

# Ambulance write-offs still a concern

**By Karen Krien**  
**Doctor says patient is the first concern**

The Cheyenne County Commissioners heard the other side of the

ambulance write-off issue and, after all the discussion, said they had now heard both the doctor's concerns and the ambulance director's comments and would make a decision on who would submit ambulance claims at a future meeting. Larry Gabel, Cheyenne County Ambulance director, reported at the

Nov. 26 meeting that he thought Janelle Bowers, ambulance bookkeeper and billing person, was doing a good job and it was his recommendation that the commissioners "show heart" by letting her continue to do the job that they (the commissioners) had already invested money in.

Dr. Mary Beth Miller was also present at the meeting, following up from the last meeting at which she was also present. Dr. Miller's concern began when three patients came to her with ambulance bills which had been denied by insurance or Medicare because they deemed them as "not a medical necessity."

She had met with the ambulance director and bookkeeper to see how these bills had been submitted. "I never send a patient by ambulance unless it is a medical necessity," she said. One of the bills denied was submitted that the patient had a broken wrist but, in reality, the patient also

suffered severe back problems and could not be transported in a vehicle. Another bill was submitted as a patient with hip pain but he had a severe hip problem. Both needed ambulance transportation. There were other bills mentioned and the doctor felt that there should be **See WRITE-OFFS on Page 9A**

## Students' program set for Monday

The St. Francis Elementary music department students will present their annual Christmas program at 7 p.m. on Monday in the grade school gym. The program features kindergarden through fourth grade music students and will include a wide variety of Christmas songs, solos, skits and choreographed dance numbers. "There will be many traditional numbers as well as some new songs," said Jean Ann Confer, music instructor. Themes include: Kindergarten — "It's Christmas." First and second grade — "Here Comes Christmas." Third and fourth grade — "The Case of the Counterfeit Claus." "The students have been working for several weeks on their program and are looking forward to the night of the performance," Mrs. Confer said. The people in the community are welcome and encouraged to attend. In addition to the 7 p.m. performance, a dress rehearsal will be held Monday morning at 10 a.m.



**DECORATING THE TREE (Valerie Wurm) during the Christmas program practice were Kyla Bandel, left, Echo Jones, right, and Ashlee Orth, kneeling.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Man dies from gas poisoning

**By Karen Krien**  
 A 61-year-old Goodland man died Sunday because of accidental release of carbon monoxide fumes. Marlin Zimelman was pronounced dead after a 911 call brought emergency medical technicians and ambulance service along with the Trenton Rural Fire Department and the Hitchcock County Sheriff to the trailer where he and his wife were staying. The trailer was located at Good Life Marina, 3 miles southwest of Trenton, Neb. Mr. Zimelman's wife Mary reported on Monday that Mr. Zimelman had trouble with the furnace and she kept smelling gas fumes. They had gone to bed but about 4:30 a.m., she became alarmed with the smell and tried to get her husband to leave the house with her. He refused, saying that he couldn't smell anything. She went to the pickup where she spent the rest of the night. The next morning about 7:30, she went back to the house where she found Mr. Zimelman on the bathroom floor. The 911 call was made but Mr. Zimelman was determined to be dead after authorities arrived. The Hitchcock County Sheriff Department's news release reported that Mr. Zimelman died from carbon monoxide poisoning because of improper venting of the LP gas furnace. Mr. Zimelman lived in Goodland with his wife. He was born and raised in Cheyenne County and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1960. His mother Martha Gilbraith lives in St. Francis. Funeral services have been set for 11 a.m. on Thursday at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Burial will be in the St. Francis Cemetery.

## St. Francis woman claims first instant \$50 scrip prize

**By Karen Krien**  
 St. Francis woman, Gladys Owens collected the first instant \$50 scrip by matching her Christmas On Us ticket number with the number printed in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. "It pays to stay at home and shop in St. Francis," Mrs. Owens said. Her ticket came from Saintry Super Foods and she wasn't sure just where she was going to spend it but knew it was going to come in handy during the Christmas season. The Christmas On Us promotion will be giving out \$1,500 in scrip money during the holidays. Each week, at least two numbers taken from tickets collected from participating business, are drawn and printed in a Christmas On Us ad on Pages 1, 2 and 3B of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. Those having tickets need to be sure and check out their numbers



**Owens**

each week and claim the instant winning number by Monday at 5 p.m. On Tuesday, new numbers are drawn and inserted in the ads. The numbers from last week are no longer eligible to win. However, in the grand finale drawing on Dec. 21, all tickets will once again be eligible to win. A total of \$400 in scrip will be given away to those holding the numbers which match those printed in the newspapers. The grand prize Christmas On Us giveaway will be combined with the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's giveaway on the afternoon of Dec. 21 in Sawhill Park. At that time, one lucky person will receive the grand prize of \$1,000 in scrip; another will receive \$100; and any of the \$50 weekly scrip prizes which have not been claimed will also be given away along with the Chamber's drawings of \$300 divided among three people. A ticket will be given for each \$10 purchased in participating businesses. However, it is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket. Each week, those coming to *The St. Francis Herald* office or the Cham-

ber office will receive one ticket. Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while people are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials. Participating businesses where tickets will be given away are: Bankwest, Bier's Hometown Store, Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King, Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus, Goodell Greenhouse and Floral, Tim Poling DDS, Owens True Value, Parkhill Restaurant, P & L Ideal Meat Market, Saintry Super Foods, Schultz's, St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Francis Equity, The Saint Francis Herald/Bird City Times, Tri-State Lumber and Tubing/Paints Plus. The contest will end on Dec. 19 and the grand prize drawing will be held Sunday, Dec. 21.



**LOTS TO TELL — Alex, Sam and Kaily Schorzman had lots to talk to Santa about Friday evening. Alex and Sam are the children of Kevin and Angie Schorzman and Kaily is the daughter of Keith Schorzman.**  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Christmas season officially opens with many events

**By Karen Krien**  
 The St. Francis Christmas season officially opened Friday evening with the Treasure Hunt, Light Parade, Santa, the Elf Train and some pretty cool temperatures. Businesses were open later to accommodate shoppers and Santa's Hut, located at Midwest Energy, was packed with kids, parents and others stopping in to enjoy watching the kids, eat popcorn, drink cocoa and visit with neighbors and old

friends who had come back for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Grinch, who had been in the parade, was around, getting almost as much attention as Santa. Before the Light Parade began, people were walking up and down Main Street with a red piece of paper showing their Treasure Hunt number. The Treasure Hunt is an old tradition in St. Francis but last year, it was suggested that it be dropped. However, it was brought back this

year by popular demand! Treasure Hunt numbers were inserted in the Nov. 27 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and a few extra were available at Santa's Hut. The St. Francis Volunteer Firemen had the Elf Train running most of the evening and each time it went down Main Street, it was full of children. The senior citizens hosted a soup supper at the senior center and sold **See SEASON on Page 9A**

## Fun offered through season

The St. Francis Christmas season is here and will continue until Christmas with the Treasure Hunt held each Thursday. The St. Francis Christmas activities will end on Dec. 21 in Sawhill Park. The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Com-

mittee has organized some events which will thrill children, give people an opportunity to win prizes and a chance to shop in St. Francis stores. Many of the merchants will be open later on Thursday evenings so the working people can fill their Christmas lists.

**Treasure Hunt**  
 Each Thursday at 5 p.m., new Treasure Hunt numbers will be posted in participating business windows. Those Treasure Hunt numbers that didn't match Friday night may find the match this **See FUN on Page 9A**

