



EVERY YEAR, the Wrights use their bucket truck to hang the Christmas decorations in Bird City. Above, Don Wright wraps garland around the pole.

## Santa Day plans set for Saturday, Dec. 22

Mark your calendars for Santa Day on Saturday, Dec. 22, to be held at the newly remodeled Legion hall in Bird City. Century II said it might not be totally finished, but it will be ready for the event. The free-will donation meal, sponsored by the Community Club, starts at 11 a.m. and the program starts at 12:30 p.m.

The popular blizzard machine will be back again this year. Last year 12 children grabbed a total of \$1,214.

No child will go home without a gift of money or the prize of their choosing. Twelve lucky youths will have their number drawn for 12 big prizes. These prizes have just started arriving. Last year's gifts included a 43-inch television, Untel and Accer computer notebooks, Book Nook Reader, seven-piece luggage set, Xbox 360, Kenect Sensor, DeWalt

18-volt drill, I-Pod Touch, Wii Mario Art, Tom Tom, 19-inch television, and a Band Hero. Kid's items were Barbie castle and horse, Barbie's, Lego set, Hot Wheels, Jumbo Nerf, Swamp fire sets, Leapster set, Scooby Do and Dora Explorer sets and many other miscellaneous toys.

Last year there was a sum of 174 contributors, and when Santa arrived on the fire truck, 184 children were present to tell him what they wanted to find under their tree on Christmas morning. Everyone left with a bag full of peanuts, chocolate peanut clusters and peanut brittle.

With the new Legion hall extreme makeover, this year's event will be even better. Besides the food, gifts and entertainment, it's a good opportunity to meet all the new Bird City residents.



DENNIS WRIGHT gets ready to hand the garland to Don.

Times photo by DeAnza Ambrosier

## Check for donation envelopes

In this week's issue of The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times is the Salvation Army envelope. People wishing to donate can put a check in the addressed envelope and mail it.

Last year, Cheyenne County raised \$5,000. Of the money collected in Cheyenne County, \$4,400 supported the local Salvation Army programs throughout the year. Programs, said Dolores Jenik, coordinator, included rent, utilities, motel rooms, auto insurance, gas for transportation to doctor appointments, medications, groceries and eye exams and

glasses.

Anyone wishing to donate by credit card may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Checks can also be mailed to The Salvation Army, PO Box 462, St Francis, 67756.

Cheyenne County continues to see higher numbers of people turning to the organization for help than ever before, said Mrs. Jenik. They need basic needs like food and shelter.

This year, there has been an increased number of people needing help with eye glasses and the Salvation Army works with the Lions Club's program.

Winter is here and Salvation Army helps residents with their winter fuel expenses. There are two programs available: Midwest Customers Care program and EagleCares. Hotline numbers to call is: 1-877-566-2769 - (for Midwest ext 401) - (for EagleCares ext 417)

Any amount people can give to the Salvation Army this holiday season will help provide assistance to those in the community who are struggling, day in and day out, to make ends meet, Mrs. Jenik said.

## FFA member earns first place, qualifies for state

The Cheylin Future Farmers of America team traveled to Quinter on Wednesday, Nov. 28, to the Northwest Kansas Speech contest. The contest consists of five divisions for high school and one seventh-eighth grade division.

Over 100 members from 11 different schools participated. Division's 1-4 are prepared speeches. In the seventh-eighth grade division, C.J. Antholz took first place. In Division 1, a 2-4 minute speech, Reece Leonard received sixth place. Tristan Archer and Ivan Kemp participated.

In Division 2, a 3-5 minute speech, Elizabeth Keltz received 13th place. No Cheylin members participated in Divisions 3-4.

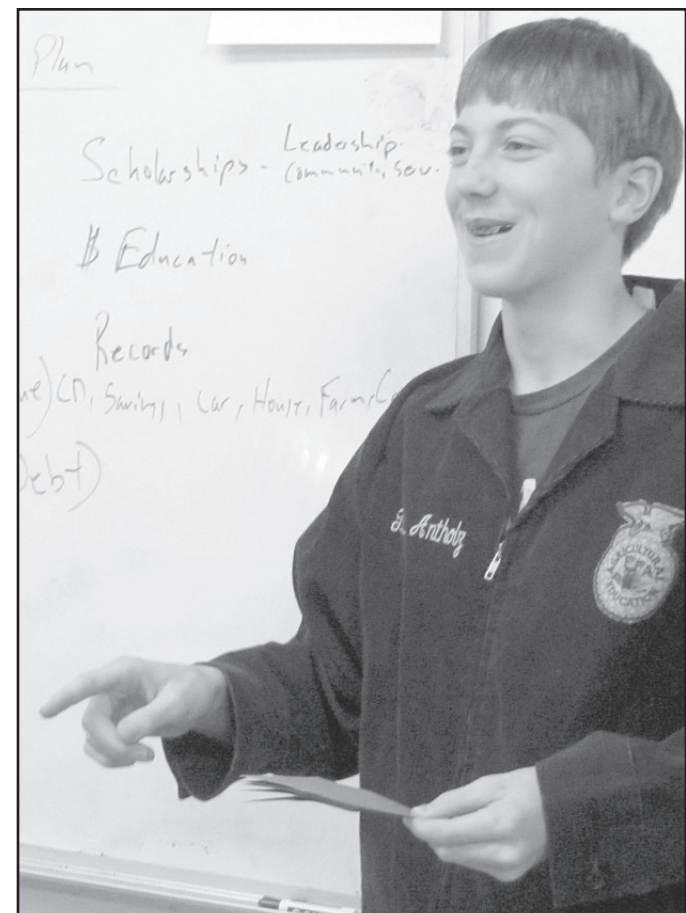
Division 5 is an exempt speech. The students pick three topics out of a hat. They are then allowed 30 minutes to prepare a 4-6 minute speech on one of three topics. They are not allowed any electronic devices.

In this division Jacob Brubaker brought home the first place medal with his speech on "Radical Activist Animal Rights Groups affects on Agriculture." He now qualifies for state which will be held in Manhattan in May.

Adam Orten received sixth place in Division 5. Over all the Cheylin team, with only six members participating, took fifth place.



JACOB BRUBAKER placed first in exempt speech, Division 5, at the Northwest Kansas FFA speech contest held in Quinter.



REECE LEONARD received sixth place in his division.

## Commissioners continue to study Society's lease

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The preliminary lease agreement with the Good Samaritan Society concerning the Good Samaritan Village nursing home in St. Francis was discussed by the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met on Friday, Nov. 30.

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, said she has been in touch with Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, Kevin Berens, Village advisory board president, and Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for the Society, regarding changes in the contract.

The commissioners still had some questions and suggestions

regarding the lease. It was suggested that there be a map presented to the commissioners showing property lines and who would be responsible for purchasing supplies.

They were still concerned about funded depreciation which the Society had stressed to be included in their budget. Funded depreciation is to be used for purchasing equipment and, when the October 2010 fire had occurred at the Village, had been used to pay salaries and other expenses.

The commissioners, on the other hand, stressed that the funded depreciation should not be considered as a profit at the end of

the year, but should remain with the local account.

The Society or administrator will need to come to the commissioners at the 15th of each month to present their budget and if they will need money for the upcoming month. That decision will be made at the last meeting of the month.

They, the Society, will need to be more fiscally responsible, said Dale Patton, commissioner. And, it is important that the county hold them accountable.

"Communication on both sides (commissioners and Society) will be very important," concluded Andy Beikman, commissioner.