

# The Saint Francis Herald

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Chamber Lighting Contest winner — John and Jenny Larson, 509 S. Scott Street, St. Francis



Chamber Lighting Contest winner — Larry and Terry Zwegardt, 501 W. First Street, St. Francis

## Lighting winners announced

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkans.com

The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's Lighting Contest ended last week and the winners were announced at the Dec. 15 drawing.

Winners were Larry and Terry Zwegardt, 501 W. First Street, and John and Jenny Larson, 509 S. Scott Street. Each of their houses had many lights and displays. People need to stop and just look because there is so much going on. Honorable mentions went to Tim and Robin Burr, 422 E. Jackson St. and Tom and Kathy Roelfs east on the old Wheeler Road. Homes out of town are not judges but Art. Krueger, one of the judges, said this lighting display needed to be mention.

The homes of the judges (last year's winners) could well have been winners again. Mr. Krueger on 120 W. Spencer and Mike and Michelle Stafford, 223 W. Emerson, again have beautiful lighting displays.

St. Francis's city crew needs to be commended. Stringing the lights across Main Street has become a tradition and adds so much to the Christmas season. However, it starts long before the lights come on at the Christmas Opening, the night after Thanksgiving.

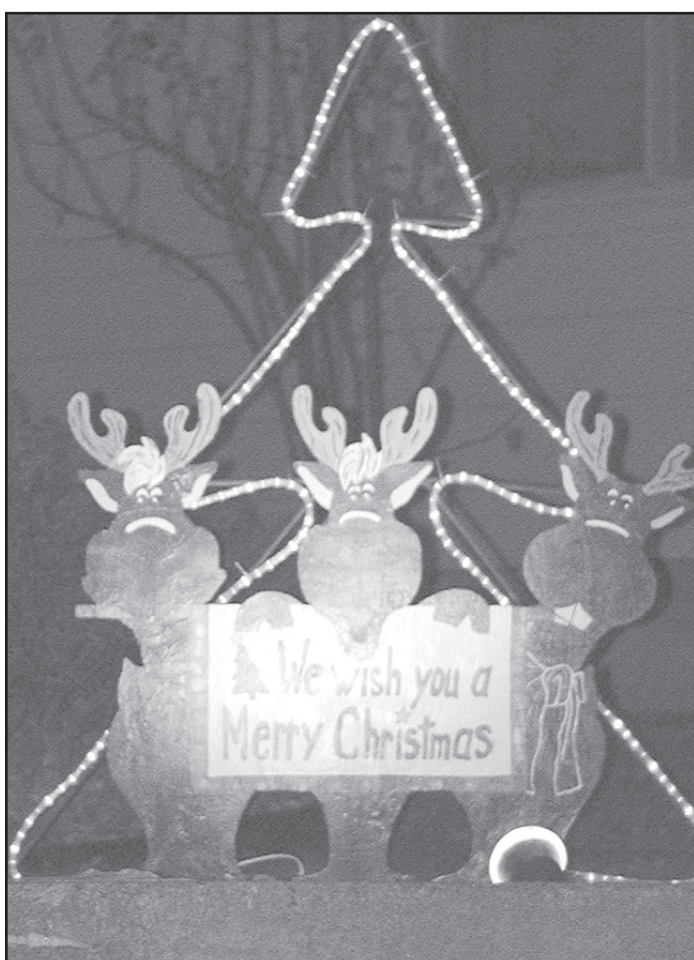
There are yards and yards of lights and before they are even

taken out of the shop, each strand needs to be tested and bulbs need to be replaced. Putting up the lights takes the time of several of the crew and, then before the lighting, they have to be connected and the overhead lights turned off. It is a time consuming, behind-the-scenes job that many people are not aware of. The city council also needs to be thanked because the expense of the lights is not cheap but, the end product is breathtaking, especially to those who have never been the St. Francis during the Christmas season.

This year, there seemed to be many people who had taken time to put up some lights on their houses and yards. Of course, there were those with the huge displays but there were others who had put up their wreaths and a few lights or garland. Every little bit makes each street more attractive.

There were a few days early in the season that were warm enough to allow people to hang their lights and drag out all of the decorations. However, lately, many of the days have been extremely cold. It took some quick, hardworking people to get the work done.

