



The Saint Francis Herald

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Angels now on trees



By Karen Krien
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Four Angel Trees will soon be decorated with tags listing items needed by children who might not receive a present at Christmas.

The Angel Trees are sponsored by the organization Association to Benefit Cheyenne County. The coordinator is Jennifer Milne, St. Francis.

People can select a tag off a tree at Bankwest, First National Bank, Owens True Value and *The Herald* office in St. Francis. There will be a suggested size of the child on the back of the angel for those who want to purchase clothing for their angel gift.

Once a person selects a tag and the gift is bought, both the gift and tag should be returned to the place where the tree is located.

"A lot of children benefit greatly from the Angel Tree project," Mrs. Milne said.

Last year, over 35 children received gifts delivered by Santa. These gifts averaged around \$30 each. This year, there are around 50 children who need a visit from Santa.

If someone knows of a family who is having a difficult time making ends meet and could use a little help from Santa, please contact Mrs. Milne at 785-332-2344 or 785-332-2566 or any Association to Benefit Cheyenne County member.

Mrs. Milne said that each year, the See TREE on Page 7A



BASHFUL, SHY — Hadleigh Hilt and Santa had an interesting conversation Friday evening. Hadleigh is the daughter of Leisha and Troy Hilt. Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Winners claim \$50 scrip, gifts with tickets

By Karen Krien
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It is the first week of the Christmas On Us fun and people have been busy scanning the ads on the Christmas On Us pages in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

There were two \$50 scrip instant giveaway prizes claimed as well as three business prizes. Tema Trumbo and Miranda Vanderpool, St. Francis, each took home \$50 scrip.

Mrs. Trumbo had received her winning ticket from Schultz's and found her number in the Chamber's ad. Ms. Vanderpool's ticket came from Hilltop General Store and she found the number in the Park Hill ad. She plans to spend her scrip on a new coffee pot at True Value.

Winning business Christmas gifts were Tobi Cooper, Deb Hilt and Spencer Schlepp.

Mrs. Cooper's ticket came from Hilltop General Store and was found in the Methodist Thrift Store ad. She received a year's subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Mrs. Hilt's ticket came from the Equity and was found in the Equity ad. Her Christmas gift was a certificate to spend at the St. Francis Equity.

Mr. Schlepp's ticket came from Bier's Hometown Store and was found in the Hilltop General Store ad. He claimed a basket filled with special gift items from Schultz's.

Customers receive a ticket when



Trumbo Vanderpool

they purchase \$10 in participating businesses. Individuals can receive one ticket, no purchase necessary, each week at *The Herald* office.

Throughout the four weeks of the Christmas On Us promotion, there are ticket numbers printed in ads on the special Christmas pages. Last week there were four numbers drawn first for the \$50 in scrip and, then six numbers were drawn for prizes given by businesses. Those six numbers are marked with "*".

The business prizes are a bonus for customers as there will be 12 additional prizes given throughout the season.

"The Christmas On Us promotion encourages customers to shop in St. Francis," said Pat Owens, owner of Owens True Value.

"Giving prizes in the businesses builds excitement and also gives the business owners another chance to say "thank you for shopping in St. Francis," said Casey McCormick, ad manager for *The Herald* and *Times*.

"Be sure to check out the many specials located in ads on the Christmas On Us pages (1B, 2B and 3B)

See WINNERS on Page 7A

Letters, recipes, memoirs needed

Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is often priceless.

This year, as in year's past, the special Christmas and New Year's sections will be published before the holidays. The sections will feature letters for Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

The Saint Francis Herald and *Bird City Times* staffs welcome

participation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 10 in order to be published in the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to *The Herald* at Box 1050, St. Francis, 67756, or fax 785-332-3001, or drop them off or e-mail them to sferald@nwkansan.com titling the subject as "Christmas For The Paper."



LAMPE HARDWARE will hang the 'People's Choice Award' for the next year as they were the winners of the Light Parade on Friday. In every block, those on the float set off a display of fireworks. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Snow falls just in time for the parade

By Karen Krien
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About noon, it began to snow and by the time the Light Parade started at 6 p.m., there was a good covering of snow on the ground. It was the perfect setting for a Christmas opening and the Light Parade.

The St. Francis Christmas

Opening, sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, started with people checking their Treasure Hunt numbers. Many of the businesses reported giving away several prizes as people matched their numbers with those in business windows and some were found inside the businesses.

There were many people walking the streets, some talking to old friends and neighbors, others shopping, and, of course, those looking for their Treasure Hunt number.

At about 4:30, people started congregating at the senior center for soup and a cinnamon roll.

It couldn't have been better

weather for soup and it was a warm place to get in out of the cold. Jason Owens and Dale and Deb Patton were manning the Salvation Army kettle outside.

The emergency medical technicians will use the proceeds to purchase a stair chair for the St. Francis service. Bird City already

See PARADE on Page 7A



RING THOSE BELLS — Jason Owens was manning the Salvation Army kettle Saturday evening in front of the senior citizens center. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Wrestling tournament held in Sainty

By Betty Jean Winston
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The St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament will be held at the high school on Saturday. For the 47th year, this event will open the wrestling season for St. Francis fans and fans of several area towns.

Football is over and the Sainty fans will be anxious to view this year's Indian team.

Nine squads will be out to earn the championship of this tournament which has a strong level of competition. They hope to unseat

Goodland, who won the crown last year. St. Francis placed third.

"Colby and Goodland will be the top two teams, definitely the favorites," Mike Frewen, Indian coach said. "Scott City will also bring a good team."

Like in 2006, the Indian squad will come to the mats with less pre-season practice time due to the extended football playoffs. Success during the fall season does give them an edge in having the winning spirit."

On Saturday at 9:30 a.m., wrestlers will begin taking to the mats.

Session two is scheduled for 1 p.m. and the finals take place 15 minutes after the second session, at approximately 5:30 p.m., although it could possibly be earlier.

The same teams as last year will be returning to the St. Francis event this year. This includes wrestlers from Rawlins County/Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Quinter, Scott City, Sterling, Colo., St. Francis, Wichita County/Leoti and Wray, Colo.

The Goodland Cowboys took home top honors last year with 169 team points, five champions,

three second-place finishes and two fourths. Placing second was Colby with one champion, four second place finishes, four thirds and two fourths.

St. Francis placed third with 116 points. They had two champions (Jordan Gienger at 152 pounds and Brennon Wilger at 285), two second place finishes (Gavin Smull at 130 and Russell Rogers at 189), two third place finishes (Justin Sherlock at 145 and David Guthmiller at 215) and two fifths (Jesse Pacheco at 140 and Trevor Hilt at 171).

See WRESTLING on Page 7A



PLANTING NEW TREES was just part of the rebuilding for Nick, Heidi, Dylan and Brady Ketzner. Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Rebuilding after the tornado

By Linda Schneider
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On March 28, more than 60 tornadoes were recorded to have touched ground in Kansas. One of those tornadoes passed Bird City, barely missing the town but hitting several farms.

Tornado skirts by

Ed and Phyllis Carson's farm was one of those farms. Their home did not receive a direct hit, but damage was extensive. When Mr. and Mrs. Carson came up from the basement, the inside of the house did not appear to have been hit too badly. However, it was soon discovered the two-story house had been lifted off its foundation and set back down. The home they had lived in for 26 years had to be torn down.

Tornado moves on

Just northeast of Bird City, the tornado veers toward the Ketzner farm. This time it was a direct hit. Nick and Heidi Ketzner, along with their sons Dylan and Brady, barely made it into their earthen cellar before the tornado passed right over them. The destruction was complete. The house Mr. Ketzner had bought in 1992 and brought his new bride to was gone. Not one structure on the farm remained undamaged.

The damage

Cheyenne County Emergency Manager, Gary Rogers, reported that an estimated \$240,000 of structural damage was done by that one. This estimate does not include vehicles, crop damage or outside structures.

The cleanup and rebuilding

Within 24 hours of the tornado, the residents of Bird City were out in the hundreds helping the surrounding farms with cleanup. However, it did not stop there. In the eight months that have followed since that fateful day, meals have been provided, money has been raised by fund-raisers, donations have come from private contributors and families to help with the rebuilding. Some of the construction work has been done by Bird City residents, family and friends on weekends.



ED AND PHYLLIS CARSON are sitting in their recently rebuilt home talking about what has happened since the March 2007 tornado.

Today

"The rebuilding is almost complete," said Mr. Carson.

But, it has not been easy. Construction work still turns up foundation damage. When thinking about that night and what could have happened, Mrs. Carson said she is very thankful these days.

For the Ketzner family, everything had to be replaced — furniture, clothing, everything. Some things are not replaceable though. Mrs. Ketzner cannot locate their wedding album and has been trying to get in touch with the photogra-

pher who took them. Nor can the baby pictures of her or husband be found. But life has moved on for the Ketzners, in fact, they will be adding to their family in May.

On March 28, a tornado made its

way through Bird City. Tornadoes are devastating occurrences and not everyone is able to rebuild. But Bird City is a community of residents who will be there to help in times of need.

WRESTLING

Continued from Page 1

Both of Sainty's champions graduated last spring but Smull, Sherlock, Guthmiller and Pacheco will be representing Sainty on Saturday.

The Invitational has the reputation of being one of the strongest tournaments around and this year should be no exception.

"The tournament will be plenty tough," Coach Mike Frewen said.

"There will be a number of returning State placers and State champions.

"We have a good bunch of kids and this will be a good test for them."

First and second place team trophies will be given with medals to the first three placers and the consolation champions. Coaches will be selecting the "Outstanding Wrestler" at the end of the tournament.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

has one which they have found to be useful for helping get patients out of tight areas.

The 6 o'clock whistle blew, the church music played and the parade started down Main Street with the St. Francis policemen leading the way. There were around 15 entries, ranging anywhere from big floats to golf carts. They were glowing with Christmas lights, some had inflatable scenes while others had a live Nativity. The Hilltop General Store along with the Hometown Market in Bird City had their usual entertaining float with lights and music. Bringing up the end of the parade was Santa pulled in Fred Magley's wagon.

The People's Choice Award went to the Lampe Hardware's float. The trailer was surrounded with cardboard houses but, what brought the oh's and ah's were the fireworks that went off every block. They were a surprise to many and added that extra spark and color to the atmosphere. The award plaque will be present at Lampe's for the next year.

Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary, said there were 95 votes, which determined the award.

"It was a great evening and we appreciate everyone's support — both coming to the watch the parade and for participating," Mrs. Bracelin said.

Mrs. Bracelin said Santa was very busy as he listened to the wishes of children. Santa was found at Bankwest and had a basket of candy to hand to children. (Some children needed the candy to be coaxed to the jolly old man.) Bankwest employees had popped corn and everyone were offered a bag while they waited.

Santa will be back again on Dec. 17 at First National Bank to make sure all children have a chance to visit with him.

TREE

Continued from Page 1

Angel Tree has received generous support and members appreciate the help so they can give kids a merrier Christmas.

All gifts will be picked up on Tuesday, Dec. 18, so those who have selected a tag needs to make sure their gifts are back under the tree before the pick-up date. They will be delivered that same evening.

If more information is needed for sizes, or gift ideas, call Mrs. Milne.

"We are expecting letters from Santa which will help with ideas for the children," she said.

FACTS

- Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a "Friday the 13th."

- The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time television were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

- Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

- The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.

- City with the most Rolls Royce's per capita: Hong Kong.

- Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.

WINNERS

Continued from Page 1

while you are looking for your numbers."

Also check the winners of the business prizes located on 3B.

This week, there are even more numbers listed on the pages.

"Check out those numbers! You might be a winner!" Mr. McCormick said.

There will be a drawing for \$1,000 on Dec. 17. Check related article for more information.

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