

# The Saint Francis Herald

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## Parade highlights Christmas opening

**By Karen Krien**  
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Friday is the official Christmas opening in St. Francis. The stores have been decorated for the season and the shelves are stocked with special items at special prices. Many people have their homes decorated. Instead of lights in the trees on Main Street, Christmas banners have been hung on the light poles.

At 4 p.m., the annual Treasure Hunt will start. Participating businesses have numbers hung in their windows or doors. Some have special places inside to draw customers into the store.

The Treasure Hunt numbers were inserted in this week's issue of The Saint Francis Herald. If

the numbers did not match any of those in businesses on Friday, save those numbers for the Treasure Hunt on Monday, Dec. 14, when new numbers will be put up.

The Senior Center will be the place for soup and cinnamon rolls. Seniors will begin serving chili and chicken noodle soup at 4:30 and will end at 7 p.m. or whenever the soup runs out. This is a great time to take the Thanksgiving cook out to eat.

At 6 p.m. sharp (when the whistle sounds), the Light Parade will begin. People, organizations and businesses have been making floats, some only beginning on Thursday for the parade. All a float takes is a Christmas theme or just Christmas stuff, lights and

### Don't forget to vote!

Don't forget to vote on your favorite float or entry at the Light Parade on Friday night. The People Choice plaque will be awarded for having the most votes.

Ballots may be picked up at Owens True Value, Schultz's,

Main St. Coffee, Ross Manufacturing and First National Bank.

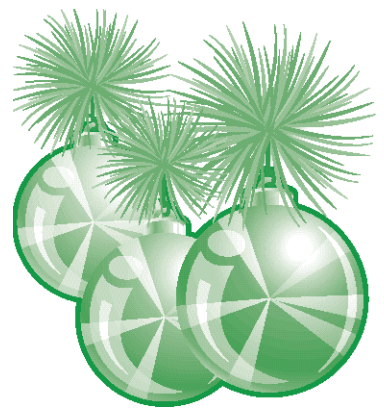
Last year's winner was Pleasant Hill 4-H with a float covered with aluminum foil. The plaque is passed from winner to winner each year.

a way to light them. Some have music and others are just pretty. One year, Lampe Hardware had fireworks — just a little creativity and imagination, along with some workers and there is a float.

Entries are to line up at the high school preferable before 5:30 p.m. It is best if those in charge of the float have time to make sure the lights and other mechanics work before the parade begins.

The parade is led by the city police. The last entry in the parade is Santa. This year, the floats will only go down the street one time — they will not turn around and go back up. In year's past, the floats have turned around and gone back up the street. However, the bystanders start backing into the streets after the first time and, with all the people and the fact that it is dark, it is dangerous. So, this year, only once down Main is the plan.

This Santa is the only Santa allowed in the parade. He will probably be riding on the fire truck and will stop at First National Bank where he will be visiting with children. This is a great time for parents to snap that picture for that



everlasting memory with Santa. This is a great time to meet friends and neighbors, especially those who have come to spend the holiday with family living in St. Francis. It is also a traditional way to welcome in the holiday season.

## Commissioners stretching dollars to get thru year

**By Karen Krien**  
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Crunching the dollars was one of the main topics when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on Monday, Nov. 16.

Payments totaling \$220,000 to Corporate Plan, which is the county's health insurance, had been made which had put the county's general fund over budget. All of the county departments were well within their budgets but there had been several large expenses which the commissioners had no way of budgeting for.

Besides the health insurance, the expense for court-appointed attorneys and prisoner medical expense and jail keep were over budget.

"There is no way that the commissioners know what these expenses are going to be," said Terry Miller, clerk.

Letters were sent to all department heads asking that only the necessities be submitted for payment. Dave Flemming, road and bridge department head, had brought in \$2,500, a fine paid by Lobo

Production for trenching across county roads without permission. That money was put into the general fund. Sheriff Craig Van Allen had quickly withdrew his request for a new car for the department, noting that he was unaware of the county's finances as his fund still had money.

This is the time of year when the county gives out Christmas bonus bucks. They were put on hold until the final end-of-the-year budget facts were known.

Corporate Plan vice president, Tim Carson, was present to discuss the county health insurance plan. He said that although the county paid out nearly \$220,000 during 2009, claims were actually down. This allowed for a lower bid from at least one underwriter, and he was still waiting on one more bid.

He felt the county could stay with its current plan amounts. After discussion, the commissioners agreed to set a lifetime cap on individual health insurance payments at \$800,000.

