

Blood drive set for Jan. 9

The American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 in St. Francis in the grade school gym.

For more information, to donate blood or schedule an appointment, call Candi Hetrick, blood drive chair person, 785-332-3612 or 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

It is estimated that every two seconds someone in the United States receives a blood transfusion. Therefore it is imperative that people in the county step forward to make sure an adequate blood supply is on

hand for those who need it. The Red Cross needs all blood types every day of the year.

People giving blood must be of general good health, at least 17 years of age and weigh 110 pounds or more.

Most medications are not cause for deferral. Those with diabetes or high blood pressure may donate as long as their condition is controlled by medication and they are feeling well that day. Potential donors are reminded to drink plenty of fluid prior to their blood donation.

Here it is, the new Bird City Times

Be honest. Could you tell the difference when you picked it up?

Sure, the paper is a lot lighter, but that's because Christmas is over and no one is advertising, at least not much.

But the page you're looking at is a little smaller. The type area is an inch narrower and the sheet is an inch and a half narrower.

The new size, pioneered a few years ago by *The Denver Post*, has become the industry standard. Nearly all the papers sold in this area have switched already, and we decided it just made sense for us to switch, too.

Many ads were coming in for the new size, and it was a hassle to make them fit the old standard. It's getting hard to find the old-size paper.

Across the country, reports are that readers like the new size. It's just a little more handy, easier to hold, fold and read. We hope you'll agree.

A lot of work and planning have

gone into this change. The press crew ordered new paper and checked the new sizes. Editors and makeup people had to resize ads and page templates so everything would fit.

This week, the press crew is having to switch back and forth until all the papers we print have switched over. Next week, the *Country Advocate* will switch to the new size. At the same time, the *Advocate* will go to mostly standard-size pages, rather than the smaller tabloid. The cover and back page will stay about the same, however, and the *Advocate* will still look like the *Advocate*.

One of the things the change should do is allow us to hold the line for a while on advertising and subscription rates, which will not change. A postage increase could affect subscription prices later, however.

So there it is. Let us know what you think about the new size.

—The Editors



AGNES BURK proudly shows off the various components which make up the many years of collecting Nativity sets. Agnes began collecting in 1941 and as of date has around 100 sets.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Nativity collection began 61 years ago

Nativity scenes come in all sizes, shapes, and made of many various components, as can be seen in Agnes Burk's home in Bird City.

She started her hobby of collecting Nativity sets in 1941, when she received her first set as a gift. She

now has at least 100 sets and none of them are alike.

She has bought and received sets from Germany, Mexico, Italy, Peru, to name a few, and all over the United States. There are very miniature sets made out of glass to large ceramic statues, music

boxes, and Precious Moments sets. They are made out of wood from Bethlehem, straw, wood, paper mache, ceramic, homemade paper and various other textures. There is one that is made out of the ash from Mount Saint Helens and another which is an emu egg in its

natural gray color which has the nativity scene engraved on it.

A lot of time could be spent looking at all the Nativity scenes and listening to Agnes tell about the history of where each one came from.

Seventh coyote calling event coming soon

By Karen Krien

January 10 through 12 marks the seventh annual Midwest Coyote Calling Event and hunters from Tennessee, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and Kansas are expected to participate.

The event has worked its way to one of the top three such events in the nation. Brent Rueb, coordinator, reported that he expects 40 to 50 teams to participate but also expects the number of teams to be down from last year's 54 teams because of the Sept. 11 attack and the poor economy. However, he noted that he has received a number of calls from those wanting to participate.

The editor from *Varmint Hunter* will be a contestant this year and plans to write a story which will appear nationwide in one of the future issues. Last year, *Varmint Hunter* also printed a story on the hunt.

Mr. Rueb also expects Jim Ferguson with the *Great America Outdoor Trails* radio/magazine (Colby, KQLS) to be present to cover the event.

Anyone interested in the calling contest but does not have a partner

should call Mr. Rueb as Barry Jones from England, a guide for predator hunting in South Africa, would like to be in the contest but is lacking for a partner. Mr. Rueb has met and talked with Mr. Jones at other contests and if a partner is found, Mr. Jones will be in St. Francis for the Midwest event.

The deadline for entering the contest is Saturday so hunters are urged to get their applications in as quickly as possible.

New this year will be the Coyote Caller of the Year award given in memory of Kirk Spears. Mr. Spears was an avid hunter and loved hunting coyotes. Last year, his wish was to participate in the St. Francis contest which he was able to do and placed and earned the Sportsman of the Year award. After the contest, he was bedridden for the next six weeks before he died.

