

Upcoming promotions is topic at Chamber meeting Friday

Upcoming promotions were discussed when the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce met on Friday at noon. The Christmas festivities were reported to be doing well but the sale of tickets for the flat screen television which will be given away on Dec. 15 was going slow as were the entries coming in for the Sign Design contest. The Glen Miller Band performance in St. Francis was scrapped.

Shawna Blanka, president and chairman for the Christmas Committee, reported that the Christmas Committee had suggested that Santa and Mrs. Claus be located in several downtown businesses and opening night on Nov. 29 had been very successful. The drawing for \$600 in scrip and the flat screen television would be held Dec. 15 in Sawhill Park. Member Roger Jensen would be making chili for the chili feed and all Chamber members were encouraged to attend and to help.

The Chamber is also sponsoring the Lighting Contest and the Caroling Contest which will end on Dec. 15.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at Krien Pharmacy on Dec. 15 and at Dee's Creations on Dec. 22. Many of the businesses were open on Sunday afternoons and some reported many people coming in while others thought it was slow.

Tickets for the flat screen television

have been selling slowly but Robert Grace, chairman, thought that it was because the word had not gotten out. They would sell tickets at the wrestling tournament on Dec. 7 and all Chamber members were urged to take a book and try to sell as many tickets as possible before the drawing on Dec. 15. Mr. Grace said they were easy to sell (\$2 each or 3 for \$5) but they were not where people could see them to purchase them.

It was suggested that the price and location for tickets be included in the Chamber's Christmas ad the week of the drawing.

One of the promotions which was scratched was the Glen Miller Band. For several months, the Chamber members have talked about sponsoring the band with a place for dancing and also providing dinner. It was possible to use the grade school gym but it would take \$4,000 to get the orchestra. There was a good chance for losing money. A motion was made to engage the band in March but the motion died because there was not a second.

In other business

In other business:
 • It was pointed out that the Web Site sponsored by the Chamber is an inexpensive way to advertise a business but it is being ignored by members.

- The Spooktacular raised \$280.
- The Craft Show held the first part of November was well attended but it was not the money maker that it had been in the past.
- The River Walk, enjoyed by so many people, has been closed. The landowner of a portion of the River Walk reported that it was established without his consent.
- Elmer Kellner, field representative, told about the U.S. 36 High Association. All business were encouraged to become members.

Annual meeting

The annual Chamber meeting has been set for Jan. 14 at Riverside. There will be four members who will need to be replaced or convinced to stay on the board for another term. Those whose terms are up are Mr. Jensen and Mrs. Blanka. Ryan Shay has asked to be replaced due to his busy schedule. There are two years left on Mr. Shay's term. Other board member Renee Braun has moved and there is still one year left on her term which will need to be filled. Others remaining on the board are Candi Hedrick, Sara Schield and Kim Ritter. The board members will be announced at the annual meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Chamber will not be held until February.



FIREMAN ROB SCHILTZ gives happy children a ride in the Elf Train. Herald Staff Photo by Karen Krien.

Firemen's train pleases many

By Karen Krien

Last summer was the first time the little blue cars pulled by a mighty steam engine (a four-wheeler or golf cart) was seen in St. Francis. It made several appearances including a time when the caboose carried flags and memorabilia reminding people of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center. Lately, it has been the center of attention (next to Santa and Mrs. Claus) as it (appropriately named the "Elf Train") pulled children through the streets on the Christmas opening and each Sunday that Santa has been in town.

This popular mode of transportation and entertainment was made by the St. Francis Volunteer Firemen who wanted to give something back to the community for the support they have received. The train was paid for with money from the volunteers' pockets and about 120 hours evening and weekend labor went into building it.

"After we started, some of firemen were about as excited about getting it done as the kids are about riding in it," said George Harper, fire chief.

The train has eight cars when all are in working order. The cars are made out of 55-gallon blue plastic barrels with the exception of the caboose which is only a 30-gallon barrel. The frame is made of strap iron and steel tubing. The firemen or Van Allen's supply the engine.

Tires have given the train some trouble but Chief Harper thinks that, after a weekend of work, the train and its tires are now ready to load up on

Sunday for the big afternoon in St. Francis.

The volunteer fire department is down to 16 members and will soon be looking for a couple more to replace some of the firemen who have or will be leaving soon. However, there are

still sufficient firemen to put out fires as well as keep the train in working order. The members are not looking for funding for the train but if someone would like to donate to help with the maintenance of the train, they can contact Chief Harper.

