



**'I KNOW HE IS REAL' said Maggie Hingst to her mother following a visit with Santa after the drawing on Monday night.**  
*Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick*

## Two homes awarded \$50

The Christmas Lighting contest ended on Sunday and the judges selected two homes as the winners of the contest.

This year's winners are Mike and Cindy Henderson, 621 S. River St., and Mike and Michelle Stafford, 223 W. Emerson. Both have been winners in the past but it has been several years but, each year, they seem to add a few or change a few. Whatever, it adds to

the holiday festivities.

Mrs. Cassidy said there were many homes decorated and it was hard to make a choice. Coming in as honorable mentions were the homes of Ian and Michele De Waal, 211 N. Ash, and Tim and Robin Burr, 422 E. Jackson.

They were judged by last year's winners, Terry and Mary Beth Miller and Ward and Gloria Cassidy. Mrs. Cassidy said they had

taken some of their grandchildren with them and it had been an exciting venture.

Each of the winners will receive \$50 in scrip money sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. And, the Hendersons and Staffords will be next year's judges for the Chamber lighting contest.

The houses will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Herald*.



**WINNER, Danielle McAtee realizes she has the winning ticket for the second year in a row. Also pictured are Dot Stang, Maci Workman and Tice McAtee,**

## Drawing winner takes home \$1,000 in scrip

*By Karen Krien  
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There were 44,000 tickets in the box and, for the second year in a row, Danielle McAtee's winning ticket was pulled out at the Christmas On Us drawing on Monday.

The grade school gym seating was full, people were sitting on the floor and standing in the back. Some had boards with tickets attached, others had their number listed on envelopes and others just had the strings of tickets, all hoping they had a matching number.

Winning second was Mary Beth Zwick, who took home \$100 in scrip. Two other gift prizes left from the Instant Giveaway promotion during the last four weeks were Barb Holzwarth, who will receive a gift from Republican Val-

ley Auto Parts, and Dennis Habiger, who will have a gift waiting for him at St. Francis Super's. Before the drawing, Zipi Jerzy and Robert Lucy who will pick up a gift from Schultz's.

A total of \$1,500 scrip was given away during the Christmas On Us promotion.

Winning the last two \$50 scrip Instant Winner prizes were Sharon Penton, who got her ticket from Hilltop General and found the number in the United Methodist Church ad, and Bud Houtman who got his ticket from the Thrift Store and found the number in the St. Francis Tire and Service ad.

The drawing was combined with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's Christmas promotion. Gloria Bracelin, Chamber

secretary, announced the winners of the coloring contest and the Christmas lighting contest. See related articles for list of winners.

The Chamber also awarded three \$100 scrip prizes. Having winning numbers were Frances Williams, Margie Pappageorge, and Sharissa Andrist.

The Chamber scrip can be spent in any Cheyenne County business which also includes the city and county offices. In other words, that scrip can be used to pay the electric bill or taxes. However, no cash can be returned.

Throughout the day which was mild and sunny, people could be seen carrying their

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## Theater board reports money coming in for equipment

The Cheyenne Theater Board meet on Monday night and were excited to see that, by Tuesday, the digital equipment fund will have over \$22,000 in donations.

"That means that we are getting close to our goal of \$25,000," said Robert Grace, board member.

The entire Theater Board is not only excited by this prospect, said Mr. Grace, but also truly appreciative of the strong support that we have gotten from the nearly 200 people who have given so generously. We are especially happy with the very strong support that

we have gotten from here in Cheyenne County.

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 basically funds the theater, is also budgeting money each year.

The Board opened a second bid for the installation of digital cinema at the Monday meeting.

"We are very hopeful that as long as the donations keep coming, we will be able to fund digital cinema and 3D very soon," Mr. Grace said. "For many of us on

the board, this goal looked very difficult six months ago, so it is wonderful Christmas present to be able to be seriously contemplating meeting the goal in such a short period of time."

## Village cleanup begins

*By Karen Krien  
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On Oct. 19, a fire in the middle section of the Good Samaritan Village, St. Francis, closed the facility down. Residents were sent to various Good Samaritan Society nursing homes in the area as well as other nursing homes. At that time, it was unsure what was going to happen - was the facility going to be shut down for a short time or a long period? First, the Society, fire marshals and insurance companies needed to find out what caused the fire, how much damage there was and how the repairs were going to be made and paid for.

On Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 6 and 7, the fire investigation team met and the facility was released back to the Good Samaritan Society on Wednesday. It was noted that it will be spring before the investigation report will be ready as to the cause and origin of the fire.

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, said Servicemaster will return for interior demolition and cleanup on Dec. 20. They will start by cleaning up the therapy room in the east wing and then they will start on the west wing where resident rooms were located. A local painting contractor has already been hired to



**SERVICEMASTER CREW began cleanup this week at the Good Samaritan Village.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

paint the east wing interior.

Bids are being taken to paint the west wing interior. When this wing has been emptied of all contents, it will be cleaned up and painted.

In early January, Mr. Paulsen said, the Good Samaritan Society will release the scope of renovation and timeline for reopening the facility.

## Christmas music planned on Saturday at rural church

This Saturday, Dec. 18, the members of Salem Lutheran Church will host the fifth "Christmas in the Country," an evening of music and scripture in German and English. The service begins at 5 p.m. with a 4:30 p.m. prelude by the Once Again Sound Band and recorder duets by Talley Morrow and Cornelia Paulsen.

The United Methodist handbell choir, Salem choir and the Holiday Community Chorus are on the program, along with Tema Trumbo, and Lori and Reid Raile. A free-will offering will be given to local helping agencies. Everyone is invited downstairs after the program for a light supper.

This year's program is going to be in honor of Gus and Martha Zweggardt. Mr. Zweggardt, at 98, is the oldest member of the church. He was 13 when his father and uncles helped build the present church.

"My dad worked 28 straight days on the church one time," he said. "My Uncle Fred (Zweggardt) complained of being played out from sawing. They only used hand saws."

**Salem's history**  
 Salem Lutheran Church was founded by Germans from the Black Sea area of South Russia (now Ukraine) who immigrated



**HONORED GUESTS at the Salem Christmas program will be Gus and Martha Zweggardt.**

to this area in the late 1800s. Michael Raile Sr. came to America in 1884 and worked to start a church. He contacted the nearest American Lutheran congregation, Immanuel, located in Bethune, Colo. Arrangements were made to share their pastor, a young Danish man, Pastor Gerhart Janssen, who made the long drive with horse and buggy in 1889 to preach and administer the Sacraments twice in sod homes.

By 1901 worship services were held in the Cox school house located 2.5 mile east of the present church, or 5 miles northwest of

St. Francis. Salem Lutheran was organized as a congregation by Pastor Janssen, the name chosen from the Biblical "Shalom," meaning "peace." Charter members of Salem were Michael Raile Sr., Andrew Schauer Sr., Ludwig Zweggardt Sr., Jacob Zweggardt, John Zweggardt Sr., Jacob Knorr and David Knorr.

In 1906 the first church, a 24- by 40-foot frame building, with rock, straw and mud formation was erected on the donated acreage where the present church is located.

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