

## Many enjoy Bird City Santa Day

By Norma Martinez  
bc.times@nwkansan.com

Long before 11 a.m. on Saturday, both sides of Fourth Street were lined with cars. Folks and children were lined up and down the street from the Legion Hall, waiting for the doors to open for Santa Day.

Once the doors opened, Community Club members and other volunteers were well organized to get everyone served and sitting down at the tables in no time. Approximately 360 people attended this event, which was double the number reported as attending last year.

Prizes and gifts of money were donated by 160 sponsors. Santa Day is a big event held at Bird City every year, and could not be possible without the generous donors, and the time and effort contributed by individuals. Everything for this event is provided through donations of money, gifts, and donated time.

Folks were served their choice of soups and hot dogs, while volunteers were filling glasses with a choice of coffee, tea or water. Some other volunteers were keeping a table full of homemade cookies for dessert. The Webelos and Cub Scouts helped with clearing the tables, and handing out the prizes and envelopes.

Once again, Nick Ketzner served as the Master of Ceremonies. He began by recognizing those who served, or are still serving in the military, followed by the Flag Salute. He ended the introduction with prayer. It has always been an event where no child left the hall without a gift. If their number wasn't drawn, they were issued an envelope with money in it at the end of the program.

This year, the Community Club decided the money in envelopes was to be given out by Santa Claus. Any child who wanted to receive a gift of money had to walk across the stage and sit on Santa's lap and talk to him. Those that were too big to sit on Santa's lap at least shook his hand or hugged him.

Many things were done differently from years past. The

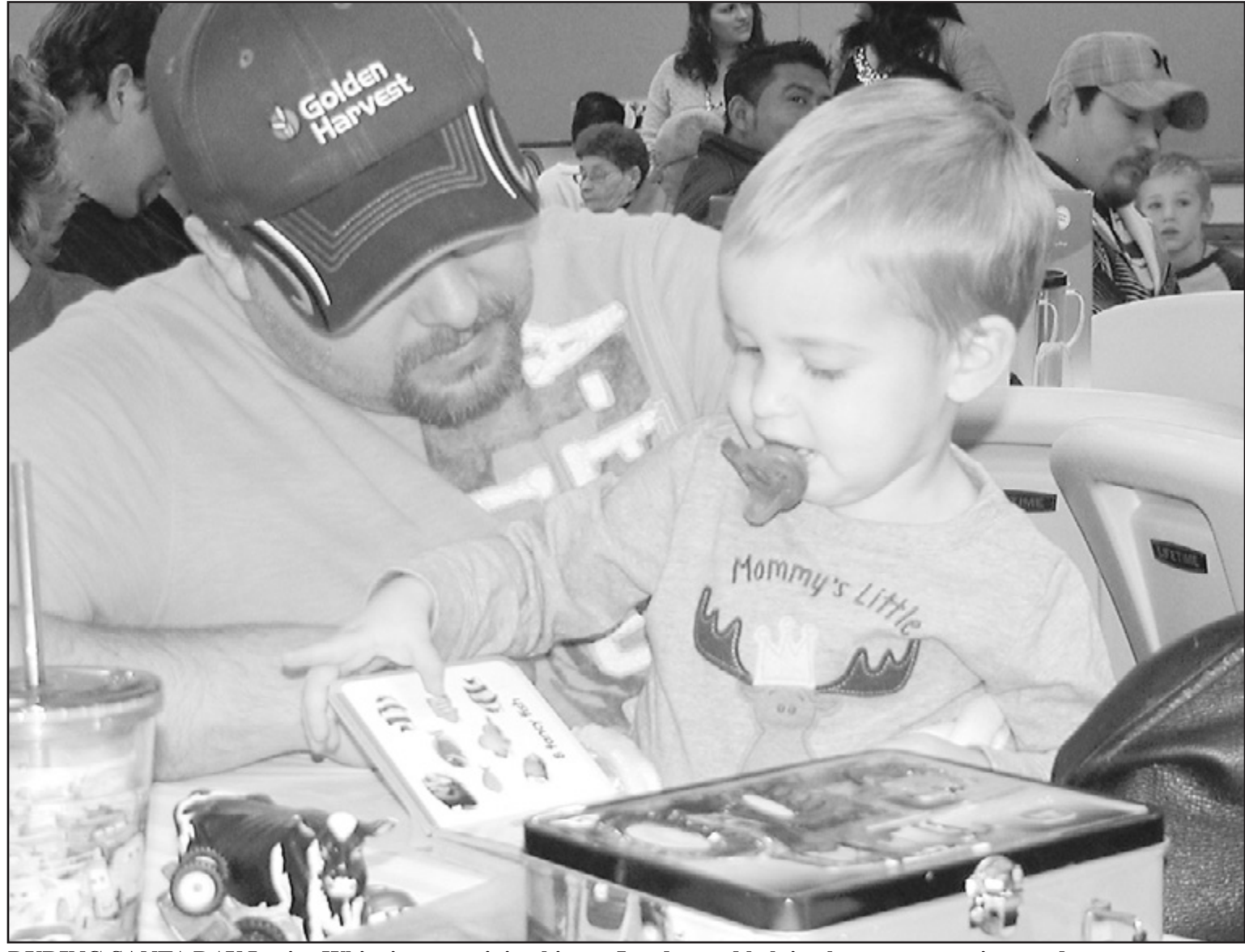
only items on display were the big items. Once everyone finished eating, they received two tickets. Their name was written on one ticket and placed in the large cans. One was for the adults to play Lets Make A Deal. The other was for children up to age 18 to enter into the bucket for the Blizzard Machine containing \$1,000 in 1's, 5's, 20's and one \$50 bill. If a child's name was called that was too small to rake in the money, they could let their bigger brother or sister fill in for them.

