



The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

14 Pages

Thursday, November 22, 2007

123rd Year, Number 47

Christmas in St. Francis begins Friday

By Karen Krien

It will be like a fairy wonderland as the fifth Light Parade comes down St. Francis' Main Street starting at 6 p.m. on Friday. What makes it even more spectacular, is the floats will go back up the street so people won't miss anything and they will be able to see both sides of the float.

People are asked to not move their cars until the parade has gone back up the street to the school.

There have been reports of people making their floats in garages and storage buildings. There should be more lights, maybe more music and, at the end, Santa Claus.

The parade is one of the activities marking the Christmas Opening in St. Francis sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary, reminds people, who are still undecided about what their float will be, that there is no theme — just Christmas. Entries can be floats,

fourwheelers, horse and buggies, hayracks, walking individuals — The limits of an entry are endless.

There are two rules: 1) no Santas on floats (it may confusing to small children if there is more than the "real" Santa at the end of the parade); and no candy thrown (it is dark and drivers may not see a child dart out after candy and there could be an accident).

At the end of the parade, Santa will hop off his ride at Bankwest where he will be

talking to children and giving out candy. This is an opportune time for parents and grandparents to bring their cameras for that special photo.

Remember to vote

Secretary Bracelin reminds people to vote for their favorite float. Entries can be picked up at Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, Schultz's, Saintry Stitches, Donna's Gift Palace and Main St. Coffee.

The entry with the most votes will re-

ceive the People's Choice Award and will have the honor of displaying the plaque for the next year. Last year's winner was a three-way tie between Hilltop General Store/Hometown Market; Lawn Ridge 4-H Club and the Samaritan Village.

Other activities

Other activities on Friday include: the Treasure Hunt, collecting tickets for drawings to be held on Dec. 17, a soup supper, and shopping.

Ticket numbers listed in this paper

By Karen Krien

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Look for the ticket numbers in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages located on pages 1, 2 and 3B in this issue.

This is the first week for the grand Christmas giveaway and, this year, there are more prizes with the numbers. Besides the numbers for \$50 in scrip, there will be chances for a prize at each of the participating businesses. To claim one of the prizes, the ticket must be brought into *The Herald* office, 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, then matched with the number in the ad.

"It is important that the numbers be matched by Monday at 5 p.m. because, on Tuesday, new tickets will be drawn and there will be new numbers," said Karen Krien, publisher. "The numbers from the week before will no longer be good to claim a prize."

Those winning a \$50 scrip prize will

be photographed for next week's papers. They will also need to tell how they plan to spend the money. Those winning a prize at a business will be accompanied by one of the staff from *The Herald* to the business where they will be pictured with the owner and the gift they won.

The Christmas On Us promotion will go on for the next three weeks and will end on Monday, Dec. 17, with the drawing for \$1,000 scrip, grand prize, and \$100 scrip, second prize. Any remaining \$50 weekly giveaways and business prizes that have not been claimed will also be given away at that time.

"It is a merry time of the year and giving away money and prizes makes it even more fun," said Casey McCormick, ad manager.

Remember the deadline for matching the ticket numbers! Anyone with a ticket

See **TICKETS** on Page 7A

Check Treasure Hunt flier inserted this issue

By Karen Krien

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The Treasure Hunt has become a Christmas tradition in St. Francis. People remember looking for Treasure Hunt numbers when they were children and look forward to walking down the streets, checking their number against those hanging in the windows. While on the Treasure Hunt, they often meet friends, neighbors and old acquaintances. It is like an alumni reunion to many.

The Treasure Hunt will begin at 4 p.m. on Friday, the Christmas Opening in St. Francis. There are 21 businesses participating in the Hunt and all will have a long list of numbers to check. If a number matches, there is a prize or gift inside.

Many of the stores will be offering refreshments and in-store sales so don't hesitate to take a few minutes to stop in to see what is being offered.

Those businesses which will have numbers are: Schultz's, First National Bank,

Pizza Hut, Owens True Value, Donna's Gift Palace, Video Connection, Massage Therapy and Body Works, The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis Super's, Stuart's Jewelry, Saintry Stitches, Video Kingdom, Empire Motel, Cheyenne Bowl, K-Store, Bankwest, the Methodist Thrift Store, St. Francis Tire and Service, Main St. Coffee, K-Store and the St. Francis Equity.

Numbers are inserted in this issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. In order that people on routes will have their newspapers before Friday, the newspaper has been published and distributed one day early.

Everyone is reminded to save their numbers because, if they didn't match a number on Friday, the number may match those put up on Monday, Dec. 17.

"Bring your numbers and come enjoy all the opening Christmas festivities in St. Francis," said Gloria Bracelin, secretary of the St. Francis Area Chamber

See **HUNT** on Page 7A



CITY CREW was busy Monday before the cold weather moved in and had the Main Street Christmas lights up and they were twinkling that evening.

It seems to complete the Christmas spirit. Pictured in the bucket is Paul Larson; center is John Larson and Eric Fiala.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



FIRE RAGES IN THE DISTANCE while firemen fill up with water again. Firemen were called from Bird City and Sherman County to help extinguish the flames.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Thursday fire destroys business; lifetime dreams

By Karen Krien

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His dream had come true, but in minutes it was gone.

Rex Murray, who lives south of Wheeler, had gotten up early Thursday morning to put the finishing touches on his shop and hunting lodge. It was about 1 p.m., he said, when he turned around and saw smoke. As hard as he tried, he could not extinguish the flames, which eventually took two businesses: 30 years of farm tools and 15 years of a hunting business.

Murray had just moved his office, his hunting equipment and supplies, and other memorabilia into the same building where he kept his farming tools.

"I lost everything," he said. "My guns — some had belonged to my grandfather, or my uncle, the dog training equipment, dog trailer, even my hunting clothes and shoes. I lost it all."

Among the items which can probably never be replaced is a photo of the dog they use on all of their fliers and a jacket he had received when he took first and second both at

the National Championship of the Upland Classic Series, a hunting competition.

He wore it everywhere, his wife Sandi Murray said, he was so proud of that jacket. He kind of lost his identity, she said, by losing all his hunting stuff. He doesn't even have a dog leash.

But then Murray could have lost his life as well. He was in the other side of the shop when the fire began, Mrs. Murray said, and it was tricky getting out with the smoke and everything. She said they don't know what caused the fire. Her husband didn't hear anything explode or anything, she said.

The fire spread north to the acres of grasslands where Murray takes hunters to shoot pheasants, quail and chukkers. And, in those acres, he trained dogs for himself as well as for other hunters. He lost 200 to 300 pheasants he used for training, his wife said.

The Murrys were going to use the remodeled area in the building for a clubhouse where family, friends and hunters could come, relax

See **FIRE** on Page 7A