



**FIRST GRADERS** learn about pilgrims and indians for Thanksgiving. Back row: Jonathan Fernandez, Allison Rice, Jason Cardart, Rian Zimbal, Dakota Cross, Mackenzie Breese, Jesslynn Houtman Brayden Kaup; middle row: Ellee Krien, Talexa Weeter, Ben Busse, Preston Witzel, Adam Leibbrandt, Javier Yanez; front row: Liberty Valazquez, Molly Gilliland, Savannah Morris, Jayce Landers, Bree De Waal  
*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

# Angels have been hung on the trees in businesses

The angels have been hung on Angel Trees just waiting for people to pick them up. Each angel represents a child who might not receive a present at Christmas unless someone picks him or her off the tree and brings back a gift.

Janet Jensen, St. Francis, along with Jennifer Milne, are in charge of the Angel Trees this year. People can select a tag off a tree at Bankwest, First National Bank, Owens True Value and *The Herald* office in St. Francis. This year, there are around 75 tags on the trees. There will be a suggested size of the child on the back of the angel for those who want to purchase clothing for their angel gift.

Once a person selects a tag and the gift is bought, both the gift and tag should be returned to the place where the tree is located.

"A lot of children benefit greatly from the Angel Tree project," Mrs. Jensen said. Last year, their were around 70 children who received gifts. These gifts averaged around \$25 each.

If someone knows of a family who is having a difficult time making ends meet and could use a little help from Santa, please contact Mrs. Jensen at 332-2145 or Mrs. Milne at 332-5023.

Each year, the Angel Tree receives generous support, said Mrs. Jensen, which helps give kids a merrier Christmas.

All gifts will be picked up on Dec. 20 so those who have selected a tag need to make sure their gifts are back under the tree before the pick-up date. If more information is needed for sizes, or gift ideas, call either Mrs. Jensen or Mrs. Milne. "We are expecting letters from Santa which will help with ideas for the children," she said. Parents should plan to pick up their child's or children's presents at the east door of First National Bank.

# Appears to be another scam in town

Carole Burr, St. Francis resident, stopped by *The Herald* office on Tuesday to report a different type of scam than the "grandparent scam" which was reported in the Nov. 17 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald*.

She said her scam involved a young person selling magazines. A kid, she said, reported he was selling magazines for a school project. Not knowing the local high school kids, she believed him.

I like to support kids in their school projects, she said.

She bought a magazine and said she paid more than she would probably have paid for it by ordering it directly but, again, it was a kid and for the school.

However, when it didn't come,

she became suspicious. She had saved her receipt and began making phone calls and sending letters to the publication company in Falcon, Colo.

The check to pay for the magazine was made out on May 5, 2011, and, after much communication, on Nov. 7, Ms. Burr was notified by the customer service department that she would be receiving the magazine.

Ms. Burr said originally, she wasn't going to say anything about the problems she had with the magazine company but, if there was someone in town selling her magazines, there were probably others who were contacted and bought magazines.

If there are people who felt like they were victims of a simi-

lar incident, they can contact the Colorado Better Business Bureau or call Ms. Burr.

### Healthcare schemes happening in Kansas

Medicare beneficiaries will soon be reviewing their choices in Medicare Part D prescription drug plans. This has been a wonderful benefit for seniors to help in their medication needs. However, this has also opened the door for new and unprecedented fraud attempts.

In Kansas most recently, the Kansas Department on Aging Senior Medicare Patrol has received reports of Medicare recipients being offered "free diabetic supplies." The caller then tells the person all the company needs is their Medicare number

to receive these supplies. The scammer is then billing Medicare for diabetic supplies from several companies and then sometimes selling the Medicare number to others who are billing Medicare for other medical services.

Protecting your personal information is the best line of defense in the fight against healthcare fraud and abuse.

Here are some ways to take an active role in your healthcare benefits:

- Protect your Medicare or Medicaid number as you would your credit card or bank information. Don't give out your personal information, such as your Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security number, bank account numbers or credit card numbers to anyone you do not completely trust.

- Medicare and Medicaid do not sell or endorse any product. If someone calls you or visits your home and tells you that he or she represents Medicare or Medicaid, they are lying and cannot be trusted. Hang up the telephone or shut the door. "It's shrewd to be rude."

- Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, banks, etc. will not call you by phone to ask for your account number or personal information. They already have your information.

- Never accept "free" services from people selling medical services. If anyone tries to offer you free services, be very suspicious.

If you suspect Medicare, Medicaid fraud, errors, abuse or scams, contact the Kansas Department on Aging Senior Medicare Patrol hotline at 1-800-860-5260.

82 have family connections to rural Kansas. Four of the applicants plan to start businesses in a Rural Opportunity Zone county.

The application form for the student loan repayment program is available online on the Department's website at [KansasCommerce.com/RuralOpportunityZones](http://KansasCommerce.com/RuralOpportunityZones). A printed version of the form can be requested by contacting Dan Lara, public information officer for the Department, at (785) 296-3760 or [dlara@kansasccommerce.com](mailto:dlara@kansasccommerce.com).

The state tax exemption is entirely state financed, so all Rural Opportunity Zones-designated counties are automatic participants in that part of the program. There is not a formal application procedure for this part of the program. Questions about the tax exemption should be directed to the Department of Revenue at (785) 368-8222.

have lived outside of Kansas for at least the past five years and have had Kansas source income of less than \$10,000 per year over the past five years.