People need to take a short road trip while viewing the lights. Brian Holzwarth has his house lit up for the holidays. He lives 4.5 miles south of St. Francis on Rd. 14. Others having great lighting include: the house of Kip and



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS at the home of Gary and Sherolyn Pittman, 414 S. Scott, St. Francis.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Patsy Rethke, 6 miles north on K-27 and one mile west on Rd. 15; and, of course, don't forget the Roelfs house east of St. Francis.

Orth around 4.5 miles north on Rd. 15; and, of course, don't forget the Roelfs house east of St. Francis.

## Goodland, Colby exit old league

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

The Northwest Kansas League has been around for almost 80 years and is one of the oldest leagues in the state. Among the charter members were St. Francis, Goodland and Colby schools.

However, in the Dec. 18 issue of the *Colby Free Press*, there was the announcement that Goodland and Colby schools will no longer be members of the league. The superintendents from Goodland, Scott City, Ulysses, Holcomb, Colby and Hugoton met on Thursday, Dec. 11, to plan for a new league, the Great West Activities Conference. The conference will begin play in July 2010, since next year's football schedules are already set.

Colby High Activities Director Larry Gabel said the main reason Colby wants the new league is to give students and athletes more opportunities to compete. Declining enrollment at the other schools in the Northwest Kansas League has made it hard for Colby to find competition for some of its teams, he said, since most smaller schools don't have teams in other than the major sports.

Colby has a 4A classification and Goodland, a 3A classification. St. Francis teeters on the edge of 1A and 2A, having 81 students in the top three high school grades. Goodland has 182 students and Colby, 246. The 2A classification has 64 schools ranging from 121 to 81 students.

Scott Carmichael, St. Francis principal, said the Goodland and Colby administrations are doing what is best for their kids. He said that he knew that it was hard for them to pull out of the league that they have been a part of for so many years.

As for the six schools still left in the Northwest Kansas League (Hoxie, Oakley, Decatur Community-Oberlin, Rawlins County-Atwood, Quinter and St. Francis), Mr. Carmichael said those in the league will try to fill the slots. He said that St. Francis will probably still try to schedule Colby and Goodland for football games even though they will not be in the league.

Mr. Carmichael said there is talk about organizing a 16-team 11-man football district. There are just a lot of things to look at, he said.

## Sainty volunteer earns city award

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

John Finley was named as the recipient of the Spotighting the Positive award at the last city council meeting on Dec. 16.

Mr. Finley has been a leader in the community for many years but while the St. Francis Emergency Building was being built, he volunteered countless hours at the building, helping in any way he could.

The building was a KanStep project. The building materials were paid for with a grant but the erection was volunteer labor.

Volunteering is one of the things Mr. Finley has always done. For years, he has shown up at the Cheyenne County Fair and helped. He was there for cleanup, for working during the fair and, when the fair was over, he was there to help with the cleanup again. Several years ago, he became a member of the fair board and, then in 2002, he was the Grand Marshal of the Cheyenne County Fair Parade.

Mr. Finley has spent almost his entire live in Cheyenne County. He was the son of John and Dorothy Finley.

As a youngster, he was a member of a 4-H club which longer exists. Each year he took a steer and dairy heifers to the fair. He liked working with livestock but especially liked horses.

When he went to college at Kansas State University in Manhattan, he received a degree in animal science but his main interest was horses and rodeo. He

was a charter member of the K-State Rodeo Club and participated in the calf roping event in the first Inter-Collegiate Rodeo Association Rodeo which was held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

Mr. Finley said he was 7- or 8-years-old when he attended the first fair. The exhibit area was behind the courthouse in St. Francis and temporary pens were put up. Harvey Stuart was in charge of the exhibits. Then the livestock exhibits were moved to the sale barn.

In the late 30s or early 40s, the fairgrounds were established at the present site.

From Jenkins Hall, the livestock barn was added to the west and hog barns to the north. In those days, he was volunteering his time and labor to build the fairgrounds.

He married Bernadine Bunjes and when their children came along, they became active in 4-H and continued to support the fair.

"We always supported 4-H and thought that it and the fair were invaluable," he said.

As the years have passed, Mr. Finley is always ready to lend a hand, whether it be in the county or community.

"I enjoy doing those kind of things and if you need anything done just let me know," he said



Finley

# Merry Christmas