## Check the ticket numbers in ads

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

It is the first week of the Christmas On Us fun and people need to read the ads on the Christmas On Us pages in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

There are six \$50 scrip instant giveaway prizes to be claimed as well as six business prizes. Customers receive a ticket

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

Throughout the Christmas On Us promotion, there are ticket numbers printed in ads on the special Christmas pages. The \$50 give-away numbers are included along with "\*" numbers which are prizes given away by businesses. Winners will have their pictures taken!

The business prizes are a See TICKETS on Page 7A



DRESSED IN THEIR SHINY PINK COATS, Amy, Ava and Lydia Jenkins are spending time with their grandparents, Steve and Connie Jenkins. Their mother, Jane, was visiting in St. Francis while dad, Scott, is serving in Iraq. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Student performs in Macy parade

Be sure to watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Thursday because a St. Francis girl will be performing in the pom pon section as one of the "featured stars" of the parade.



Schlepp

Aubree Schlepp, a co-captain, earned the right to go to New York and perform after the Sainty high school cheerleaders, of which she was a member, earned a first place on both cheer and "Xtreme" routine at the Universal Cheerleaders Association Camp, Overton, Neb. Aubree is a co-captain of the cheer-leading squad.

Her trip to New York will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, her mother, Lisa Schlepp, said.

She arrived in New York a little early to spend some time with her aunt, Tammy Granowsky and family, who live in the city. On Sunday, she was able to tour the Big Apple. There was lunch in Times Square followed by a Broadway show. Then there was dinner in Times Square.

Throughout the week, those girls participating in the parade were able to shop, tour the Empire State Building, attend the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, explore the stores on 5th Avenue, visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, ice skate at Rockefeller Center and experience the subway.

But, it wasn't all fun and shopping, there were many rehearsals before the big 83rd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade which began at 10 a.m.

Several times throughout the week, Aubree and other members of the group attended dance class with some of New York's most noted choreographers and dancers.

Aubree, a junior at St. Francis Community High School, is the daughter of Spencer and Lisa Schlepp.

## School board accepts gifts

**By Karen Krien**  
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Two memorial gifts of money were accepted by the St. Francis Board of Education when members met on Nov. 12.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said the board had received gifts from the Bob Yost family and the Gordon and Betty Orth family.

The Yost family gave the school a total of \$2,500 to be used for two \$500 scholarships for a girl and a boy totaling \$1,000. Mr. Schiltz said they had indicated that when the memorial money has ran out, they will continue to provide.

Mr. Yost died Sept. 23. He had

been a farm implement and Ford-Mercury dealer in St. Francis for 42 years.

The Orth family gave \$4,597 to be given as a \$500

high school music scholarship each year. The scholarship will be tied into the John Philip Sousa Award which is also presented each year.

Mr. Orth died June 9 in a farm accident. Mrs. Orth died Sept. 24 after a battle with cancer. Both



Bob Yost



Betty Orth



Gordon Orth

loved music and performed in a band through the years. Mr. Orth taught guitar and fiddle lessons and also manufactured guitar bridge pins, end pins and strap buttons in the business known as the Pin Gallery.

See GIFTS on Page 7A



EAGLEMED Flight For Life jet, middle, had just arrived at the airport. Standing in line waiting to take off were Dave Yost, A.J. Wodack and Ron Schlittenhardt.

## Airport runway now open for incoming planes

**By Karen Krien**  
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After around three months, the St. Francis Municipal Airport runway is open. The markings were to be painted on last week and, while the paint was drying, the runway was temporarily closed.

Robert Grace, airport manager, said the engineers had given the

OK and the "X's," the universal symbol that the runway is closed, were rolled up. The notice which pilots check before departing to learn about any airport or airway restrictions was removed and the message on the automated weather observation system was changed, letting pilots know that they were able to land on the St. Francis air-

port runway.

On Monday, the EagleMed Flight For Life plane, with a complete medical crew, flew in while three other planes, belong to Dave Yost, A.J. Wodack and Ron Schlittenhardt were waiting to take off.

While he was in St. Francis, Stuart Pittman, one of the pilots for EagleMed, said the runway is

nice. The lights, he said, are especially good — really bright.

While the weather was cool on Monday and there was no problem landing on a shorter runway. However, he said it will be very good when the runway is lengthened.

In hot weather, larger planes need a longer runway for a safe

takeoff distance. The present runway is 3,138-foot long — one of the shortest runways in the area. When the St. Francis runway is completed, it will be 5,200-foot long by 75-foot wide.

Dave Yost, president of the Airport Authority, said he was pleased with the progress made on the See RUNWAY on Page 7A

## Letters 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. 11 in order to be published in the special section.

Send to *The Herald* at Box 1050, St. Francis, 67756, fax 785-332-3001, e-mail to karen.k@nwkansas.com or betty.w@nwkansas.com.