

Christmas-On-Us winners announced

By Karen Krien

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It is the first week of the Christmas On Us fun and people have been busy scanning the ads on the Christmas On Us pages in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

There were two \$50 scrip instant giveaway prizes claimed as well as three business prizes. Tema Trumbo and Miranda Vanderpool, St. Francis, each took home \$50 scrip.

Mrs. Trumbo had received her winning ticket from Schultz's and found her number in the Chamber's ad. Ms. Vanderpool's ticket came from Hilltop General Store and she found the number in the Park Hill ad. She plans to spend her scrip on a new coffee pot at True Value.

Winning business Christmas gifts were Tobin Cooper, Deb Hilt and Spencer Schlepp.

Mrs. Cooper's ticket came from Hilltop General Store and was found in the Methodist Thrift Store ad. She received a year's subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Mrs. Hilt's ticket came from the Equity and was found in the Equity

ad. Her Christmas gift was a certificate to spend at the St. Francis Equity.

Mr. Schlepp's ticket came from Bier's Hometown Store and was found in the Hilltop General Store ad. He claimed a basket filled with special gift items from Schultz's.

Customers receive a ticket when they purchase \$10 in participating businesses. Individuals can receive one ticket, no purchase necessary, each week at *The Herald* office.

Throughout the four weeks of the Christmas On Us promotion, there are ticket numbers printed in ads on the special Christmas pages. Last week there were four numbers drawn first for the \$50 in scrip and, then six numbers were drawn for prizes given by businesses. Those six numbers are marked with "*".

The business prizes are a bonus for customers as there will be 12 additional prizes given throughout the season.

"The Christmas On Us promotion encourages customers to shop in St. Francis," said Pat Owens, owner of Owens True Value.

"Giving prizes in the businesses builds excitement and also



WINNERS, Miranda Vanderpool and Tema Trumbo

gives the business owners another chance to say "thank you for shopping in St. Francis," said Casey McCormick, ad manager for *The Herald* and *Times*.

"Be sure to check out the many specials located in ads on the Christmas On Us pages (1B, 2B and 3B) while you are looking for your numbers."

Also check the winners of the business prizes located on 3B.

This week, there are even more numbers listed on the pages.

"Check out those numbers! You might be a winner!" Mr. McCormick said.

There will be a drawing for \$1,000 on Dec. 17. Check related article for more information.

What's coming up next

It's time to get your house dressed up for the holidays! Dec. 12 is the House Lighting Contest judging.

Last year, the Lighting Contest winners, Jim and Sharon McCann, 216 W. 2nd Street, took first place. Ned and Deb Smith, 221 W. 5th Street, took second; third place went to Gary and Jane Brubaker, 321 E. 6th Street.

Santa Day

You better watch out, you better not cry! Dec. 15 Santa Claus is coming to Bird City for Santa Day at the American Legion Hall! The time is set for 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be food, drawings and excitement... almost every kid goes home with a prize. But, best of all, Santa will be there to hear the wishes of children.

And the winner of the House Lighting Contest is...! The winner will be announced during Santa's visit on Dec. 15.

School program

Keep Dec. 17 opened for an evening of enchantment! - Cheylin School "Winter Concert" will be presented by kindergarten through 12th grades at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Make your plans to be at Cheylin School and share with the students as they bring in the Christmas season with their holiday music.

Times and dates of events subject to change due to weather.



IT WAS A PICTURE perfect day for Don Wright as he helped the Bird City crew put up the Christmas lights on Monday.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



FIRST SNOWFALL OF the season, Alexis Frink and Michigan are having fun throwing snowballs at each other.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

First snow of season brings moisture to Bird City farms

By Linda Schneider

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Everyone was looking towards the sky the day before Thanksgiving for moisture, and they were not disappointed. Wednesday was the first snowfall of the season in Bird City.

The snow was a welcomed relief for the local farmland. Just recently there had been two fires

along the Cheyenne and Sherman County lines.

But the snow was not over just yet. On Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, snow fell in abundance. This time, up to four inches in some places. It was a nice day to spend time inside where it was cozy and warm.

Not everyone in Bird City stayed inside. As the snow light-

ened up on Friday, it was business as usual and some fun added in.

Along the highway, power lines were still being put up. The Heritage Cafe still had their lunch bunch. Then there were those folks who just could not resist having a little fun by taking their trucks out to pull snow sleds or ride snow vehicles out on top of the newly dropped snow.

Support Our Soldier packages bring smiles and thanks

By Linda Schneider

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This past October, the Bird City American Legion Auxiliary sponsored a donation drive for the Support Our Soldier (SOS) program to send gift boxes to American military personnel in foreign countries. They along with the American Legion in McDonald and St. Francis Lawn Ridge 4-H club, held the month-long event collecting donated items such as homemade cookies and toiletries.

The gift boxes have arrived and for the soldiers who are not able to be with their families this holiday season, they were welcomed and appreciated by all. Here are just a few thank you letters from soldiers:

Hello friends from Kansas!

Just thought I would drop you all a line saying thank you for

the unexpected care packages. It creates a warm and fuzzy to know that people back home still care about the soldiers over here and it totally made my day. Possibly even the week. I'm sending photos as well. Thank you all.

SPC Luke Polkinghorne
2-1-5 MITT
Medic

Ms. Elliott and Operation SOS supporters,

First, I would like to say thank you! Thank you for the wonderful reminder of the nation I defend. There is no greater pride than being an American Soldier and defending the greatest nation on earth and its people. Being here you realize how lucky we are to have been born in a nation that has people that love and care for each other, even though they may have nothing in common than citizenship.

It is so fun to watch my friends open their packages because it is like Christmas in a small box. The smallest things bring smiles. The gold balls were very popular, Santa's hats and, of course, the artwork from our nation's future. The things we really needed were the laundry soap and hygiene items. The cookies were wonderful. That's all I have for now, once again thank you. You are all outstanding Americans. Stay true to yourselves and each other.

SPC Holmes, U.S. Army

PS, A young man named Dawson DeBoer sent a great picture and message, and a little girl named Hannah colored a beautiful angel. Please if you could find them and tell them how happy they made me. I know there are a lot of people, but you never know when you could be the last reason a soldier smiles.

To the wonderful people of Operation Support Our Soldiers, org.

OK, let me tell you guys the situation before I say thank you. I am part of the 86 CSH, which replaced the 28 CSH this month. The unit is working seven days a week for the first two weeks of the deployment. We have been trying to find time to run to the store and buy supplies that we would like for daily living. We miss have a Wal-Mart down the street or anything that is safe to walk to and buy bare essentials. Anyway, out of the blue they deliver packages from your organization with much needed detergent and other supplies. I wish you could have seen your soldiers eating Girl Scout cookies in the break room of the hospital. So for whoever reads this I would like to give thanks for what you are doing for us and know that it

did make a difference.

SGT Frank Escamilla
86 CSH, Baghdad

To Our Hometown Heroes,

I would like to thank you for the positive support you have given to the troops in our battalion. The care packages we received from Operation SOS have made our time here in the theatre of Operations more like home. Our mission here would be much more difficult if we did not have the unwavering support of the American people. The time spent organizing and mailing these packages to us was not spent in vain.

Again, thank you so much for your support of the American soldiers.

Sincerely, CSM David Schmidt

Dear Melanie Elliott and Opera-

tion SOS,

Thank you so much for your care package! I received it today and was pleasantly surprised!! I put the children's coloring pictures up on the wall in our office; they added much needed color! The other items were wonderful as well. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness! Now I can send some Christmas cards out as well. I'll send them to my family and friends, I'm sure they'll love them. I shared my cookies and treats with my fellow Sea Bees and they send their thanks as well. We are all making the best of things here, but your package did make a huge difference. It put a smile on all our faces.

YN2Diana L. Powell
NMCB-15
HQ Company