

# Light parade to get holiday season started



By Karen Krien  
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The Christmas Opening in St. Francis is set for Friday, Nov. 25. There is still plenty of time to plan and build a float for the Light Parade which starts at 6 p.m. that evening.

We need floats, said Gloria Bracelin, Chamber of Commerce secretary.

The highlight of the Christmas opening on Friday, Nov. 25, is the Light Parade. People line the street, no matter how cold or snowy it might be, just to see the lovely and fun entries make their way down Main Street.

Entries for this parade are easy to build. Held at dusk, all that is needed are lights — lots of lights and a way to light them— maybe some music, maybe a Christmas theme or just Christmas stuff — just a little creativity and imagination and a float has been created.

People creating and riding the floats say they have as much fun as those standing on the sides of Main Street.

Since no advanced entries are needed, floats and other entries need to just show up at the high school around 5:30 p.m. Entries can be planned and made on Thanksgiving Day and finished up by dusk on Friday. This is a great activity for house guests and families from out-of-town looking for something to do after eating all that turkey.

There are just two rules: 1) The only Santa is the “real” Santa who will be visiting with children following the parade; and 2) throwing candy is not recommended as it is dark and children cannot be seen if they are darting in the street to retrieve candy.

Following the parade, people may cast their vote for the best float in the parade.

### Treasure Hunt

The Christmas Opening also brings the Treasure Hunt which has been a tradition for many years. Treasure Hunt numbers will be inserted in the Nov. 24 issue of both The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times.

The Treasure Hunt starts at 3 p.m. and numbers will be posted in 16 participating businesses including First National Bank, Pizza Hut, Bella’s Super Market, Donna’s Gift Palace, St. Francis Tire and Service, Schultz’s, The Saint Francis Herald, Owens True Value, United Methodist Thrift Store, Bankwest, Majestic Service, Frewen Insurance, Video Kingdom, Western State Bank, Stuarts Jewelry and K-Store.

Match your number and claim a prize, Mrs. Bracelin said. Also, save your number. If it didn’t match any of the numbers posted on Nov. 25, it might match the new numbers which will be posted on Monday, Dec. 19.

### Santa

Following the parade, Santa will be at Western State Bank where he will be available for listening to children’s gift wishes and for Christmas photos. Parents are urged to bring their camera to get that once-a-year photo with their child and Santa.

### Soup supper

Don’t plan to fix a meal before or after the parade as there will be vegetable beef soup and a cinnamon bun served at the St. Francis Senior Center.

The Cuppa Joe Espresso will have another grand opening on Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. Kari and Kim Zweygardt will be serving free coffee, cider and cupcakes.



CLASSMATES EXPLORE a decommissioned train car at the Kansas History Museum. The entire eighth grade class was able to go on a trip to Topeka, visiting museums and the state capitol, thanks to a donation from the Hansen Foundation.

## Eighth grade class visits state Capitol

On Oct. 25 and 26, the St. Francis eighth grade students, along with four school sponsors, were able to take what may have been a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Topeka. The entire trip was paid for by the Hansen Foundation located in Logan.

Latelastsummer, Superintendent Rob Schiltz said his office was contacted by the Kansas History Museum in Topeka offering a gift of \$2,500 from an anonymous donor to bring a group of junior high or high school students to the museum in Topeka.

We later found out the donor was the Hansen Foundation, Mr. Schiltz said.

Approximately 27 schools in Northwest Kansas were made this offer. The school administration and staff felt this had the potential to be a wonderful educational experience for the students. Plans were made for the eighth grade class to make the trip.

Since Topeka is a long trip, the administration decided to take in as much as possible with the time and funds available.

They left the school at 8:15 on Tuesday morning with the first

scheduled stop in Hays to eat at Freddy’s restaurant. Many of the students had never eaten there, Mr. Schiltz said, and it seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Next, they stopped at the Eisenhower Museum in Abilene. They toured the boyhood home of Dwight Eisenhower, the Eisenhower Museum, Library, and the Place of Meditation. The students were also thrilled with the gift shop as well.

They arrived in Topeka about 5 p.m. to check into the Holidome. Pizza was delivered to the hotel at 5:30. Everyone ate until full and then either hit the pool, played in the game room or visited for about an hour.

They were scheduled to visit the Combat Air Museum at 7:30 p.m. The museum normally closes at 5, Mr. Schiltz said, but the volunteers running the museum agreed to accommodate our group.

