

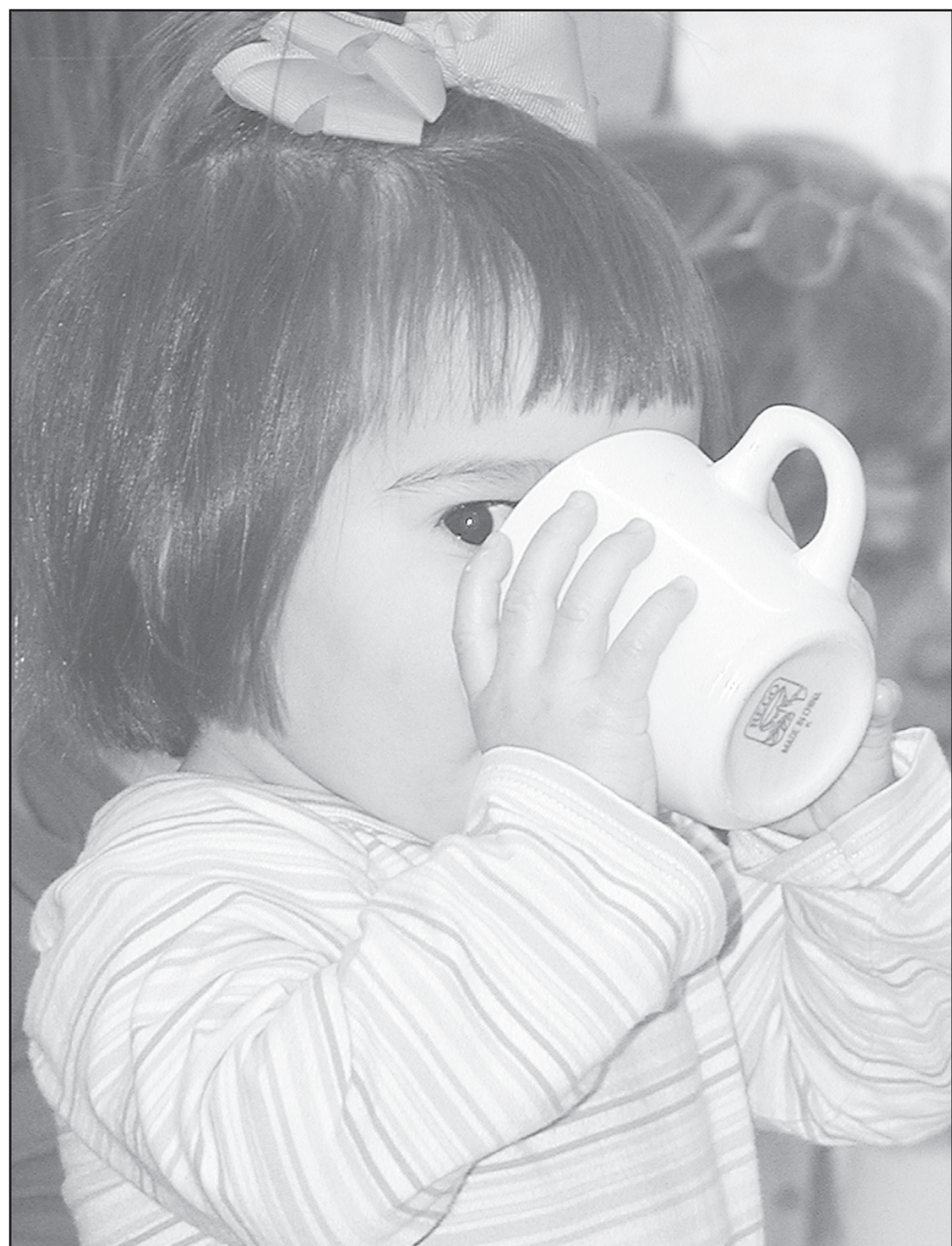
The Saint Francis Herald

75¢

12 Pages

Thursday, November 27, 2008

124th Year, Number 48



BIG CUP — LITTLE GIRL — Kalee Culwell, daughter of Clint and Lucy Culwell, was one of those attending the annual Wheeler Thanksgiving celebration at Captain Hook's Friday evening. She is also the granddaughter of Theron and Carolyn Culwell.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Christmas opening set for Friday



By **Karen Krien**

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It will be like a fairy wonderland as the sixth 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 on 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, four wheelers, horse and buggies, hay racks, 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 First National Bank 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 and left at Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, Schultz's, Sainty Stitches, Donna's Gift Palace, Main St. Coffee and Ross Manufacturing.