Searchers available to help

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, people in the county either sat anxiously by their scanners or were involved in the search for a lost child in Bird City.

The call that there was a missing 5-year-old boy came into the Sheriff's office about 4:30 p.m. and the law officers joined Bird City's officer Stan Harp in the search. First the streets, parks and vacant lots were searched and then volunteers went door-to-door asking residents if they had seen a little boy dressed in overalls. By this time, the Bird City and St. Francis firemen, St. Francis police and emergency medical technicians along with numerous other volunteers had join the search party.

It was getting dark and the temperatures which had been cold all day were dropping to the 20s. The voices coming over the scanner were becoming very concerned. This child had to be found soon.

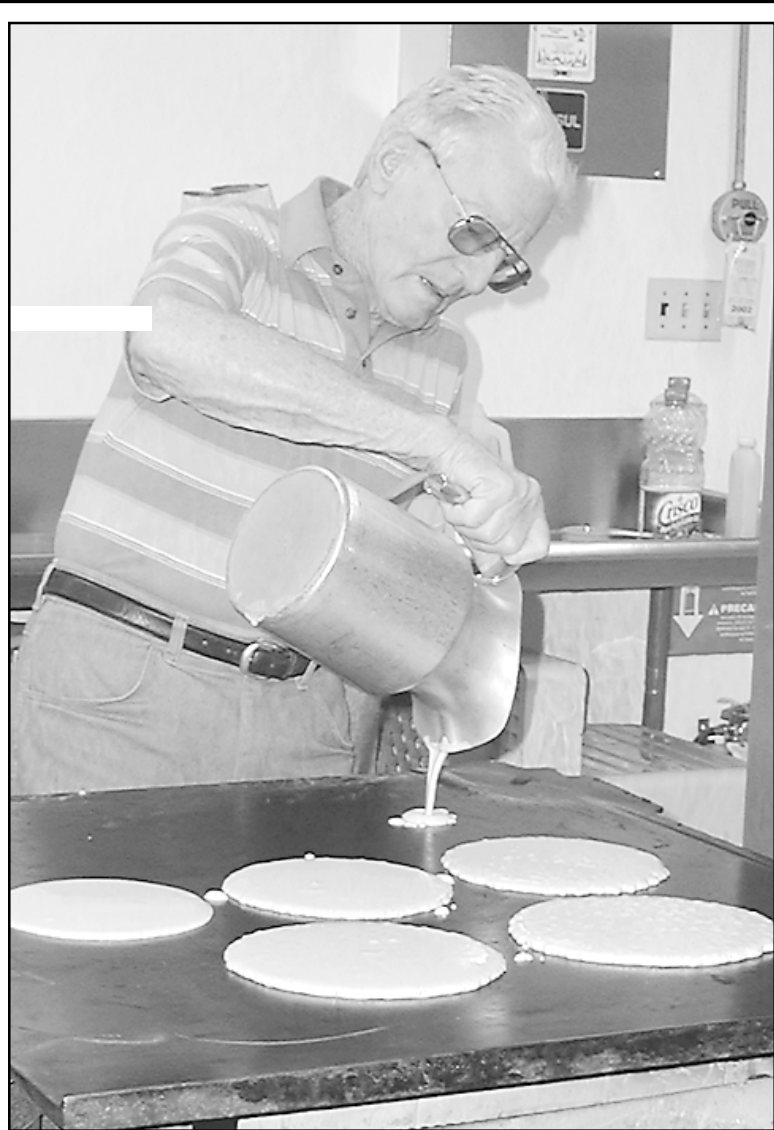
But who was the lost child? He didn't seem to have a name and as volunteers searched, this question was being asked by many.

While the search was going on, some questions were being asked and phone calls were made. The search was suddenly called off after about 1 1/2 hours when it was discovered that the person making the 911 call did not have the facts straight and there was, indeed no lost child.

Relieved, the volunteers met at the Bird City firehouse where hot coffee warmed them up.

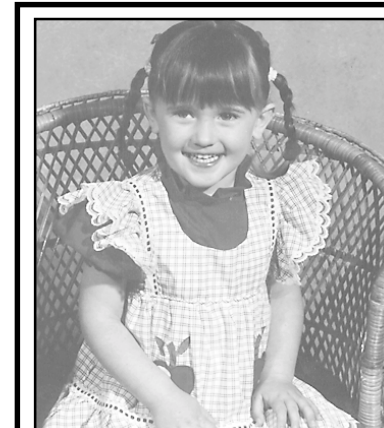
"We had to make the search — there easily could have been a child in danger," said Cliff Flock, undersheriff.

