36.

The new building not only holds all the fire equipment but also houses the ambulances, has offices for the emergency manager, fire chief and the ambulance director as well as having a meeting room.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Rogers was instrumental in getting the Jaws for Life equipment. He went to the commissioners for support. Commissioner Bill Leach challenged him and the firemen that he would match his commissioner check to any money raised for the equipment.

They had a demonstration crew come to the fairgrounds and a can was placed nearby where donations could be collected.

The support was very good, Mr. Rogers said. Even kids came by and dropped ride tickets into the can showing their support. The money was raised and Mr. Leach kept his promise.

Ironically, Mr. Rogers said, the first time they used the Jaws

equipment was to free his daughter, Natalie, from a vehicle wreck.

Today, when there is a call of a vehicle accident, the Jaws equipment goes too.

Firemen are exposed to a great deal more training these days. However, Mr. Rogers said the safe rule is "If you don't know, don't go!"

In recent years, the burn trailer has come to St. Francis. It shows firemen what to expect in a house/building fire and what to do when in this situation.

Firemen have had Scott Pak training, Hazmat environmental training, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training and oil and gas well training.

As the emergency manager, Mr. Rogers knew the importance of communication. Now, all firemen and emergency medical technicians are equipped with pagers and/or portable radios. This equipment has taken the place of the whistle which once sounded when there was a fire. As the emergency manager, he has been able to get equipment through the Homeland Security money and he has written grants for equipment including fire trucks.

He has helped extinguish several bigger fires including the BonTon Cafe, and the Ben Andrist, Melvin Harkins and Freddy Zwegardt houses, which were all located in the country. There have also been a number of large grass fires but, he said the grass fire east of St. Francis several years ago could have been deadly with the gusty winds. The fire missed St. Francis by only a couple of miles.

These days, he said, there aren't as many fires as there used to be. He attributes that to better electrical wiring and heating systems. He said that when the old junkyard was located west of St. Francis, the firemen were called out almost weekly to put out a fire that was caused by sparks from burning.

"It's been lots of fun," he said, adding that he will not only miss going on the calls but will also miss the camaraderie with the other firemen.

St. Francis, he said, has the bragging rights that there has always been a waiting list of people wanting to get on the fire department. It is probably not as long of a list as it used to be but there is still a list.

For years, the firemen have given rides to kindergarten students and they were able to tour the firehouse. Even now, Mr. Rogers said, there kids (some of them in their 40s) who come up and say, "I remember you when I went to the firehouse with the kindergarten class."

"Those are some of the things that made the job special," he said.

The firemen now have a train of cut-out barrels on wheels which is pulled by a fireman riding a four-wheeler. The ride delights kids of all ages as they are pulled around St. Francis at special occasions.

He said his wife, Carol, was raised with a fireman father and his daughter and granddaughter have also experienced the same. They have always enjoyed looking at the fire trucks. A retirement party was recently held in his honor and he was presented a plaque which hangs in his emergency manager office.

Now, when there is a fire, Mr. Rogers won't be riding on the truck but, if he is working at the Emergency Building, he said he will have the doors open and ready for the trucks to roll.



141 TEAMS SIGNED IN at the Midwest Coyote Calling Contest held on Jan. 10 and 11. Sitting at the desk are Rose Miller, left, and Jana Carpenter. Brent Rueb,

coordinator of the contest, visits with guys as they sign in. The contest was once again deemed a success. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Hunters travel from eight states

By Karen Krien
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The 2009 Midwest Coyote Calling Contest is over but the contest was bigger than ever.

There were 141 teams participating in the Jan. 10 and 11 contest in St. Francis. With each team having two people, that made 282 people plus all the others who either came along to support the hunters or were just curious.

St. Francis coordinator, Brent Rueb, has organized the event for 12 years. By the first of August, he reported both the Predator Sniper Class and Sportsman Warehouse

Class were full and any other entries would be turned away.

The hunters traveled to St. Francis from eight states. Participants reported 1,038 coyotes spotted which is around 100 more than last year. There were 357 brought back to St. Francis which is about 60 more than last year.

There were 85 Predator Sniper teams and 56 Sportsman Warehouse teams which totaled 141. There were 90 teams returning for weigh in on Sunday.