The entry with the most votes will receive the People's Choice Award and will have the honor of displaying the plaque for the next

year. Last year's winner was Lampe Hardware with a spectacular display of fireworks.

Other activities

Other activities on Friday include: the Treasure Hunt, collecting tickets for drawings to be held on Dec. 15, a soup supper, and shopping and visiting with friends and neighbors. The Knights of Columbus will have their drawing for meat after the parade in front of Owens True Value. The St. Francis Girl Scouts will also be holding a candy/nut sale at Main St. Coffee.

Treasure Hunt starts at 4 p.m.

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 Christ-

mas Opening in St. Francis.

There are 24 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/ See HUNT on Page 7A

Ticket numbers are in the ads

By **Karen Krien**

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Dad had the winning ticket but sent his daughter into The Herald to get the money.

Spencer Schlepp held the winning ticket which was found in the St. Francis Tire and Service ad last week and was given to him in a purchase from the same business.

His daughter, Aubree, said they were getting new flooring from Schultz's.

"But," she said, "I wouldn't mind some Rainbow Chip Deluxe cookies."

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

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*.



Schlepp

There were 10 numbers in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages. Only one was claimed. Ten new numbers are in the ads this week.

Customers receive a ticket when they purchase \$10 at 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 five numbers drawn first for the \$50 in

scrip and, then five numbers were drawn for prizes given by businesses. Those five numbers are marked with "*".

The business prizes are a bonus for customers as there will be 11 additional prizes given throughout the season.

"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*.

See TICKET on Page 7A

Lodge open for hunters

By **Karen Krien**

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The charred rubble is now a steel pole building. The smell of smoke has been replaced by knotty pine planks and the burned stubble field has produced another crop.

It has been a long year, said Rex Murray, but we are back in business.

A year ago on Nov. 15, a fire started in the farm shop and hunting lodge owned by Rex and Sandi Murray, located halfway between Goodland and Wheeler. Rex had worked the month of October 2007 getting the lodge ready for hunters as well as a place to celebrate a large family Thanksgiving. Needless to say, Thanksgiving dinner wasn't held there and it was hard for Rex to recognize that there was something to be thankful for.

After the fire, he said that he just didn't think he would rebuild. However, that was before friends and acquaintances changed things around.

The Murrays run a pheasant hunting/dog business as well as raising Vizsla hunting dogs. Throughout the year, there are state and national contests hosted by the Murrays.

They had met many people



PUTTING UP THE PHEASANTS — Rex and Sandy Murray put up the mounted fighting pheasants given to them for their new lodge.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

through competitions as well as those who had come to stay, hunt and compete on their grounds.

Shortly after the devastation of the fire, friends and hunters began showing up to help clear the dam-

age. Then, with encouragement from many, the Murrays began to start planning to build.

Their son, Ryan, drew up the plans for a 42- by 104-foot pole

See LODGE on Page 7A

School receives honor

St. Francis Community High School has been voted by the Northwest Kansas League as the recipient of the Marvin Stark Sportsmanship Award. This award is presented to the school which in the previous year exemplified the best examples of academics, competition and integrity of its school-related program.

"This is a tribute to our school, students, staff, coaches, fans and supporters of our school programs," Principal Hoagy Carmichael said. "I was elated to find out we had received this award."

The award is voted on each year by the schools of the league. This is the sixth time that St. Francis has received this award since its inception.

By **Karen Krien**

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People around town and in the country are catching moments of warm weather to hang the outside Christmas lights. Several weeks ago, the St. Francis city crew hung the overhead Main Street lights and they are ready for the Christmas Opening on Friday.

People have until the weekend of Dec. 13 and 14 to get their



Goldie had some shopping to do while she was in town.



Drew Kaup had the chicken under control.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Goldie comes to town

There was a great deal of cacklin' going on across the street from the Equity station Monday morning.

Goldie, a chicken owned by the Kaup family, rode to town in the back of Drew Kaup's truck. And, she really wasn't interested in going back home.

Drew finally managed to catch her and she went peacefully back to the truck and waited for the "bus" to take off.

The Kaups live 4 miles north of St. Francis on the former Gus Zwegardt/Darrel Zwegardt farm.

Lighting contest underway

By **Karen Krien**

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Last year's lighting contest winners will be judging the lighting on homes and two prizes of \$50 scrip each will be awarded to the winners at the Christmas drawing on Monday, Dec. 15.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald*

lights and decorations out for the annual Chamber Lighting Contest.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald*



on Dec. 18. For more information, call or stop by *The Herald* office or call the Chamber office.

