

# Homes prepared for holiday contest

By Karen Krien  
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The St. Francis city crew took advantage of the warm weather and hung the overhead Main Street lights last week. Residents have also taken advantage of the weather and there are a number of homes around town which have lights up and ready for the Christmas season. In fact, there are several that are already lit up which encourages others to decorate for the holidays.

People have until the weekend of Dec. 15 and 16 to get their

lights and decorations out for the annual Lighting Contest. Two prizes of \$50 gift certificates will be awarded to each of the winners at the Christmas drawing on Monday, Dec. 17. The prizes are sponsored by Uptown Market and Owens True Value.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* on Dec. 20.

For more information, call or stop by *The Herald* office, Owens True Value or Uptown Market.



BRINGING SHAKESPEARE to his classroom audience, Patrick McWilliams entertains students in David Morrow's English class. (l to r) Aubrey Mills, Foster Grant, Randeegrover, Casey Keller, Zach Gienger and visitor Bonnie Cram watch the performance.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Senator returns to represent district

By Kevin Bottrell  
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The tale of two incumbents running for one seat came to an end Tuesday with state Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell soundly defeating Sen. Allen Schmidt of Hays in the general election.

With all of the 224 precincts in the 40th District reporting unofficial results early today, Ostmeyer captured 66 percent of the vote to Schmidt's 34 percent. Sen. Ostmeyer had 21,666 votes to

his opponent's 11,311. Results for Ellis, Logan and Decatur counties were still incomplete.

Ostmeyer apparently carried almost every county in the district, which contains about 71,500 people. He won by a large margin in the rural counties, but Schmidt carried his home county, winning 6,285 votes in Ellis County to Ostmeyer's 6,182. In Cheyenne County, Ostmeyer got 1,076 votes in incomplete returns, while Schmidt got 308.

Turnout was up across the

district. In Sherman County, which had 69.3 percent voter turnout, election workers nearly ran out of ballots.

Sen. Ostmeyer, a two-term incumbent, and Sen. Schmidt, who was appointed after the resignation of 36th District Sen. Janice Lee in 2010, were thrown into the same district during the reapportionment process earlier this year. The 40th District was reduced from 17 counties to 13 1/2, but took in Hays and Ellis County, long considered to be a

Democratic stronghold.

Sen. Ostmeyer is a farmer and rancher in Grinnell. After serving two terms in the state House of Representatives, he was elected to the Senate in 2004 and re-elected in 2008. He has served on the Natural Resources, Local Government Rules and Regulations and Energy and Environmental Policy committees.

Ostmeyer defeated Norton County Commissioner John Miller in the Republican primary election by a hefty margin, 64.4 percent to 35.5 percent, 7,396 votes to 4,078. He carried every county in the district, including Ellis County, new to the district this year - 995 to 554.

Sen. Schmidt, running unopposed in the Democratic Primary, received 1,623 votes.

The district averaged 39.3 percent voter turnout in the primary.

Sen. Schmidt grew up on a dairy farm north of Hays. He attended Thomas More Prep and the University of Kansas. He served in the Army Medical Service Corps and remained active in the Army Reserve after moving back to Hays to manage his family's dairy. He returned to active duty in 1994, serving in several postings before being assigned as a deputy commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command in Tampa, Fla. In 2009, he moved back to Kansas.

When he took over the 36th District two years ago, it included Phillips, Smith, Osborne, Mitchell, Ellis, Russell, Rush, Pawnee and Hodgeman counties, along with part of Jewell County.



LOGAN WHITMORE plays trumpet for the Kansas State University marching band.

## University honors student/musician

St. Francis resident and 2012 high school graduate, Logan Whitmore, was honored on Sunday, Nov. 4.

The Kansas State University "Pride of Wildcat Land" Marching Band held their annual banquet and concert on Nov. 4 at the Ahearn Field House on the K-State campus. The 300-plus members of the band entertained a large audience of family, friends and fans with performances of the songs from their 2012 halftime shows along with stadium favorites including "Wildcat Victory" and the "Wabash Cannonball."

During the concert, three members of the marching band were recognized for their outstanding leadership and contributions to the band. Among the three was Logan

Whitmore who received the Rod Funk Memorial Scholarship Award. This award consisted of a \$500 scholarship and an engraved plaque.

"These award recipients are the 'Quiet Leaders' who lead not with words but by their actions, coming to every practice, being first in line, always on time, staying late, volunteering, going the extra mile, encouraging others and always doing the right thing even when no one is watching," said Dr. Tracz, director of K-State bands. "They are the 'go to guys' in the band".

Logan is the son of Jerry and Lila Whitmore and is a freshman at K-State majoring in Electrical Engineering.



## Club Clip

### Lawn Ridge 4-H Club

The regular monthly meeting of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club was called to order by Taylor Archibald, president. Valerie Wurm led in the flag salute. Bryce Raby led in a song. Roll call was answered by "What is your favorite thing about November?" No minutes were read and the treasurer's report was given by Andi Culwell since Jordon was sick.

Leader Lynn Laten reported on the 4-H Council meeting. A fair theme needs to be turned in soon and the county achievement banquet will be held Sunday, Nov. 11, at the fairgrounds. The Christmas Party Committee reported on the Christmas Party. They are going to Kearney for a hockey game on Dec. 28 and 29. Everyone is to let Andi know by Dec. 12 if they plan on going so there will be enough tickets for the game.

Under new business, Lynn talked about some new ideas for money raisers. They are to think about these and they will be discussed at a later date.

The Wildcat basketball game was discussed. It was tabled to the next meeting. Valerie moved and Bryce seconded that the club paint the chairs down at the fairgrounds for a community service project. The club decided to have a toy drive again for the Children's Hospital in Denver. Penny will help the kids get things started.

Cateline Isley gave a speech on therapeutic riding. She read the announcements. Brandy led the club in the 4-H Pledge. The meeting was adjourned.

The club set up the tables for the achievement banquet and worked on Operation Child Christmas boxes.

Valerie Wurm  
Reporter



## Introducing

**William Kelly Simmonds**  
William Kelly Simmonds arrived at 1:50 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012. He weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19-inches long. William is the son of John and Tara (Neitzel) Simmonds of Hays.

Grandparents are Karen Neitzel, St. Francis, Kelly and Diane Simmonds, McDonald. Great-grandparent is Glen Neitzel, Goodland.

William shares his Oct. 5th birthday with Grandma Karen.

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