



LINE OF VEHICLES was long as hunters waited to enter their coyotes in the contest. Brent Rueb and Roy Elfers were talking to hunters.

Herald staff photos by Tim Burr



CHECKING IN COYOTES were (l to r) Harold Tygart (center) and Brent Rueb (right).

135 teams enter contest

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansan.com

The weather in St. Francis was fairly nice over the weekend for the 16th Fox Pro Midwest Coyote Calling event. However, the weather in St. Francis makes little difference as, after entering on Friday, teams scatter to their favorite hunting spots. They return with their harvest on Sunday afternoon before the 3 p.m. deadline.

"It was a great hunt," said Brent Rueb, coordinator. "The hunters brought in 439 coyotes.

"This number of coyotes harvested is, in my belief, the largest number of coyotes taken in a two-day coyote calling contest in the nation.

"We had 13 teams that came in with double-digit totals and that is the most ever. The teams that found coyotes did a great job of harvesting them."

This year, there were a total of 135 teams registering – 83 of the "Nikon Coyote Special Class" teams and 52 of the "Hornady Novice Class" teams.

The coyote numbers were up over all, Rueb said, except in our local area, where we are down."

There were 12 Zombie Dogs killed. A Zombie Dog is one that has a predominately white-tipped tail (80 percent or more white than black). There are very few coyotes that have a white-tipped tail and so this competition is unique.

See CONTEST on Page 5

2013 first baby arrives Jan. 3

On Thursday, Jan. 3, the first baby of the year was born at the Cheyenne County Hospital. Delivering the baby was Dr. Rebecca Allard.

Krissiana Grace DeJong was born at 7:47 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 18.5-inches long. Her parents are Chad and Lisa DeJong, Goodland. She has one sister, Katie, and two brothers, Kaleb and Korban, to welcome her home.

Grandparents are Red and Doris Kanau, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Todd and Anita DeJong, Fruita, Colo.

"We love Dr. Allard," said Mr. DeJong, who said their last baby was also born at the hospital and delivered by Dr. Allard.

Krissiana and her parents will receive prizes from St. Francis merchants as well as gifts from the hospital including: Owens True Value, a gift; The Flower Shop, gift basket; First National Bank, a gift; Krien Pharmacy, room humidifier; Western State Bank, a gift; Sainty

Liquor, bottle of champagne; United Methodist Thrift Store, \$20 gift card; and a year subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

The hospital gave progressive outfits with "Cheyenne County First Baby of 2013" embroidered by Deb George. The outfits are sizes 3 months, 6 months and 9 months. Krissiana will also receive a case of disposable diapers and a box of wipes.

First baby of 2012

In 2012, the first baby of the year waited until March before arriving. Anderegg Lee Waite Jr. was born on Wednesday, March 7, to Betty Harrison and Anderegg Waite of St. Francis. He weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20-inches long. Dr. Allard also delivered the Anderegg.

Anderegg was the first boy born after six girls were introduced as the first babies of the year prior to his birth. His birth was followed by Little Miss Krissiana, another girl..



FIRST BABY OF 2013, Krissiana DeJong, arrived on Jan. 3. She is pictured with her parents, Chad and Lisa DeJong, Goodland.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Former residents escape house fire

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansan.com

During the night of Jan. 2, the home of Justin and Danielle Gardner and son, Gussy, caught fire while they were sleeping. The Gardners are former residents of St. Francis and a year ago, moved to Shelbyville, Mo.

Justin's parents, Chet and Colleen Gardner, St. Francis, reported that the fire was an electrical fire which started in the bedroom walls of Gussy's bedroom. Fortunately, Gussy, age 4, was not sleeping there that night.

Justin had slipped on the ice and hurt his back several days before the fire. He had spent some time in the emergency room and when he and Danielle returned home, Gussy was so excited to see them and wanted to sleep with them.

The Gardners woke to the smoke drifting in their bedroom. Gussy, still sleeping, was wrapped in a blanket and taken to the neighbors where he slept through the rest of the night.

The Gardners had just moved into the bigger house and had not purchased any rental insurance. Most of their furniture and belongings were either melted by the heat or destroyed by the heavy smoke. Everything in Gussy's room including the toys and clothing he had just received for Christmas was destroyed.

The heat, Chet said, was so intense that even the toothbrushes in the bathroom were melted.

The Gardners lost practically everything but are thankful they escaped with their lives. Those who would like to contact them can do so by addressing letters to Justin and Danielle Gardner, in care of Charlie Chinn, 4127 Shelby 343, Shelbyville, MO 63469.



See FLU on Page 5



NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY ATTORNEY, Karan Thodani was the last elected official to be sworn in on Monday. Because of a variety of circumstances, many of the officials were sworn in at different times. They all needed to officially be sworn in before the Jan. 14 deadline.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Flu strikes early; 28 cases in Kansas

As most people have heard through the media, the United States is five weeks ahead of confirmed cases of the influenza illness. The state of Kansas, as of the last week in December had 28 confirmed cases of influenza A/H3 and influenza B virus.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs, said Mila Bandel, RN, county health nurse. It can cause mild to severe illness and even death.

On Tuesday, the St. Francis schools reported 18 students out with the flu. In the Cheylin Schools they had only four students out.

Signs and symptoms of influenza include:

- Fever and chills.
- Cough.
- Sore throat.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headaches.

• Fatigue.

Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever, Mrs. Bandel said.

Flu is spread by mainly respiratory droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk.

You may expose a person one day before you even know you are sick and up to seven days after becoming sick, Mrs. Bandel said. However, children and people with weakened immune systems can shed viruses for longer.

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each season, Mrs. Bandel advised. Good personal hygiene and lots of hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a good preventative measure. Cover coughs and sneezes with a