When they arrived, there were two tour guides, both veterans, who split the class into two groups.

They gave us quite a thorough tour of the two hangars that are packed full of combat planes,

Mr. Schiltz said. As you can imagine, this was a highlight of the trip for many of our students. The knowledge and dedication of the gentlemen that provided us this opportunity was sincerely appreciated.

It was back to the hotel for more swimming, and the vending machines supplied snacks and drinks non-stop for nearly an hour.

Breakfast was an amazing buffet in the hotel the next morning. Again, all members of the trip ate until full.

Ward Cassidy, the St. Francis high school counselor and also the 120th District State Representative, was one of the sponsors for the trip. He had contacted the personnel at the Capitol and arranged for the class to have an astonishing tour of the building.

They arrived at the Capitol at about 8:30 a.m. and Mr. Cassidy took the group to his office to begin the tour. He had made arrangements for the class to meet Governor Sam Brownback and get their picture taken with him in his office.

This was certainly a highlight for many of the students, Mr. Schiltz said. The Governor was gracious enough to spend some time visiting with the students and showing them various symbols representing the state of Kansas he has in his office.

After visiting the Governor, they went to the Senate chamber and then the House of Representatives. Mr. Cassidy showed the students his chair and let them experience sitting in it. He provided an

overview of the procedure used to vote and how things work in the House.

They were also able to go into the Speaker of the House’s office and meet his secretaries, which is something we were told doesn’t usually happen. All in all the Capitol tour was a wonderful experience for the students and having Mr. Cassidy there made it a very special stop.

The Kansas History Museum was the last sight-seeing stop. It is located on the west side of Topeka, so we stopped there before departing for home. This is the museum the Hansen Foundation wanted us to see.

It truly is a wonderful museum that starts with early life in Kansas and progresses to modern times in chronological order, Mr. Schiltz said. We were greeted by museum personnel and provided a fantastic tour guide for the museum. As with the other stops on the trip, this was a favorite of many students as well.

Before departing for home, they ate hamburgers at the Red Robin near the Kansas History Museum; again, an experience that some students had never had before.

“What a wonderful gift this trip was to our students,” Mr. Schiltz said. “The Hansen Foundation truly does marvelous things with their resources. Certainly, the trip our eighth grade students took will be a lifelong memory for them.”

## Huelskamp staff to be at courthouse

The Kansas staff of Congressman Tim Huelskamp will be in St. Francis from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Friday at the Cheyenne County Courthouse.

The staff routinely host office hours in satellite locations throughout the First District of Kansas. During these satellite office hours, a constituent services representative will be available to hear constituents’ opinions, ideas and concerns about issues being debated in Washington.

A representative will also be available to help constituents who need assistance with federal agencies and programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Veterans’ Affairs, and Visas. Constituents with questions should contact Congressman Huelskamp’s Salina office at 785-309-0572 or visit <http://huelskamp.house.gov/events>.

Congressman Huelskamp is a

freshman representing the First District of Kansas. He serves on the House Budget, Agriculture, and Veterans’ Affairs Committees, and he is a member of the House Republican Study Committee.

### Thank You!

Thank you to my friends, relatives and neighbors for the cards, notes, prayers, phone calls and flowers which I received while I was in Kansas City for my surgery. They are greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Leigh and Shawn for the drives back and fourth plus all the other things they did; To Dan and Jean for my visit in Ellsworth and Dan’s visits to Kansas City; To Vickie and Cindy for my visit with them and to the rest of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren for their visits. My flowers both inside and outside were well taken care of by Dolores and Ethel.

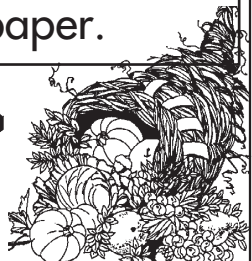
Thank you!  
Betty Jean Winston

### Early Deadline

The week of Thanksgiving, The Herald and Times will be coming out early so everyone will have their paper which will include the Treasure Hunt numbers.

Articles and Ads Deadline is Friday, Nov. 18, at 5 p.m. for the Nov. 24 paper.

The Saint Francis Herald  
Bird City Times



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<p><b>2012 Cadillac Escalade, Gold, DVD Player</b></p>	<p><b>2012 Buick Lacrosse, Mocha Steel, Leather</b></p>

*thought to ponder.... Why do bars advertise live bands?*

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