



SHANA JOHNSON celebrated her birthday by grasping thirty-two dollars in the blizzard machine.



JACKSON BOYSON is being coached by dad, Nick Boyson on the number of candies in the jar.

Times staff photos by Norma Matinez



HANDING OUT TICKETS were (l to r) Jane Young, Melissa Dart, Jessie Smith and Dawn Miller.

Remodeled legion hall hosts Santa Day

By Norma Martinez
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On Santa Day, held Saturday in Bird City, folks were lined up long before the time to start serving soup and hotdogs in anticipation of seeing the newly remodeled Legion hall and eager to see the prizes and a visit from Santa.

At 11 a.m. when the doors were opened people either headed for the soup line or stood along the wall to get their tickets for putting in the can for the big prize they wished to win. Green tickets were issued to the adults and red tickets to the kids. They wrote their name on tickets and placed them in a basket.

Everyone was also given two numbered tickets; one was to be placed

in the can with the name of the big prize they hoped to be lucky enough to win and they kept the matching number.

As the winning number was drawn Nick Ketzner, the master of ceremonies, checked the numbers to verify their numbers and said, "Congratulations! You are the winner!"

It didn't take any time at all for the chairs at the tables to be full and workers brought out the remaining chairs and lined them up against the west wall which were filled as others kept streaming in. Others alternated sitting at a table with those who were wanting to eat.

There were close to 400 adults and children attending. Then the

holding tickets and listening for their number.

There were 166 sponsors who donated a total of \$8,000 worth of items and money. This was the largest number of sponsors to participate in Santa Day.

As the child's name was called out, they received an envelope with money and a stuffed animal. The adults received an envelope containing scrip money.

Thirty people guessed a number between 1000 - 1050 for how many pieces of candy and M & M's were in a jar along with a \$50 bill.

The Blizzard machine was stocked with \$1,200. There was a \$100 bill and children attending. Then the

grab. Twenty lucky winners who went home with wrinkled up money were: Kolbie Leach who was too small to do it, so her sister, Caitlin Leach, filled in for her and grabbed \$31, Shayna Johnson, \$32, Kaitlyn Calderon, \$32. Breccin Henry, \$29, Michelle Howard, \$74, Kevin Estrada, \$97, Diego Mendoza, \$54, Kandy Gonzolez, \$57, Rudy Granados, \$59, Ivan Salgado, \$91, Molly Gilliland, \$65, Heather Harshberger, \$56, Elizabeth Keltz, \$64, Connor McPherson, \$60, Camilia Baca, \$61, Oscar Granados, \$51, Stephanie Busse, \$60, Britany Peters, \$57, Emilee Serrano, \$33, and Robert Todd, \$63.

Angie Sunstrum was the lucky winner of the 40-inch television which was the largest and most popular item. A Sony PS3 went home with Luis Solis, the HP laptop computer winner was Capreno Guerrez, i-Pod Touch was won by Kelsey Miller, Wii with Monsters Aliens and Club Penguin games went to Mary Moore, Barbie Jeep went to Brayli Keiswetter, Sentry Secure Safe to Deana Miller. The most popular item for the teenagers was the Laser Steel post Trampoline enclosure with 62 patterns of light went to Cody Beeson since Lilly is too little for it right now. Breccin Henry won the 12-volt Quad 4-wheeler, the Tonka truck Tower Racing Speedway and 3D Viewmaster went to Joston Sabatka, Tyler Zweggardt took home the Tonka Chuck friends-rally flip and firehouse, the Barbie set containing two Barbies, a Color N Style, Little Learner and Fashionistas was won by Jennifer Gonzales, a Little Tykes Car containing a Bounce Tiger and First Builders set was given out to: Paxton Jackson and Laura Zaragoza, and a boy's and girls's bike with helmet and a Furby went to Lucas Linner and Eligha Sisson.

After a visit from Santa everyone left with a bag full of peanuts and candy.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez



SERVING THE FOOD — Carol Partch serves the soup while Doug and Karen Flemming serve the hot dogs at the Santa Day lunch held at the Legion Hall.

Area residents awake to white Christmas

By Karen Krien

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Cheyenne County residents awoke to a white Christmas Tuesday morning. It began snowing in the night and it snowed much of the day. The last Christmas Day which over an inch of falling snow was recorded was in 2007 when 2 inches fell. The 2012 Christmas Day snow recorded was around 3 inches but contained about .18-inch moisture.

The National Weather Service reported that in northwest Kansas, the chances of a white Christmas is 18 percent.

While the white Christmas was nice, it was also cold. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather reporter, reported a chilly 12 degrees. There was a slight breeze which made the temperatures feel even colder than they were.

In the country, there were some drifts reported but, for the most part, people were able to make their way to any Christmas gatherings. The highways were also open but travelers were cautioned that they were snow packed in areas.

The state highway crew spent their Christmas helping keep the roads clear. The county crews were out on Wednesday making sure that country roads were open.

There was some snow on Thursday but with little accumulation. The temperatures have been cold and the National Weather Service is forecasting temperatures in the low 30s through New Year's Day. However, it is supposed to be mostly sunny.



FIRST BLIZZARD of the year almost delayed the delivery of the newspapers.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez