



COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS used their float to remind residents of Worldwide Candle lighting Sunday. Join them in remembrance of their children. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Angel Tree helps children to have a special Christmas

By Karen Krien

Three Angel Trees have been decorated with tags listing items needed by children who might not receive a present at Christmas.

People can select a tag off a tree at Bankwest, First National Bank and Cheyenne Pharmacy. Once they select a tag and the gift is bought, it should be returned to the place where the tree is located.

"A lot of children benefit greatly every year from the Angel Tree project," said Iris Mastin, member of the Association to Benefit Cheyenne County, which sponsors the project.

Last year, over 100 children received gifts delivered by Santa. These gifts averaged around \$25 each. All gifts are wrapped by Association to Benefit Cheyenne County members and it is determined that the price of gifts delivered to a home where there is more than one child, is comparable. If there is a big variance, the organization's funds help supply an item or two to make up the difference.

If someone knows of a family which is having a difficult time making ends meet and could use a little help from Santa, please contact Mrs. Mastin at 785-332-2432 or any Association to Benefit Cheyenne County member.

Mrs. Mastin said that each year, the community generously supports the Angel Tree project and



NAMES GO ON THE Angel Tree to help children enjoy Christmas. Iris Mastin is a member of the Association to Benefit Cheyenne County which sponsors the event. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

members appreciate the help so they can give kids a merrier Christmas. All gifts will be picked up on Dec. 17 and 18 so those who have selected a tag need to make sure their gifts are back under the tree before the pick-up date.

Light candles on Dec. 14

The Compassionate Friends 2003 Worldwide Candle Lighting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14. The Compassionate Friends members ask that everyone join in this special day of remembrance by lighting a candle wherever they are. The Worldwide Candle Lighting is held every year at 7 p.m. in every time zone on the second Sunday in December. As candles burn down in one time zone, they

are lit in the next, creating a 24-hour wave of light that encircles the globe.

The Compassionate Friends has once again been successful in its quest to have the second Sunday in December designated "National Children's Memorial Day." By unanimous vote, the United States Senate on July 25, approved a resolution recognizing Dec. 14, as a special day here in

the United States, coinciding with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting.

The resolution recognizes that approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from a myriad of causes. The death of a child family member is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime and a supportive environment, empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process as the family is coping and recovering from the loss of the loved one.

Local service

The St. Francis Compassionate Friends will hold a "Celebration of Life" candlelight memorial service at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Peace Lutheran Church, 202 N. College, St. Francis.

Those unable to attend are encouraged to light a candle in memory of all children who have died.

Christmas concert presented Sunday

The Community Christmas Choir of Wray, including two members from Yuma, welcomes all who love traditional Christmas music to attend its annual concert on Sunday. It is entitled "The Gift Goes On" and will be presented at 2 and 7 p.m. at Kitzmiller auditorium at Wray High School on W. 7th St.

The 18-voice choir will be joined by bellringers and percussionists, as well as by piano. The director this year is Teresa Roubideaux of Yuma. She grew up in a musical family and enjoys all kinds of music, especially vocal music sung in harmony. In the past she has been a substitute director at Wray United Methodist church, as well as director of a Sweet Adeline chorus.

The program will include "Little Drummer Boy", "Candle in the Window", "Peace Child", and the

beloved "O Holy Night" plus 13 others. The concert is free, a gift to the community.

-School Schedule-

Thursday: high school basketball, Dundy County, here, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: high school wrestling, St. Francis Invitational, 9:30 a.m.; high school "C" team wrestling, Goodland, 10 a.m.

Monday: kindergarten through fourth grade Christmas program, 7 p.m.

Tuesday: high school basketball, Sagebrush Classic, St. Francis vs Brewster at Brewster, south gym, Ladies, 6 p.m., Indians, 8 p.m.

Thursday: high school wrestling, Colby, there, 6:30 p.m.; junior high boys basketball, Goodland, here, 4:30 p.m.

First gallons expected soon

By Casey McCormick

With a "down" economy and still riding out a drought, the hope of financial growth is welcomed. The new Western Plains Energy ethanol plant near Oakley couldn't come at a better time. And better yet it will begin producing ahead of schedule.

"By Jan. 10 the first few gallons of ethanol should be coming out," said local Bird City business man and board member Ken Krien.

The plant will be operational later this month but rather than starting the new crew and then breaking for the Christmas holiday, the decision was made to bring the plant up to full speed after the new year.

The men who will be running the facility will be sent to the Russell

plant for two weeks of training in the meantime.

The original plan allowed one year from ground breaking to completion of the plant. However the two crews who handled the construction of the project, I.C.M. (an American firm) and Fagan Incorporated (from Germany), found themselves between plants. With the combined efforts of the crews construction only took eight months.

This brings the opening at a good time when recent Kansas legislation has made it more profitable for corn growers to provide the needed raw materials for the plant.

Also it is hoped that when the United States Congress reconvenes soon that they will take another look at a renewable fuel bill. At this time a cap of 30 million gallons of ethanol fuel production is in place. If a plant produces more than this amount it then loses \$1.5 million federal subsidy and \$1.42 million state subsidy.

"This plant will be capable of 40 to 42 million gallons a year," said Mr. Krien, "with a production of 2.8 gallons per bushel of grain."

He is hopeful that the congress will increase the cap from 30 million to 60 millions gallons per year.

Singing Santa-Gram

SFCHS Music Dept. will be delivering Singing Santa-Grams in St. Francis
Cost - \$5.00

Includes Song, Card & Treat

Forms for Santa-Grams will be available from any band, vocal or advanced music student, at the high school office, Post Office or Saintry Super Foods. The Santa-Gram will be delivered the week of Dec. 15-19, unless an earlier date is requested



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WOW!!!

The St. Francis Chamber of Commerce would like to say a Big "THANK YOU" to everyone who participated in our First Annual Light Parade — Everyone who lined the street to watch the parade — And to the gals who organized and lined up the floats. Special "THANKS" to the city crew for removing the cells from the street lights so Main Street would be darker.

Mark Your Calendar - November 26, 2004 - and make plans for the 2nd Annual Light Parade!



*** NOTICE ***

THE FIRST HALF OF 2003 TAXES ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 19, 2003 WITHOUT PENALTY.

Please be sure to bring your bar code slip(s) to pay your taxes.

(We're not responsible for missed taxes.)

Note: All **Personal Property** taxes come due **IN FULL** if first half is not paid by DECEMBER 19, 2003.

All other taxes due in Half or Full. After that date taxes become delinquent and bear interest.

Remember that the second half payment has been moved to May 10, 2004!!!

Dolores Jenik
Cheyenne County Treasurer

Lions Club Annual Pancake Day

Saturday, December 6
6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Grade School Cafeteria • St. Francis

All the Pancakes You Can Eat **\$3.00**

Including Butter, Syrup, Coffee (all you want)

~ PLUS for an additional \$1.00 ~

Ham or Sausage, Eggs & Orange Juice

Everyone is welcome to come and fill up!



sponsored by
St. Francis Lions Club
Proceeds go to
Community Service Projects

Holiday Open House

at
First National Bank

Thursday, Dec. 11
10 to 3 p.m.

* Giveaways
* Refreshments



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FDIC "Where The Employees Are The Owners" LENDER