Rod Young and Gary Brubaker stirred up the money and restocked the booth each time. With a little coaching from Mr. Brubaker, those with loose shirts soon caught on to stuffing their money down their jackets or shirt. Those that went home with dollar bills in an envelope were: Mineir Carson from Arizona with \$22, Tailen Finley \$21, Kayten Flanigan \$41, Jordan Janicke \$64, Keigan Taylor \$26, Vivian Yanez \$33, Jayden Boyson \$32, Demich Rodriguez \$30, Luis Hernandez \$32, Jordan Raujo \$52, Eric Perez \$130, Miguel Gonzalez \$56, Loren Mellinger \$29, Elsa Burr \$79, Mika Killingsworth held on to two fives and the rest ones for a total of \$38, Ty Rethke \$17, Claudia Cobos \$59, Aubree Vansickle \$29 and Breck Niblock \$41. Ian Taylor was the recipient of a one minute grab catching a total of \$55, making a total amount of \$883 grabbed. Ty Rethke was the smallest blizzard kid who wanted to do it himself and was only able to get \$17.

Twelve envelopes containing Bonus envelopes with \$20 were issued as Kids Bonus Gifts to: Conner McPherson, Delie Gomez, Aldo Mendoza, Joslyn Reynoso, Miah Hachny, Jorge Gonzalez, Chris Espeno, Jaylyn Perez, Linden Sager, Kike Yanez, Sidney Sundstrom, and Jackson Boyson.

Sidney and Stephanie Busse were manning the table for the kids to guess the amount of candy in the big jar. The winner with the closest amount was Mary Lineer. There were 1,060 pieces.

The adults to whose names



**DURING SANTA DAY** Lucius White is entertaining his son Landyn and helping learn to recognize words.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

were drawn were able try out their luck at playing the new Deal or No Deal game. On the stage were three booths with doors that were numbered 1, 2 or 3. After a lucky person's ticket was drawn, Nick Ketzner, the MC, called out their name and the person was to stand and pick the door they felt was the lucky door. Jane Brubaker then opened that door and pulled the envelope or item out. She handed it to Mr. Ketzner, who announced what that person won. Behind each door was either a nice gift item, an envelope with money or a gift certificate in it, or a gag gift.