HUNT

Continued from Page 1A

Althea's Scrap-N-Chat, Massage Therapy and Body Works, The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis Super's, Stuart's Jewelry, Sainty Stitches, Video Kingdom, Empire Motel, Cheyenne Bowl, K-Store, Bankwest, Premier Jewelry/Sherri Stang; Homemade Gourmet/Susan Dinkel; (Premier Jewelry and Homemade Gourmet at Ross Manufacturing), the Methodist Thrift Store, St. Francis Tire and Service, Main St. Coffee, St. Francis Equity, Hilltop General Store and Western State Bank.

Numbers are inserted in this issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. In order that people on routes will have their numbers 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. 15.

Starting at 5 p.m., the Senior Citizens will be holding a soup supper at the Senior Citizens Center at 322 Washington Street. They will be serving chili and chicken noodle soup, relish and cinnamon rolls.

"After preparing a great Thanksgiving dinner, it's time to take the cook out to eat," said Mrs. Bracelin.

Get into the Christmas spirit by spending Friday, Nov. 28, in St. Francis — doing a little shopping, checking out Treasure Hunt numbers, enjoying the Light Parade and maybe even sitting on Santa's lap.

Santa

Santa Claus will be at First National Bank following the Light Parade. Children are urged to come tell Santa what they want for Christmas. Treats will be given.

This is also a great time for parents and grandparents to bring their camera for a special Christmas photo.

Drawings

The Christmas Opening is sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. However, throughout the season, with every \$10 of merchandise purchased in a participating business (decorated boxes and cans will be marked), the customer can enter the Chamber's drawing for a chance to win one of three \$100 scrip prizes.

The drawing will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, in front of Jaqua Abstract.



GETTING READY for the fall and holiday concert held Tuesday evening was Cara Hunt, Sarah Guthmiller, Jacob Riedel, Brandon Keeker and Kim Voeller.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

LODGE

Continued from Page 1A

building. Those plans were sent to a friend in Cheyenne, Wyo., who plugged them into a computer so they would know what materials they needed. The building consists of three main areas: the lodge/kitchen/office; the breezeway through the middle; and on the east, a shop where Mr. Murray works on his farm machinery.

Because funds were limited, the Murrays, with the help of Ryan, their daughter Crystal and husband Travis, did the majority of the work themselves. They had contacted a mill in South Dakota where they bought the 12-foot long planks of tongue-and-groove knotty pine. The cement floor that was in the old building was used. When it came to refurbishing it, Betty and Robin Petersen, with Western Auction, notified them when furniture was going to be on an auction. They also kept them informed on good tool sales as all of the tools had been destroyed in the fire.

Rex said there were also local people who donated tools, equipment and money to purchase needed items.

The day of the barn raising found some of their hunting buddies on hand to build as well as Tom Bandel with his tractor and scoop helping with the rafters. The pine paneling covers the walls and ceiling. The kids helped put up the ceiling paneling while some other hunting friends helped with the sides.

The cement floor had holes in it, left from the heat of the fire. One day, some hunters came from Washington State and Denver. They asked Rex what he was going to do about the holes. He said he honestly didn't know what to do with them.

After a day of hunting, the guys went into town and picked up some materials. They were Quik-Crete concrete specialists and the holes were fixed before they went to bed that night.

Rex said it was hard to put up the building because there wasn't a tool left after the fire.

"I didn't even have a hammer or a screw driver or a saw," he said. Everything had to be purchased.

On Jan. 15, 60 days after the fire, the building was up. Today, the lodge has a "homey" atmosphere with several seating areas and televisions. There are tables and chairs where hunters and families can meet to eat and talk. There is a high ledge on the west side of the room which has antique memorabilia and, at the far end, is a tin washtub which displays the remains of the guns after the fire. The kitchen is open with an eating bar. The Murrays said they had to buy a new stove and television — the rest of the furniture and appliances were used when purchased.

They have had some mounted pheasants donated since the fire. Several weeks ago, a hunter who is also a taxidermist, brought two mounted fighting pheasants (they had been taken from Murray ground). They are placed on a log with Ringneck Country carved in it. It is one of the

highlights in the room.

Rex's office is still unfinished but, when he has time, it will be a place where he can conduct business. The breezeway will soon have four overhead doors and the area will be used for a number of activities.

People have been so good to us, he said.

