

County buys Cat grader for \$149,340

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners agreed to buy a Caterpillar road grader for the county when they met on Friday.

At the last commissioner's meeting, there were two representatives talking about their company's graders. The bids were submitted with John Deere's bid being \$132,600 and Caterpillar, \$149,340; a difference of \$16,740.

Andy Beikman, chairman, said he had two major concerns between the two graders: fuel economy and resale.

He had researched the equipment. Norton County demonstrated both graders, side by side, and discovered a fuel savings with the Cat machine by 2.3 gallons per hour. He pointed out 2.3 gallons by 800 hours per year by \$2.10 per gallon equals \$3,864 per year times five years equals a saving \$19,320.

Concerning the resale value, he had found one 2005 John Deere 770D with 139 hours for sale at \$177,000. There were 12-2003 Cat graders for sale at \$206,625 average. The difference is \$29,625 even with a two-year older cat grader.

The John Deere representative pointed out that the John Deere

models have not been on the market long enough to really make a fair comparison.

However, road and bridge supervisor, Dave Flemming said he preferred a Caterpillar grader because this is what the county already has and he has been satisfied with performance and maintenance.

Even though there was over \$16,000 difference in the price, the commissioners agreed to purchase the Cat grader.

Ambulance department

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, talked to the commissioners about getting a new ambulance for Bird City. They agreed to keep the ambulance in mind when applying for Community Development Block Grants next year.

After much discussion, the commissioners agreed to raise the base rate for making a loaded ambulance run from \$300 plus \$7.50 per mile to \$400 plus \$8 per mile.

The write-off for ambulance runs was \$3,220.

The commissioners also approved the purchase of a new computer program for the ambulance department. The cost will be over \$1,000.

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PEOPLE GATHERED on both sides of the street for the Christmas On Us and Chamber drawing held Monday night.

Clinic worker takes home \$1,000 at Christmas drawing

By Karen Krien

A clinic worker held the lucky number on Monday evening and went home with \$1,000 in scrip money.

"I said I have to go down and win the money," Julie Brunk, St. Francis, said after matching her ticket number with the one Santa drew.

The Christmas On Us and St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce drawing was held Monday on St. Francis' Main Street. The temperature on the bank showed 32 degrees but there was little wind and the cold didn't keep the crowd from gathering for the drawings.

Neil McCumber won the \$100 Christmas On Us scrip; Christa Brown, Deb Harper and Tammy Grice each won the Chamber's \$100 scrip prizes. Winner of the remaining Christmas On Us Instant Winner \$50 was Kris Blair.

Several tickets were drawn but the owners were not there to claim them. They were 231789 and 506912. The big winning ticket was 246449; the other two winning tickets were 146510 and 146510.

Winners of the Chamber Lighting Contest were Tom and Kathy Roelfs and Steve and Connie Jenkins. (See related article.) Each received \$50 in Chamber scrip.

The St. Francis students winning the coloring contest were:

Kindergarten: Teagan Landenberger, first place; Lauren Johnson, second; Timmy Lambert, third.

First grade: Reagan Beims, first; Jacey Jones, second; Mathisen Witzel, third.

Second grade: Sophie White, first; Jenna Confer, second; Makayla Rogers, third.

Third grade: Maggie Lambert, first; Hannah Wolff, second; Lane Hobrock, third.

Fourth grade: Brianna Cooks, first; Lauren Samuelson, second; Nicky Easter, third.

Fifth grade: Bailey Merklin, first; Lennin Olivares, second; Kylee Samuelson, third.

Sixth grade: Jordan Easter, first; Chloe Miller, second; Nariah Hamilton, third.

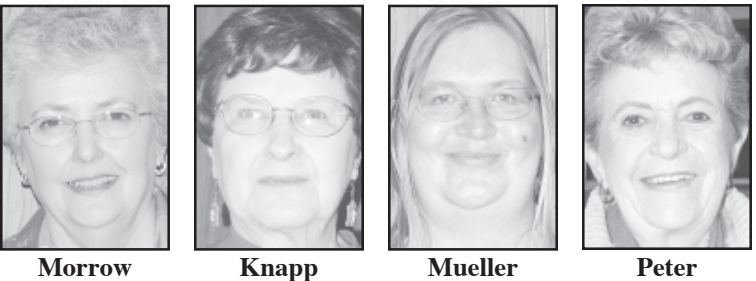


\$1,000 WINNER Julie Brunk was congratulated by Karen Krien, Herald publisher.



SANTA, TIM BURR, and Casey McCormick, Herald ad manager and announcer for the Christmas On Us drawing, talk about Christmas plans.

Herald staff photos by Lezlie McCormick and Sandy Barnhart



Morrow Knapp Mueller Peter

Women claim \$50 as Instant Winners

By Karen Krien

Seven people claimed Instant Number prizes of \$50 in scrip during the Christmas On Us promotion.

"It seemed like the people claiming the numbers were slow coming in," said Casey McCormick, ad manager.

The first week, there were two numbers listed in ads on the Christmas On Us pages and Carol Trembly was the only person coming in to claim her \$50 scrip. The next week, there were four numbers listed and Rachael Keller was the only person coming in.

This last week, there were eight numbers in the ads in hopes that all

of the numbers would be claimed before the drawing. Those picking up their Instant Winning numbers last week were Mary Morrow, St. Francis, Theresa Knapp, Regina Mueller, both of Bird City, and Arlene Peter, St. Francis.

The seven ticket to be claimed was unknown. Janet Jensen, Food Pantry coordinator, received a matching ticket attached to St. Francis Super's ad requesting that the \$50 scrip be used for the Food Pantry.

Kris Blair claimed the eighth number at the Christmas On Us drawing on Monday evening. A total of \$400 was given in just the Instant Winner's tickets.

Courthouse steps coming down again

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met in special session Tuesday afternoon to discuss the newly poured steps at the front of the courthouse. At the end of the meeting, the commissioners and contractor agreed to have the new steps removed and poured again.

Troy Porter, contractor, said he had measured the steps just as they had been laid when the courthouse was built. However, the city superintendent J.R. Landenberger said that the steps should have been put in as "new construction" and were not up to city code. There was at least 3/8-inch difference in some of the

steps and could be considered a danger to those using the stairs.

They talked about an overlay on the steps. The commissioners really didn't want to do that as they were worried about cracking and possible water collecting between the cement and overlay.

"All we are asking is that the steps are right and within code," said Andy Beikman, commissioner chairman.

Mr. Porter pointed out that on the top landing, there was a slight slope as the west door was lower than the other two doors. The commissioners and Mr. Porter agreed to leave

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Ho... Ho... Ho... Merry Christmas