Those winners were: Hollis Dapron chose the right door with a gift certificate from Big Ed's for \$50, Bonnie Straub a pair of latex

gloves and a can of Goo Gone, DeseRay Headrick a \$25 gift certificate from Finders Keepers, Jose Chapparo a \$20 gift certificate from TNT Car Wash, Dave Jensen a bucket of left over soup, Brendon Haack a \$20 gift certificate from Riverside Recreation, Brandi Niblock a \$25 gift certificate from Designs By Dawn, Ryan Remer a bucket of soup, Charian Quintana \$25 in Bird City Bucks, Amy Miller a \$20 gift certificate for Riverside Recreation, Tonya Valleio a pedicure from the Hair Nest, Angelica Gomez a bucket of soup, Norman Dorsch, 1 dozen Becky's Bierocks, Nick Boyson a \$25 gift certificate from the Hair Nest, Brian Pascal a gift certificate for \$20 at TNT Car Wash, David

Burns gift certificate for \$15 at Hometown Market, Nancy Semler a \$25 gift certificate for Frontier AG, Ann Burr a gallon of dill pickles, Cody Beeson a gift certificate from Designs by Dawn, Elizabeth Garcia a \$25 gift certificate form Beauty Box, Charles Coleman, a gallon of ketchup, Kelly Leach a \$25 gift certificate from Big Ed's, Heidi Glass \$20 gift certificate from TNT Car Wash, Becky Sager a \$50 gift certificate from Big Ed's, Deb Smith a Stanley tool box, Rosemary Havel a \$25 Bird City Big Bucks, Esther Yenez tooth paste and tooth brush, Kay Gibson \$25 gift certificate from Hometown Market, Bonnie Burr a Neck Massager, Mike Dart a \$20

gift certificate from TNT, Sidney Busse \$25 Bird City Bucks, Kathy Loop \$25 Bird City Bucks, Lenny Estrada a telescope, Clint Rucker a Magic Bullet, Stephanie Busse 1 dozen Becky's Bierocks, Shaun Carson \$25 gift certificate from Frontier AG, Linda Schneider \$20 gift certificate from TNT Car Wash, Ned Smith \$25 gift certificate from Bird City Diner, Whitney Churchwell a step ladder, Belinda Boyson \$15 gift certificate from Hometown Market, Don Jackson \$20 Bird City Bucks, Steve Wareman \$25 gift certificate Bird City Diner, Vernetta Haack \$25 Bird City Bucks, Tony Vandike 15# hamburger from Rob Jensen. Other gift certificates that were given with no names listed were: Kansas City Chiefs license plate with a gift certificate from Darci's photography, bundle of meat from Rob Jensen, \$10 gift certificate from Pizza Hut, toilet paper and plunger, car care set, macaroni and cheese, \$10 gift certificate from Walmart, Photo Gallery Puzzles, \$25 gift certificate from Second Beginnings, pedicure from Hair Nest, \$25 gift certificate from Hometown Market, Skil grinder, Broncos license plate with \$10 gift certificate from Pizza Hut, package of light bulbs and Bird City Times subscription.

Belinda Serrano won a big prize with a Hometown Market shopping spree.

The winners of the big prizes that everyone entered tickets into the can for were: Alejandro Cruz won the Little Tykes playhouse, Diego Mendoza the boys Toy Set, Lincoln Logs and Legos, Karen Hernandez the Barbie set, Iliana Aruja the mini Ipad, Vivian Yanez the bbq grill, Luis Reynoso the TV and DVD player, Kara Rodriguez the \$150 Bird City Bucks, Luis Fernandez the large basketball goal and ball, Tricia Warren the Keurig Coffeemaker, and Dalton Holliman the Drill. John Serrano was picked as the Kid that won the Special Door Prize, as he picked the door that Santa appeared behind. This year Santa was behind one of the "Lets Make A Deal" doors instead of his usual entry on the fire truck.

Everyone left with a bag of peanuts, orange slices, peanut brittle and peanut clusters.



**KAYLYN STEPHENS** was not sure she wanted to sit on Santa's lap after standing in line for a long time. **KAYTEN FLANIGAN** (left) won \$41 after Gary Brubaker showed her to put the money inside her coat.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

# Happy New Year's