Some of the nearby counties participating in student loan forgiveness program, so far, are Decatur, Logan, Ness, Norton, Phillips, Rawlins, Sherman and Thomas.

A few counties have joined with businesses and nonprofit organizations to help provide funds for student loan repayment, George said.

"Some counties have been very innovative in looking for ways to raise money to provide for their part of the incentive, and we certainly want to encourage that activity," he said.

Applicants have applied to 35 of the 40 participating counties, and many of the applicants are recent college graduates. Of the 127 applicants: 35 are working in education; 24 are working in healthcare (nurses, physicians, and chiropractors); three are engineers; three are veterinarians; and

# Organization raises money with baskets

This is the second year for the Cheyenne County Big Brothers Big Sisters organization to raise money by selling tickets on gift baskets. In prior years, they have had a silent auction on decorated Christmas trees.

Baskets will be comprised of items donated by businesses in St. Francis.

Local businesses have generously donated almost \$1,400 in merchandise and gift certificates, said Bridgette Antholz, one of the coordinators. Baskets will be on display at United Methodist Thrift Store, Bankwest of Kansas and Western State Bank from Nov. 22 to Dec. 19.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters board members had a table set up at Western State Bank for the Christmas opening in St. Francis on Nov. 25 and will be at the St. Francis Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Dec. 3.

Items making up the gift baskets include: gift certificates to Captain Hook's, St. Francis Tire, Cheyenne Theater, Diamond R, Tastefully Simple, Saintry Liquor, Big Ed's, Knights of Columbus, Pampered Chef/Sharissa Andrist, Scentsy/Nancy Semler, Schultz's, Girlfriends & Guys Too, Saint Francis Equity, Krien Pharmacy, Bella's Market, Napa, Stuart's Jewelry, Michele/Stephane Workman, Ooh LaLa, Pizza Hut, Jordan Essentials/Rachel Schmidt, Mary Kay/Teri Richard, Bumper to Bumper, Cuppa Joe Espresso, The Classic Rose, Avon/Sharon Barnhart, Republican Valley Vet Clinic, Owens True Value, Hilltop, K-Store, Monty's Beef Jerky.

Winners will be drawn at the board meeting on Dec. 19. Winners need not be present to win. All donations received will remain in Cheyenne County.

# Interest in program runs high

Forty of the 50 eligible Kansas counties, including Cheyenne County, have joined the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZs) partnership, and 127 applicants from across the country have applied to the student loan forgiveness program, according to the Kansas Department of Commerce.

"We are pleased to have an 80 percent participation rate in the Rural Opportunity Zones partnership, but we hope to have a 100 percent participation rate," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "The response to the program has been great and should only get better as the remaining counties opt in. Rural Opportunity Zones are proving to be a key incentive in recruiting individuals and families into rural Kansas."

The program offers student loan forgiveness of up to \$3,000 per year for five years for individuals that graduate from an accredited post-secondary college or technical school. In addition, people moving from out-of-state could be eligible for 100-percent state income tax reimbursement, if they

# Letters to Santa needed for section

Christmas seen through the eyes of a child is often priceless.

This year, as in year's past, the special Christmas and New Year's sections will be published before the holidays. The sections will feature letters to Santa, answers of questions asked of school children, memories and recipes.

*The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* staffs welcome par-

ticipation from children to adults. All items must be received by Dec. 12, in order to be published in the special section.

Send letters, special memories, articles and recipes to *The Herald* at Box 1050, St. Francis, 67756, fax 785-332-3001, e-mail to [karen.k@nwkansasc.com](mailto:karen.k@nwkansasc.com) or [nfiala@nwkansasc.com](mailto:nfiala@nwkansasc.com) titling the subject as "Christmas For The Paper."

**Cash 4 Junkers**  
Will pay top dollar for your unwanted, totaled or junked vehicles. Cars, vans, pickups or trucks. Also interested in farm machinery and other metals, batteries, radiators, copper aluminum & brass.  
Call 785-332-7046, Jett Fromholtz  
St. Francis, Ks.

**Jason's Computer Services**  
113 W. Washington St.  
St. Francis  
Office supplies Virus removal  
Website design & hosting  
visit [Padgett-online.com/jcs](http://Padgett-online.com/jcs)  
or call 785-332-3900

**52nd Annual St. Francis Invitational Gabel/Jenkins Wrestling Tournament**  
Saturday, December 3  
TEAMS PARTICIPATING: Rawlins Co. (Atwood) Colby • Goodland • Sterling (Co.) • St. Francis Wichita County-Leoti • Wray

- 1st Session beginning at 9:30 a.m.
- 2nd Session beginning at 1 p.m.
- Tournament will run straight through
- Finals start 15 min. after the second session ends, approximately 4:30 p.m.

**Admission:**  
Students - \$5.00  
Adults - \$7.00  
These prices are for all day.  
After 1 p.m.  
Students - \$3.00  
Adults - \$5.00  
*Concession Stand sponsored by the FFA*

What a better way to say *Thank You* than a **Customer Appreciation Chili Lunch**  
December 6th  
11:30-1:30 pm cst  
St. Francis Equity Feed Store  
Special Event Sale items from the Feed Store and the Equity Station!  
Enter November 28 to Dec. 6th at our St. Francis Locations for our Turkey Giveaway!  
(Drawing to be held day of Chili Appreciation Lunch)

Owned by the Farmers and Ranchers of this community since 1913!

**The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Will be CLOSED**  
Friday, Dec. 26 & Friday, Jan. 2  
The papers will be a day late both weeks

*The staff at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*