



## Christmas opening set for Friday

By Karen Krien

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Friday is the official Christmas opening in St. Francis. The stores have been decorated for the season and the shelves are stocked with special items at special prices. Many people have their homes and yards decorated and more taking advantage of the warmer weather to finish their decorating.

At 3 p.m., the annual Treasure Hunt will start. People will be checking their numbers with those hanging in the win-

dows of participating businesses. Some have special places inside to draw customers into the store.

The Treasure Hunt numbers were inserted in this week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. If the numbers do not match any of those in businesses on Friday, save those numbers for the Treasure Hunt on Monday, Dec. 13, when new numbers will appear.

Check out the coloring contest pictures hanging in First National Bank. The winners will be announced at the draw-

ing held at the grade school on Monday, Dec. 19.

The Senior Center will be the place for soup and cinnamon buns on Friday night. Seniors will begin serving vegetable soup at 5 p.m. and will end at 7:30 p.m. or whenever the soup runs out. This is a great time to take the Thanksgiving cook out to eat.

At 6 p.m. sharp (when the whistle sounds), the Light Parade will begin. People, organizations and businesses have been making floats, some only be-

ginning on Thursday for the parade.

Entries are to line up at the high school preferably before 5:30 p.m. It is best if those in charge of the float have time to make sure the lights and other mechanics work before the parade begins.

The parade is led by the city police. The last entry in the parade is Santa and he is the only Santa allowed in the parade.

When the parade ends, people are asked to cast their vote for the "People's Choice." Voting places are Owens True

Value, Schultz's and Donna's Gift Palace.

Santa will stop at Western State Bank where he will visit with children. This is a time for parents to snap that picture for an everlasting memory with their child and Santa.

This is a great time to meet friends and neighbors, especially those who have come to spend the holiday with family living in St. Francis. It is also a traditional way to welcome in the holiday season.

## Floats needed for light parade

By Karen Krien

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The city crew has the Christmas lights strung across Main Street, a sign that the Christmas season is about to open. They will officially be a the night after the Christmas Light Parade.

The highlight of the Christmas opening is the Light Parade. People line the street, no matter how cold or snowy it might be, just to see the lovely and fun entries make their way down the street.

Entries for this parade are easy to build. Held at dusk, all that is needed are lights — lots of lights and a way to light them — maybe some music, maybe a Christmas theme or just Christmas stuff — just a little creativity and imagination and a float has been created.

People creating and riding the floats say they have as much fun as those standing on the sides of Main Street.

Since no advanced entries are needed, floats and other entries need to just show up at the high school around 5:30 p.m. Entries

can be planned and made on Thanksgiving Day and finished up by dusk on Friday. This is a great activity for house guests and families from out-of-town looking for something to do after eating all that turkey.

There are just two rules: 1) The only Santa is the "real" Santa who will be visiting with children at Bankwest following the parade; and 2) throwing candy is not recommended as it is dark and children cannot be seen if they are darting in the street to retrieve candy.

There will be a "People's Choice" award. Voting places are at Owens True Value, Schultz's and Donna's Gift Palace. The traveling plaque will be kept by the winner until next year's parade.

Last year, the People's Choice Award went to Bankwest with a float full of Santa's helpers.

People are urged to start planning their float today and make it one of the best Light Parades ever.

## Lighting contest ends on Dec. 18

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis city crew took advantage of the warm weather and hung the overhead Main Street lights last week. Residents have also taken advantage of the weather and there are a number of homes around town which have lights up and ready for the Christmas season. In fact, there are several that are already lit up which encourages others to decorate for the holidays.

People have until the weekend of Dec. 17 and 18 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. 19.

No entries are needed as every house with lights is automatically entered. The winners will be featured in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* on Dec. 22.

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



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS have been strung across Main Street and are now ready for the holiday season to begin. Dan Blair, city employee, was in the bucket while other workers rolled out the lights.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Blood taken Dec. 8

When you donate blood, you give the perfect gift — another hug, another laugh, another smile, another chance — to someone in need of blood.

The Saint Francis Community Blood Drive is scheduled on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall, 202 N College. To make an appointment, call 1-800 red cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

"It's the season of giving and there's one gift that won't cost a penny, but means the world to a patient in need," said Terri Dunaway, chief executive officer of American Red Cross Blood Services — Central Plains Region. "By donating blood, you can give someone an opportunity to spend another holiday with their loved ones."

It only takes about an hour to donate blood, and in that hour, people can unwrap a lifetime of memories for hospital patients in the community and across the country. The need for blood is constant and doesn't pause for the holidays. By making time to donate this winter, you can help the Red Cross ensure a stable blood supply for all patients who need blood products.

### Special giveaway

Everyone who presents to donate blood at the St. Francis Community Blood Drive can enter to win a new Apple iPad donated by Eagle Communications. In addition, all presenting donors will receive a specially designed American Red Cross T-shirt.

### How to donate whole blood

Call 1-800 red cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more information or to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome. All blood types See BLOOD on Page 6A



'I'M HELPING' — Andrew Andrist thought he was big enough to help grandma, Donna Steven, left. Also pictured, right are Sue Zimelman and Sarah Whitmore.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Winners could receive \$1,500 scrip, merchant's presents

By Karen Krien

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Look for the ticket numbers in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages located on 1, 2 and 3B in this issue. There are five numbers which designate winners of \$50 scrip and four numbers with "\*" which designate the winner of a prize. To claim scrip or a gift, come to The Herald office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis before Monday at 5 p.m.

This is the first week of the Christmas On Us fun and people need to read the ads on the Christmas On Us pages in *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*.

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

Throughout the Christmas On Us promotion, there are ticket numbers printed in ads on the special Christmas pages. The \$50 scrip give-away numbers are included along with "\*" numbers which are prizes given away by businesses.

Winners will have their pictures taken whether they receive \$50 in scrip or a prize in a business.

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

"Giving prizes in the businesses builds excitement and also gives the business owners another chance to say "thank you for shopping in St. Francis," said Tim Burr, 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.

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

There will be a drawing for \$1,000 on Dec. 19.

### Winning tickets must be in no later than Monday

"It is important that the numbers be matched by Monday at 5 p.m. because, on Tuesday, new tickets will be drawn and there will be new numbers," said Karen Krien, publisher. "The numbers from the week before will no longer be good

to claim a prize."

If a ticket number is unclaimed, a new number will be drawn and it will be added to the next week's numbers on the Christmas On Us pages.

Those winning a \$50 scrip prize will be photographed for next week's papers. They will also need to tell how they plan to spend the money. Those winning a prize at a business will be accompanied by one of the staff from *The Herald* to the business where they will be pictured with the owner and the gift they won.

"It is a merry time of the year and giving away money and prizes makes it even more fun," said Mr. Burr.

A total of \$400 in scrip will be given to Instant Winners and nine business prizes will be given away.

"Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while you are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the spe-

See \$1,500 on Page 6A