



DOT AND DAN STANG spent Thursday afternoon hanging Christmas lights outside their home at 406 Jackson Street.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Holiday decorations go up

It has been cold but on the few warmer days, people have been hanging up Christmas lights and setting up deer and Santas.

The lights are strung across Main Street; new Christmas welcome banners are up and many of the stores have Christmas lights, trees and decorations inside and out.

There are a number of homes with lots and lots of lights and

some with just lots of lights. There is hardly a block in St. Francis that doesn't have some Christmas lights shining.

People have until the weekend of Dec. 11 and 12 to get their lights and decorations out for the annual Chamber Lighting Contest. Last year's contest winners will be judging the lighting on homes and two prizes of \$50 scrip each will

be awarded to the winners at the Christmas drawing on Monday, Dec. 13.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* on Dec. 16.

For more information, call or stop by *The Herald* office or call the Chamber office.

Christmas drawing set for Monday



By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

It has arrived!!! The date for the drawing for the Christmas On Us promotion and the Chamber is Monday. Be at the grade school at 5:30 p.m. for all the activities and excitement.

Christmas activities in St. Francis includes shopping, the Treasure Hunt and soup served by the ABC Preschool supporters.

The Treasure Hunt numbers are up all day long. Those numbers that were not a match on the Christmas Opening, Nov. 25, will have another chance at the numbers on Monday. Dig out those green papers and plan to spend some time looking for matching numbers and doing some Christmas shopping.

At 5:30 p.m., the crowd will be gathered in the St. Francis Grade School with their tickets. Some are organized on boards, while others are listed on envelopes with the tickets inside. Even if the holders have only a few tickets, one of those tickets might be the winner – it only takes one.

There will be at least five drawings for scrip money to be spent in St. Francis. If there are any "Instant Winner" \$50 scrip not claimed in the four week Christmas On Promotion, they will be drawn for as well as those merchant gifts.

The Christmas On Us promotion and the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce are joining forces to have a great Christmas drawing where a number of people will go away with prizes. This year, the Christmas On Us numbers will be called and the lucky first place winner will take home \$1,000 in scrip. Second place winner will have \$100 in scrip.

Then the Chamber drawing will take place. Using the same Christ-

mas On Us tickets, the winners of three matching numbers will each take home \$100 in scrip.

The winners of the Christmas Lighting and children's coloring contest will be awarded.

Don't plan on fixing dinner as the ABC Preschool moms and others will be serving big cups of chili. Then take home something sweet from the bake sale. This

is one of the preschool's money-making projects.

Do that last-minute shopping and gather up the tickets before noon on Monday. Tickets for the final drawing will be collected at that time and then it will be too late to get any more. Tickets are given with every \$10 purchase or a free ticket can be picked up each week at *The Herald* office.

Two more winners claim \$50 in scrip

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

More winners have claimed prizes by matching their ticket numbers with those listed in ads on Page 1B, 2B and 3B in last week's *Herald* and *Times*. This week, new numbers are listed on the pages in the "B" section. This is the last week before the contest ends on Monday at 5 p.m. The tickets will be collected at noon on Monday and no more will be given.

Winning \$50 in scrip in the Instant Giveaway were Virginia Fiedler and Debbie Fiala. Those having "*" beside their number, took home a prize from the participating businesses drawn. Those winning prizes were Alice Kinen and Heather Leibbrandt.

Mrs. Fiedler's ticket came from Hilltop General Store and was found in the Bier's Hometown Store advertisement. She plans to spend her scrip at either Uptown Market or Hilltop General Store.

Mrs. Fiala's ticket was found in the Majestic ad and was received



Fiedler



Fiala

with a purchase Schultz's. She said she would probably buy groceries for the holidays.

Mrs. Leibbrandt's "*" number was found in the Chamber of Commerce ad and was received when she made a purchase from Majestic Service. She drew a card indicating her gift would be awarded at Bumper To Bumper. Andy Beikman gave her a pair of leather gloves.

Mrs. Kinen's number was found in the Schultz's ad and she said the ticket had come from St. Francis Super's. It was a lone ticket, she said, and she was so surprised that it was a winner. Rodney Neitzel,

See SCRIP on Page 7A

Sainty residents without natural gas on Thursday

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

St. Francis residents began to feel a chill in their homes and offices about lunchtime Thursday when furnaces didn't come on.

The town found out later that a company doing maintenance on the international pipeline that provides gas to Midwest's border station had accidentally shut off the gas to St. Francis. It was necessary for Midwest Energy to shut off all meters and purge the system of air, before bringing the lines back up to full pressure.

Midwest, based in Hays, sent out a call for help around western Kansas, and 33 repairmen converged from as far as Hays, Lakin, Phillipsburg, Hoxie and Leoti.

After the gas was restored to the city, about 3 p.m., two-man teams of repairmen began going door to door lighting furnaces, stoves, hot-water heaters and anything else that was operated on gas. Residents received courtesy phone calls from the company saying they would be working until midnight and anyone who needed help should call the office.

There were also several sites in St. Francis where people could go until their gas was turned on. Fortunately, the weather was mild and few if any residents were forced to go to the sites.

Bob Helm, manager of Corporate Communication from Midwest Energy, said there had been 839 meters turned off when they had to be turned back on again. Originally, there had been more repairmen called but because of the cooperation of the residents and the nice weather, they were able to restore service without additional help.

A few businesses closed early – for instance, the Diamond R Bar and Grill couldn't cook anything, however, – schools and most stores and offices were able to stay open.

While some people reported



TURNING ON RESIDENTS' gas in their homes was a job for Midwest Energy repairmen after the gas to St. Francis was shut off Thursday. Gene Langdon traveled from Leoti to help restore service.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

having no heat as late as 9:30 p.m., the servicemen began going home about 10 p.m. Mr. Helm said there were a few more calls from

people with out service that came in on Friday but, for the most part, service had been restored to the town.



THOSE PEOPLE WITH "*" beside their matching number pick an envelope so they will know what participating business will be giving their prize. Heather Leibbrandt was one of those winners but Traci, center, got to pick the card. Holding the basket is Matt and Nate looks on.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien