



Brian Holzwarth - Road 14 south of St. Francis

Lots and lots of decorations

Brian and his friend, Danielle Lohman, spent two days getting ready for Christmas this year. He has over 12,000 lights decorating his farm home.

Brian built one of the reindeer, which is Rudolph, when he was in high school. He made it for an art

project. It is made from an oil drum and steps from a grain bin. The antlers were from a deer he had shot several years ago. "I put the 40-watt lights on the reindeer and the nose will be a painted red light bulb as soon as I get around to painting it," said Brian. The other two reindeer were brought at a

store. Brian had built the sleigh for the reindeer to pull for the Equity to have in the light parade this last year. It was made from wood.

The fence around the yard is candy canes that light up with lights strung between each candy cane.



Kip and Patsy Rethke - Northwest of St. Francis

North pole comes to St. Francis

The Christmas season is Patsy Rethke's favorite time of year. Although she enjoys baking and entertaining family and friends, it's decorating with lights and lit up ornaments that make it so enjoyable for Patsy. A resident of St. Francis for over 10 years, her home is located about six miles north and one mile west of St. Francis. Although she's always enjoyed decorating for the holiday season, this is her second year being able to decorate her current home and yard with hundreds of

strands of lights. This past summer, her husband, Kip, and two sons, Mike and Randy, helped install many additional electrical panels and boxes so that she would be able to add more decorations. Since many of her breakers couldn't handle the usage during her annual Christmas party last year, she had to keep many of the lights inside her home off so that the lights outside would be able to be seen. Her decorations include 29 trees in her front yard that are decorated

with 8,300 bulbs, a doll-house with over 1,750 lights, a merry-go-round, antique equipment and many, many more yard ornaments that equal over 22,000 lights! She spends several months preparing her decorations, making sure each light is in proper working order. Last year, pesky bunnies chewed several of her cords and she spent many hours repairing them. Unwilling to not be able to use them, she was forced to brush up on her electrical skills and was able to reuse what was damaged.

Couple creates life size Nativity scene

The Christmas lights glowed at the Larry and Terri Zwegardt home on West First Street in St. Francis.

Mrs. Zwegardt has been working on her Nativity scene for the last three years. The figures are made from wood and everything is life size. The tallest king is 6-foot tall.

"The hardest part of all was the painting and blending of the paint to get the right shades on them," Mrs. Zwegardt said.

It would take her about four hours to paint one face.

"Trying to blend the paint to look like animal skin for the cow and donkey was also a hard task, but it was worth all the hours of work

when we started setting it up for Christmas this year," she said.

The Zwegardts started before Thanksgiving getting the forms ready and the stakes driven in the ground to place each piece. Wanting a somber scene, the Zwegardts used blue light bulbs to put around the house and yard. However Terri said, "I was a little disappointed as the blue bulbs didn't light it up quite like I wanted."

The weather was another factor as they had to dig the flood lights out of snow several times so the lights could shine on the manager scene. All-in-all, she said it was a glorious display for Christmas.



Larry and Terri Zwegardt - West First Street in St. Francis

Club Clips

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club

The Lawn Ridge 4-H Club did not have a December meeting due to a winter storm.

The Club is planning on having the Christmas party sometime in January.

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