



St. Francis woman takes home \$1,000 scrip

On Monday evening, the St. Francis grade school gym was full of people with strips of red and green Christmas On Us tickets. Some of the tickets were in plastic bags, others were in envelopes with the numbers listed on the outside, and others were carried in their hands.

They were all waiting to see who was going to be the owner of the ticket to claim \$1,000 in scrip money. Liberty Velazquez drew a red ticket and Tim Burr, Herald ad manager, read the number. There was a stir from the east side of the gym as Rachel Morris with the help of friends and family, pulled the winning number from a string of tickets.

Rachel's ticket came from purchases she had made at Uptown Market.

There were four other drawings for Christmas On Us prizes. Marlys Poulignon took home \$100 in scrip with her ticket from True Value.

During the four-week promotion, numbers were printed in sponsoring business ads. There were eight prizes of \$50 in scrip and seven business prizes to be given away. Of those, seven of the \$50 scrip and five of the business prizes were claimed by people matching their numbers.

The one \$50 scrip and two business prizes were given away at the Christmas On Us drawing. Dee Wilson had a matching ticket and took home the last \$50 scrip; Bill Wilger claimed the busi-

ness prize from Bumper To Bumper; and Jennifer Krien matched her number to win The Saint Francis Herald prize.

Ms. Wilson's ticket came from purchases made at Republican Valley Auto Parts; Mr. Wilger's ticket came from Bumper To Bumper and Mrs. Krien's ticket came from Biers Hometown Store.

Merchants gave away more tickets this year than last year, said Mr. Burr. "If you look out over this crowd, you can tell this promotion has generated a lot of excitement. We really want to thank the sponsors for making this possible. We've got thousands and thousands of tickets here in this tub, which represents hundreds of thousands of dollars spent here in our community." The Christmas season will soon be over but it isn't too early to start thinking about the holiday season next year.

Businesses participating were Bier's Hometown Store, Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts, Owens True Value, Republican Valley Auto Parts, Schultz's Limited, The Saint Francis Herald, United Methodist Thrift Store and Uptown Market.



Fiala



LOOKING FOR THE TICKET, was Jennifer Krien, center. Helping her look, clockwise from left, are Melva Douthit, Deb Hilt, Eric Fiala, Scott Carmichael (top), Robin Burr and Gertie Zweygardt.



LIBERTY VELAZQUEZ, left, was drawing tickets out of the box and giving them to Santa. Above, Tim Burr, Herald ad manager, checks Rachel Morris' winning ticket.

Co-op locates east of Sainty

By Tim Burr
tburr@nwks.com

Prairie Land Electric Co-op has relocated their office and base of operations from their facilities in Bird City to their new location, just east of St. Francis. The St. Francis district office of Prairie Land Electric is located at 1392 Rd 16, at the intersection of Rd. 16 and U.S. 36.

Their new office, shop, warehouse and storage lot area have been under construction since early summer. The first day at the new location was last Tuesday, Dec. 11.

"All of the items we need for normal day-to-day operations have been relocated here from Bird City," said Dave Hickert, longtime Prairie Land employee. "There is a lot of inventory and other non-essential items we will move throughout the year, as time and labor permit."



WORKERS SET POLES as the Prairie Land Electric Co-op moved into the new facility east of St. Francis. The office opened Tuesday.

Although, at this time, there are no definite plans for the old facilities and property in Bird City, it is anticipated they will be for sale.

New phone numbers for the Prairie Land office are 785-332-2295 and 785-332-2315. The 24-hour, emergency number remains the same, 800-577-3323. Mailing address is Prairie Land Electric, Box 515, St. Francis, KS 67756-0515.

The North West Kansas Electric Coop was established in 1945, with offices located in Bird City. From 1945 until 1997, it provided rural electrical service to its members in North-West Kansas.

In 1997, to better serve patrons, North West Kansas Electric Coop merged with Norton-Decatur Coop to form Prairie Land Electric Coop. Prairie Land Electric, with its headquarters in Norton, serves 6,830 miles of line in parts of 18 counties in Northwest Kansas with 86 employees.

Representative to head Budget Committee

Speaker-elect Ray Merrick (R-Stilwell) has appointed Kansas State Representative, Ward Cassidy as chairman of the House Education Budget Committee.

"Ward has been a strong voice for education and Western Kansas," said Speaker-elect Merrick. "His assignment will allow him many opportunities to make the legislature aware of Western Kansas concerns."

"I am very excited to be the Education Budget chair next year," Rep. Cassidy said. "I felt I was qualified but, having only served one term in the legislature, I was not sure I would be given the assignment. There is a lot more responsibility."

The Education Budget Committee handles the highest amount of state general funds included in the budget. The committee proposes to the House Appropriations Committee the budgets for the state's kindergarten through grade 12, community colleges, vocational colleges and four-year institutions.

"Ward has an excellent ability to communicate, making him a strong advocate for his constituents," said Jene Vickrey (R-Louisburg), Majority Leader-elect. "This ability, along with his extensive background in education, makes him a great fit for chair of the Education Budget Committee."

The chairmanship automatically gives Ward a seat on the House Appropriations Committee. He will also serve as vice-chair of the House Education Committee.

I served on the Appropriations Committee last year, Ward said. I am very glad to serve on it for two more years. The Appropriations Committee gives me the greatest opportunity to promote the interests of Northwest Kansas.

Normally members of the House of Representatives share one secretary for three people. Committee chairs have an individual secretary to help with the additional workload.