

# Christmas On Us

## Business gift winners

### Schultz's LTD



ZIPI, JERZY and Robert Lucy, Bird City, were the winners of a holiday wreath at Schultz's. Suzanne Todd, left, presents the wreath. The prize was one of the "66" numbers matched in Christmas On Us pages last week.

### Republican Valley Auto



BARB HOLZWARTH received a Krew 500 kit from Republican Valley Auto Supply. The gift was presented by Mike Grover (right).

### St. Francis Supers



DENNIS HABIGER was the winner of a turkey at St. Francis Supers, presenting the turkey, left, is TJ Perry.

### Across the County

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

#### Maternal Calving Ease EPD to reduce calving difficulty

For many years, commercial cow/calf producers have used birth weight EPD's in sire selection to minimize calving difficulty. However, there is some concern that such selection over several generations might result in heifers and cows that have calving difficulty despite lower calf birth weights, as a result of the heifers being smaller at calving.

If calving ability of females is a concern, there's a simple but under-utilized tool to avoid this potential problem: It's Maternal Calving Ease EPD. MCE EPD (CEM in some breeds) describes the genetics of female calving ability, so if a sire did truly produce harder calving heifers and cows, that number would reflect it. Higher numbers mean easier calving daughters, so to minimize calving difficulty in a herd that rais-

es its own replacements, pick bulls with a higher EPD for both Calving Ease and Maternal Calving Ease.

Realize that birth weight is one of the more heritable traits in beef cattle. The calf's individual adjusted birth weight has a large influence when birth weight EPD's are calculated for seedstock operations. Therefore, heifers with the heavier birth weights are more likely to have heavier calves themselves. So, to avoid future calving difficulty in a commercial herd, it would be wise to cull heifers born with difficulty or with high birth weights.

In addition, it may be important to cull big heifer calves that are born to first-calf heifers.

First-calf heifers tend to have lighter calves because of the uterine environment and other age-related environmental factors. Some stud-

ies estimate that the same calf might be seven pounds heavier if born to a mature cow instead of a first-calf heifer, all else being equal. So, if she was big and out of a first-calf heifer, she would have been even bigger if she had been born to a mature cow, and probably has the genetics that reflect that.

Keep in mind that sire selection drives a vast majority of genetic change, not heifer selection or cow culling. This is especially true for traits like calving ease where powerful genetic evaluation information is available on bulls.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or [www.cfear@ksu.edu](mailto:www.cfear@ksu.edu) with questions or comments.

Till next week - Marty

## Program aimed to help communities, teach skills

#### GeoTech Program Aims to Aid Communities, Teach Job Skills

Volunteers from 10 Kansas communities have completed the initial training in what is described as a new GeoTech Community Service Learning Program. Linda Elfers, assistant county agent, was among those completing the training.

The goal for the program is to engage youth in using global positioning system (GPS) and geographic information system technologies that will contribute to community improvement, said Beth Hecht, Kansas State University Research and Extension associate specialist in geospatial literacy.

"As we educate youth and adults about geographic information system and spatial thinking and teach

them various applications of the technologies, they can become more confident in applying the technologies to study and evaluate community-based issues and needs, such as land use and management," she said.

For example, the initial training session, which was held at Rock Springs 4-H Center, south of Junction City, provided adults opportunities to learn and apply the technologies to map making and collection of data, such as measuring cell phone coverage and assessing trash containment placements.

The expectation is that, once adults attending the session have mastered the technology, they will be able to help youth learn through the same processes, she said.

Mastering the technologies, she said, should also expand employment opportunities in careers such as public safety and health, natural resource management, climate change, community management and development.

The technology-based educational opportunities are made possible by a partnership between K-State Research and Extension Department of 4-H Youth Development and Fort Hays State University, Department of Geosciences. The effort is funded by the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

For more information about the initiative and future training opportunities, contact Hecht at [bhecht@ksu.edu](mailto:bhecht@ksu.edu) or the Kansas 4-H Office: 785-532-5800.



HADLEIGH HILT talked to Santa before the Christmas On Us drawing Monday night.

## WINNER

#### Continued from Page 1

green Treasure Hunt numbers, trying to match them with the new numbers posted in business windows. St. Francis Tire and Service also announced the winners of "What's In Your Tire" jar that was filled with items they have taken out of tires through the year. There was a total of 1,616 and the winners, Shane Wurm with guess of 1,610 and Paula Austin's guess was 1,625. They will need to pick up their prizes.

Santa made an appearance at the drawing. Children made their way to him after the drawing so they could tell him what they wanted for Christmas and to have their pictures taken with him.

While people waited for the drawing to begin, many stopped by the ABC Preschool table to pick up

a cup of hot chili, crackers and hot cider.

This was the 11th year for the Christmas On Us promotion. This year, Casey McCormick, *Herald* and *Times* ad salesman, estimated that \$440,000 stayed in St. Francis because of the promotion.

Keeping dollars in the community is the goal of the merchants. This year, as in year's past, everything came together to give the Christmas season a little excitement and make the season a little brighter.

Those businesses participating in the Christmas On Promotion were:

- Bier's Hometown Store
- Bumper To Bumper
- Hilltop General Store/Uptown Market
- Majestic Service
- Republican Valley Auto Supply
- St. Francis Super's
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Tire and Service
- The Saint Francis Herald
- United Methodist Thrift Store

## MUSIC

#### Continued from Page 1

The parsonage, built in 1909, has been remodeled several times. Pastor Chris Farmer and his wife, Marcine, currently live there. He is the 17th pastor. Pastor Otto H. Zeilinger served at Salem Lutheran twice, from 1917 to 1937 and again from 1940 to 1946.

When the congregation outgrew the first church building in 1925, it was decided to build a new church. Henry Seaman of Kensington was the architect.

The church is designed in a modified Gothic style. It measures 36- by 66-feet with a full basement, a balcony, a 75-foot tower and a 2-ton bell. John H. Zweggardt and Jake Feikert were head carpenters. All rafters, studding and joists were

both nailed and bolted. All holes were drilled with brace and bit, as there were no electric drills at the time. Block and tackle was used to raise the tower and bell.

All manual labor was donated and the entire cost of the church was \$10,000. All debts were paid on the day of dedication, Sept. 19, 1926.

Worship services were conducted in German until 1940. Salem is the only rural Lutheran Church left in Cheyenne County.

Salem Lutheran is located 8 miles northwest of St. Francis. Take U.S. 36 west to Road 9 and go north 4 miles, or take K-27 north to Road R and go west 3 miles. In case of bad weather, call 785-332-3634 or 785-332-3002 for information.

#### Club Clip

##### AARP

The St. Francis AARP Chapter 1739 met Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the St. Francis Senior Center for an enjoyable Christmas potluck lunch. There were nine members and two guests present.

No business meeting was held. Just a good time with food and fellowship.

The next meeting will be on Jan. 13 at the senior center with Mavem Gienger as hostess.