In the fire, he lost all of his guns (some with sentimental value), trophies, pictures and a jacket he had received when he took first and second at the National Championship of the Upland Classic Series, a hunting competition. Of all the things he lost, he mourned the loss of this jacket as it could never be replaced (or so he thought).

Word of the destroyed jacket was received by one of the owners of National Upland Classic. In December, Mrs. Murray received a call asking if she remembered what the lettering was on the jacket?

"I said I could tell them as I had a picture of him and the jacket in front of me," she said.

In March, at National Upland Classic in Missouri, Rex was given a second jacket, a replica of the original.

Often times, as he talked, Rex's emotions were near the breaking point and he said he has only thanks to give for what he has and for the many, many friends he has made and those who supported and encouraged him at his lowest point.

The Murrays still have most of their dogs but one of them died shortly after the fire. Two others suffered from smoke inhalation. The kennel was burned in the fire but he and a neighbor were able to save the dogs by stuffing them into a dog trailer, cars and pickups — anywhere that was safe. The two dogs which had smoke inhalation went on to win two national championships this year.

The three cabins used for hunters and guests were not destroyed in the fire. The cosy little cabins can sleep up to 12 people and have kitchen and bathroom facilities. In time, Rex plans to have a walkway from the lodge to the cabins which will make it more convenient.

The lodge is available to not only hunters but is an ideal place to hold meetings, small conventions and family gatherings. The cabins are also available.

For more information, contact Rex or Sandy at 785-899-5882 or e-mail ringneckcountry@yahoo.com or www.ringneckcountry.com.

The National Upland Classic, a division of the National Kennel Club, will be held Dec. 6 and 7 at Ringneck Country, located at Road 2030, north of Goodland and south of Wheeler. The Kansas State Pheasant Championships, the biggest doubles competition in the nation, will be held at Ringneck Country on Feb. 21 and 22.

People are welcome to stop by and see the action. Signs for these competitions are posted and the location is easy to find.

A Note of Thanks

to all of the Booster Club volunteers and supports for your help and patronage at the Pre/Post Game meals. Without all of you and your support we could not have made the events possible. A special thank you to Bruce, Sharon & Doug, for the use of the grills and your time. We were able to donate 400 meals to our volleyball & football teams and personnel as well as Wichita County, Atwood, Oberlin & LaCrosse football teams. The visiting fans and players were very appreciative of the hospitality and good will. Thanks again, Betty Petersen

TICKET

Continued from Page 1A

"Be sure to check out the many specials located in ads on the Christmas On Us pages (1B, 2B and 3B) 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. 15.

Winning tickets must be brought in on Monday

"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. 15, with the grand prize drawing for \$1,000 scrip, 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 matching a number in the Christmas On Us ad pages must claim their prize

before 5 p.m. the next Monday by bringing it into *The Herald* office. There is an exception to the deadline the week of the Christmas On Us drawing and, then winners must claim their prize by noon on Monday.

Check out the new numbers placed in ads each week because if ticket numbers from the week before are not claimed by the following Monday, they will no longer be considered.

If a ticket number is unclaimed, a new number will be drawn and it will be added to the next week's numbers on the Christmas On Us pages.

A total of \$400 in scrip will be given to Instant Winners and 11 business prizes will be given away.

It is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket because those coming to *The Saint Francis Herald* office may each receive one ticket per week.

"Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while you are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials," Mr. McCormick said.

Participating businesses in the Christmas On Us drawings are:

- Bier's Hometown Store
- Bumper To Bumper
- Hilltop General Store
- Owens True Value
- Parkhill Restaurant
- St. Francis Super's
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Equity
- St. Francis Tire and Service
- The Saint Francis Herald
- United Methodist Thrift Store

Be sure to mark the calendar for Dec. 15 for the grand prize drawings held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce's activities. The drawing starts at 5:30 p.m. in front of Jaqua Abstract.

You Don't Have to Wrap It!

You Don't Have to Send It!

Give a Gift That Keeps Giving All Year Long!!!

**The Saint Francis Herald
Bird City Times**

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The Saint Francis Herald

Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Sherman, Dundy,

Yuma, and Kit Carson counties • \$33

Elsewhere in Kansas • \$38

Elsewhere in the US • \$42

College in Kansas • \$30

Out-of-state College • \$33

Bird City Times

Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Sherman, Dundy, Yuma,

and Kit Carson counties • \$30

Elsewhere in Kansas • \$34

College in Kansas • \$27

Out-of-state College • \$30