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Excitement builds in Christmas giveaway

By Karen Krien

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Readers are checking the ads in the "B" section of both The Herald and the Times, and four lucky people had matching numbers this week.

Roger McQuigg and Margie Walz had numbers matching those to earn them \$50 each in scrip. Sherry Schultz and Aimee Northrup had numbers matching those with "*" and received prizes.

Mr. McQuigg's ticket was found in the Schultz's ad and was received when he made a purchase at the Thrift Store. He plans to spend his scrip at the grocery store.

Mrs. Walz received her ticket when she shopped at Hilltop General Store and Uptown Market. The ticket number was found in the Super's ad. She also plans to buy groceries.

Mrs. Schultz found her winning



Walz



McQuigg

number in the Bier's Hometown Store ad. The ticket was given to her when she made a purchase at Schultz's. She received a stadium blanket and theater tickets from St. Francis Tire and Service.

Ms. Northrup's winning ticket had come from Hilltop General Store and she found the number in the Majestic Service ad. She received a gift certificate for \$20 at the United Methodist Thrift Store.

There are two weeks left of the Christmas On Us excitement and

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'I LIKE YOU, SANTA!' Jenae Moberly thought Santa was great and was enjoying her visit so much that she didn't want to go home. Santa was at Bankwest on Friday night. Jenae is the daughter of Josh and Peggy Moberly. Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

Money coming in for theater

By Karen Krien

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The fund drive to help purchase digital equipment for the Cheyenne Theater is moving along. The long Thanksgiving weekend was very good for the theater, said Robert Grace, Theater Committee member.

He reported that fund is about halfway to the committee's goal of \$25,000.

"This is great news, because it reinforces the Theater Board's belief that the community truly supports the Cheyenne Theater," he said. "With well over 100 donors, and more arriving every day, it is clear that there is widespread support for the project."

Check <http://cheyennetheater.com/donors/> for the list of donors.

"It's an amazing turnabout, and it is all made possible by the generous contributions from people who care about Cheyenne County and the Cheyenne Theater," Mr. Grace said.

Digital cinema is the newest technology for movie theaters. The movie is on a hard drive which means the cost of shipping the 70-pound film and canisters will be reduced dramatically, there will be no labor of threading, splicing and mounting the film and the picture quality will be superb.

The total cost of the equipment is projected to be around \$75,000. The city of St. Francis, which ba-

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Christmas lights shine in St. Francis

It is Christmas in St. Francis! The lights are strung across Main Street; new Christmas welcome banners are up and many of the stores have Christmas lights, trees and decorations inside and out.

Warm weather has allowed residents to put out their decorations and string lights. There are a number of homes with lots and lots of lights and some with just lots of lights. There is hardly a block in St. Francis that doesn't have some Christmas lights shining.

People have until the weekend

of Dec. 11 and 12 to get their lights and decorations out for the annual Chamber Lighting Contest. Last year's 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. 13.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* on Dec. 16.

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

Angels help provide gifts for children

The angels have been hung on Angel Trees just waiting for people to pick them up. Each angel represents a child who might not receive a present at Christmas unless someone picks him or her off the tree and brings back a gift.

Toni Keller, St. Francis, is in charge of the Angel Trees this year.

People can select a tag off a tree at Bankwest, First National

Bank, Owens True Value and *The Herald* office in St. Francis. This year, there are around 75 tags on the trees. 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," Ms. Keller said.

Last year, over 100 children received gifts delivered by Santa. These gifts averaged around \$25 each.

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 Ms. Keller at 785-332-4565.

Each year, the Angel Tree re-

ceives generous support, said Ms. Keller, which helps give kids a merrier Christmas.

All gifts will be picked up on Dec. 17 so those who have selected a tag need to make sure their gifts are back under the tree before the pick-up date.

If more information is needed for sizes, or gift ideas, call Ms. Keller.

Conservationist retires

By Karen Krien

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After 32 years of working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Joan Gienger, district conservationist, is retiring.

Mrs. Gienger worked for the agency for two years before coming to Cheyenne County, St. Francis. She said she knew that the conservationist was looking for a different job so when the position opened, she applied and was hired.

That was 30 years ago and she has seen a lot of changes in that time. One of those changes came with the Food Security Act of 1985 which tied farm payments to the treatment of highly erodible land. It was a whole new way of doing business for the farmers, she said, adding that she was fortunate to have a good board, especially when there were challenging times like this.

In 1978, all contracts and plans were written by hand with pens and made in triplicate forms. Today, this work is done with computers.

At first, there were just two cost-share programs available to farmers. Now there are eight or more cost-share or easement programs available. It is easier, Mrs. Gienger said, to sell non-traditional environmental treatments when we have more financial opportunities to help the farmer.

Mrs. Gienger said she has always had a good staff in the office, both Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conserva-



JOAN GIENGER, county conservationist, wraps up some of the paperwork before her open house on Friday.

tion District employees. They all had strong work ethics; they knew what needed to be done and did it without me having to micromanage.

One of the highlights came with the county joining with seven other counties to form the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC and D). A lot of good things have come out of being part of this organization, she said.

Mrs. Gienger had heard of the organization and thought it would be a good fit for Cheyenne County. She contacted some of the key

leaders and pursued the plan. It took four years to get it going and, through the organization, 49 local projects have used its resources. Some of the projects include St. Francis recycling center, living snow fences, and funding for the Swinging Seniors' gas. It also provided information for building the grandstand at fairgrounds and the grade school playground equipment, as well as holding workshops for fundraising and holistic management.

Mrs. Gienger didn't always want to be a district conserva-

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THE PRINCES, (1 to r) Sydney Sundstrom, Kylie Sherlock and Kattie Jenik, set off on their quest. The play will be held Monday at the high school. Herald photo by Debbie Fiala

Girls present musical

The St. Francis junior high girls will be presenting their annual musical on Monday in the high school auditorium. This year, before the musical begins, the junior high band and vocal classes will be presenting several numbers as well. The program begins at 7 p.m.

This year's musical, "Doo-Wop Wed Widing Hood," takes place in the 1950s. Hula hoops are in high demand, and so is Little Red Riding Hood! Strong Prince Justin (who can bench press his own mother), Wise Prince Jason (winner of the Math Olympics and the Nobel Prize), and ordinary Loud

Prince Frank, all want to woo Red Riding Hood. So the king and queen hire the Fairy Godmother to set three tasks for the princes. Only the prince who can find the missing girl, defeat the dragon and awaken a castle visitor from her slumber earns the right to woo Wed Widing Hood... that is, Red Riding Hood!

Alas, Little Red's couch-potato parents don't want to lose their little girl. How else will they get their cookies delivered to Grandmother? So they hire the evil queen to thwart the Fairy Godmother's contest. Luckily, Little

Red Riding Hood's two sisters help balance out the situation.

Members of the cast include Kyla Bandel, Mariah Beikman, Aby Fernandez, Echo Jones, Ashlee Orth, Dallas Reed, McKayla Taylor, Justice Wiley, Valerie Wurm, Emily Elfers, Carol Eve Harris, Kattie Jenik, Journey Lee, Kayla Reed, Kylie Sherlock, Hannah Stafford, Sydney Sundstrom, McKenzie Taylor and Hannah Wolff. They are directed by Debbie Fiala.

There will be an admission charge at the door. See ad for more information.