"I'm glad that we can give this new award honoring Kirk," Mr. Rueb said.

Farmers and ranchers are reporting the number of coyotes to be even more than in years past and most have become acquainted with the hunters and welcome them as they are wanting to get rid of the

varmints.

Two men make up a team and there are two divisions: the Midwest division and the Sportsman division.

Last year, team members reported seeing 306 coyotes and killed 94. That number was down from the year before but the windy weather which carries the smell of humans to the coyotes probably played a big part in the lower numbers.

The team of Matt Smull, St. Francis, and Don Keller, Eckley, Colo., came in fourth in the Midwest teams with six coyotes. Other winners in the Midwest teams division included: first: Schmid-Schmid, Colorado Springs, nine coyotes; second: Rahm-Elliott, Yuma/Otis, Colo., seven coyotes; third: Meyer-Lewis, Bennett/Byers, Colo., six coyotes; fifth: Miller-Kehoe, Ottawa/Pomona, five coyotes; sixth: Gilley-Long, Burlington, five coyotes; seventh: Nordstrom-Nordstrom, Dell Rapids, S.D./Parker, Colo., four coy-

otes; eighth: Spears-Stoker, Burlington/Bethune, Colo., four coyotes.

There were two St. Francis teams winning in the Sportsman's Class. Lance Long and Joe Larson took second with two coyotes; and Patrick Delano and Rodney Radcliff were third with two coyotes. The team of Olson and Ford, Preston, Minn./Mo., took first with three coyotes.

Bringing in the largest coyote were the teams of Burrell-Burrell, 36.8 pounds; Rahm-Elliott, 35.8 pounds; and Burrell-Burrell, 34 pounds.

The smallest coyotes were brought in by the teams of Niblock-Atchinson, 15.8 pounds; Rahm-Elliott, 18.4 pounds; and Baucke-Mekelburg, 19.6 pounds.

Anyone can enter the contest. All that is necessary to hunt coyotes is a hunting license and permission to hunt on the landowner's property.

For more information, contact Mr. Rueb at 785-332-2731 or 785-332-3402.



VANDALISM has been done in various areas of the county, especially around the St. Francis area. Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring straightens one of the section posts at the St. Francis Cemetery after vandals pushed several over along with a flag pole. The sheriff asks that anyone having information about the vandalism at the cemetery or other incidents in the county to please contact the office.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Board discusses floor coverings

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met in special session on Dec. 23 in the physical therapy room in the basement of the hospital. The meeting was called to discuss the floor proposal for the nine clinic rooms not affected by the clinic remodeling project. The cost is \$587.65 per room with the materials being \$307.65 and the labor \$280.

After discussion, it was agreed to replace the floor coverings with the materials as proposed but use in-hour labor to cut the cost if there was no dissent in the board following inspection of the rooms.

The board also agreed to pur-

chase a SonoSite ultrasound for \$16,000. The ultrasound had been budgeted for \$20,000. Training will include Dr. Mary Beth Miller and lab techs.

Administrator Les Lacy reported that tax credits are coming in but slowly. At the meeting, there was \$61,000 in the fund but the administrator was confident that this number would be above \$100,000 by the first of the year.

The board will meet again for the regularly scheduled meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday. This meeting will be held in the Cheyenne County Clinic conference room across the street from the hospital.

First baby of the year to receive presents

By Karen Krien

The "First Baby of the Year 2003" contest will begin Jan. 1

The only requirement is that the baby be born to any parents living in Cheyenne County for one month or more. These parents and their new born infant will be awarded gifts from sponsors.

The rules are simple:

- As stated, the parents must have lived in Cheyenne County for at least one month.
- The *St. Francis Herald* office must be notified as soon as possible. The *Herald's* number is 785-332-3162.

Last year's first baby of the year was Korbon Clay Russell, son of Lacie Russell.

The parents of this year's first

baby winner will receive a full car wash from the St. Francis Equity, \$50 savings bond from Bankwest, \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, a toy from Van Allen Inc., \$15 gift certificate for baby food or formula and new born diapers from Saintry Super Foods, \$15 gift certificate from KM Clothier, and a year's subscription to *The St. Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

The parents receiving the gifts should pick up their gifts or claim their services within 60 days after the birth.

Since most babies are not on schedule, it's hard telling when the first baby of 2002 will be born.