Over \$30,000 in money and prizes were given out.

The first place winner in the

Predator Sniper Class was the team of Nick Peterson, Lamar, and Jeremy Gugelmeyer, Dalhart, Texas, bringing in 16 coyotes. The team of Geogg Nemnich, Scottsbluff, Neb., and Bob Nemnich, Gering, Neb., took first in the Sportsman Warehouse Class with eight coyotes.

The Gugelmeyer and Peterson team winning the Predator Sniper Class, was also named as the "Sportsmen of the Year."

When the hunters returned Sunday afternoon, a crowd gathered at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds to watch them come in.

"We had many favorable comments on the contest," Mr. Rueb said.

The hunters, he said, liked the professionalism on how the contest was run as well as complimenting on the facility and the trophies which were made by Reid Raile.

There was also favorable comments on the new laser engraved kill blocks which stopped teams from making extra kill blocks of

their own.

Other results included:

Predator Sniper Class: Scott Huber, Kadoka, S.D. and Larry Denke, Longvalley, S.D., second place with 12 coyotes; Clayton Cox, Manhattan, and Ross Cox, Sharon Springs, third (11 coyotes); Justin Smith, Sidney, Neb., and Steve Guernsey, Benkelman, fourth (11 coyotes); Ryan Albert and Brad Tate, both of Walsh, Colo., fifth (nine coyotes). Ties were broken by the weight of the coyotes.

Sportsman Warehouse Class: Tyson Adams, and Bertt Kendrick, both of Johnson, second place with seven coyotes; Kelly Sharp and Trent Terrell, both of Wray, third place (five coyotes); Lance Long and Matt Smull, both of St. Francis, fourth place (four coyotes); Martin Hilt and Drew Kaup, both of St. Francis, fifth place (four coyotes).

Next year's contest in St. Francis will be held the second weekend in January. Those planning to enter need to watch for more information at www.predatorsniperstyx.com.

SPEAKER

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attended college on the GI-Bill. Currently he holds the position of superintendent of the Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site and Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Sites in Linn County.

Before joining the Kansas State Historical Society, Dr. Schofield retired from 43 years of federal service that included 25 years as the historian and cultural resource specialist at Fort Scott National Historic Site. He is a frequent lecturer at universities and a public speaker on Westward Expansion, Kansas History and the Civil War.

Dr. Schofield has been actively involved in Civil War Battlefield Preservation for more than 30 years and is one of the founders of the Mine Creek Battlefield Foundation that was established in 1999. To date the foundation has raised more than \$1,000,000 and purchased 306 acres of battlefield land. The objective of this foundation is to assist the state of Kansas in the preservation, protection and interpretation of the Mine Creek Battlefield.

Dr. Schofield is married to Clara Martens who is the director of social services at Mercy Hospital. They and their son, Austin, live in Fort Scott with "Mr. Gritt's" their house cat.

Dr. Schofield will speak on Jan. 29 at the Legion Hall in Bird City. That evening at 7, he will be at Ye Olde Country Church to speak to the Historical Society about the Kidder Massacre and Fort Wallace. Everyone interested is urged to attend.

KANSAS

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interested is urged to attend this presentation.

History of Kansas Day in Bird City

Cheyenne County has celebrated Kansas Day since 1930.

The Mother's Circle of the Bird City Methodist Church organized the first celebration, a "Kansas Day Picnic" which turned into an all day affair. Again in 1931 the Bird City community celebrated Kansas Day with skits, dances, poems and songs.

Year by year the Kansas Day celebration grew in popularity. In 1935, a set of by-laws was accepted by the Kansas Day organization. The object was to promote and maintain the proper observance of Kansas Day in

Cheyenne County.

On Jan. 29, 1958, a blizzard struck Cheyenne County. This is the only time residents did not gather for the Kansas Day celebration. In 1971 the observance was moved to the Bird City Legion Hall. Kansas Day activities are still held there.



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Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created some difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income qualified applicants.

CCEAP Applications will be available starting Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at the following locations:

St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
City Office
St. Francis Equity Co-Op
First National Bank
BANKWEST

Bird City - City Office
Frontier Ag
First National Bank

SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

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