"We appreciated everyone who came to help in the search — it is good to know that when there is a need, there are volunteers who will drop everything to help," said Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring.



VANBURRUS, a 51 year member of the St. Francis Lions Club, was busy Saturday helping at the Lions Pancake Day.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Happy "Sweet 16" Brooke

Love, Mom, Dad and Brittany

Texas Red's BBQ
 will be at Saintry Super Foods
 Dec. 16 through Dec. 20
 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Beef brisket, turkey breast, ribs & sausage

Occasion

Baptismal luncheon held

Brent and Candi Rogers, McCook, hosted a baptismal luncheon at their home in honor of their son, Spencer Michael on Nov. 30. Pastor Carl Pullman officiated at the baptism.

Guests were great-great-grandmother Bessie Wilcox, great-great-grandmother Charlotte Rogers, Indianola; great-grandparents Paul and Ruby Ahrens and grandparents Ron and Jean Rogers, McCook; Marshall and Bekki Rogers and chil-

dren, Lincoln; Brock Rogers, Mindy Haag and Isaac, great-grandparents Harvey and Lucille Walz, grandparents Maurice and Monica Stramel; Sylvia Heller, Tulsa, Okla., Brenda Whately, Dallas, Texas, William and Jennifer Brown and Jacob.

The afternoon was spent enjoying cake and ice cream, visiting, opening his gifts and much picture taking and especially a five-generation picture for Spencer.



EARLY DEADLINE!!

So the staff can enjoy the holidays and readers will have their papers by Thursdays, all copy and ads are due by Fri., Dec. 20, and Fri., Dec. 27, at 5 p.m. for the Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 papers.

St. Francis Herald
 — and —
Bird City Times



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to Christmas in St. Francis ON SUNDAY AT THE BAND SHELL IN THE PARK

- Drawing for \$600 Scrip & 24" Flat Screen Television, 4:30
- Chili Feed - \$1 per cup, starting at 3
- Caroling Contest, starting at 3:30,
- Santa & Mrs. Claus at Krien's Pharmacy, 1:30-3 p.m. and will arrive in a horse-drawn sleigh at the park at 3 p.m.
- Elf Train will be giving children rides during the afternoon
If inclement weather, the festivities will be held at the St. Francis Grade School
- Santa & Mrs. Claus at Dee's Creations, 2-3:30 p.m. - Dec. 22.
- Tickets on sale for 24" Flat Screen Television 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5

Businesses open Sunday: Cheyenne Pharmacy, Dee's Creations, Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, KM Clothier, Krien Pharmacy, Owens True-Value, Tasteful Treasures, Town and Country Clothing, Stevens' Kansas Territorial, Saintry Super Foods, Video Kingdom, Dusty Farmer Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Park Hill Restaurant, Windmill Restaurant and K-Store.

GR Cowboy Supply Store
 Open NOW!!!
 Antiques
 St. Francis, KS. 785-332-8947
 1 p.m. till 9 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.

- Full Line Tack Store
- New & Used Saddles
- Bits, Headstalls, Spurs
- Blankets
- Horse Boarding

Reg. Quarter Horses Reg. Paint Horses Miniatures
 6 miles south of St. Francis on Road 14 then 1/4 miles east, or 6 miles south of Wheeler on 27 to Road 1 then 4 miles west. Gary & Ronda Rose

Peterson Jewelers
 Christmas Hours
 Open Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Saturday - 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday - 1 to 5 p.m.

"The Corner of Quality"

In Memory of Bron Joel DeGood June 23, 1985 - December 16, 2001

Our Precious Bron, Life without you isn't the same. Others seem to forget your name, and the pain at times is so real, so intense. I wish we could always feel your presence. You are our son and brother, and will always be. Your light will shine, if only through us.
 Dad, Mom, Jade, Lanissa, Greg & Brielyn

Here it is Under my nose What was I thinking Only God knows.
 No rush, it will be mine.
 But now I realize That it is too late There's no getting it now. Lord, why did I wait.

Gone in a flash I didn't even try I just watched from a distance You know I won't cry.
 So as I stand here As a passerby So I tell you, "act now" I say Don't let it end up this way —Bron DeGood

We take things for granted In my case, time There's plenty, I said.