



Thrift store opens door to children

By Amanda Miller
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Last Saturday, December 21, the United Methodist Thrift Store in St. Francis opened up its doors to just a few select customers. Only children kindergarten through 12th grade were privy to what treasures awaited inside. No parents were allowed!!

From 1:30 - 4 p.m. children poured into the thrift store to purchase gifts for their parents and family members. A suggestion came in from a former resident that grew up here that the store host a shopping time for children to purchase gifts. With generous donations and volunteers, the thrift store made that happen.

Parents parked outside the building, and let kids walk inside with cash in hand to buy gifts for their brothers, sisters, parents

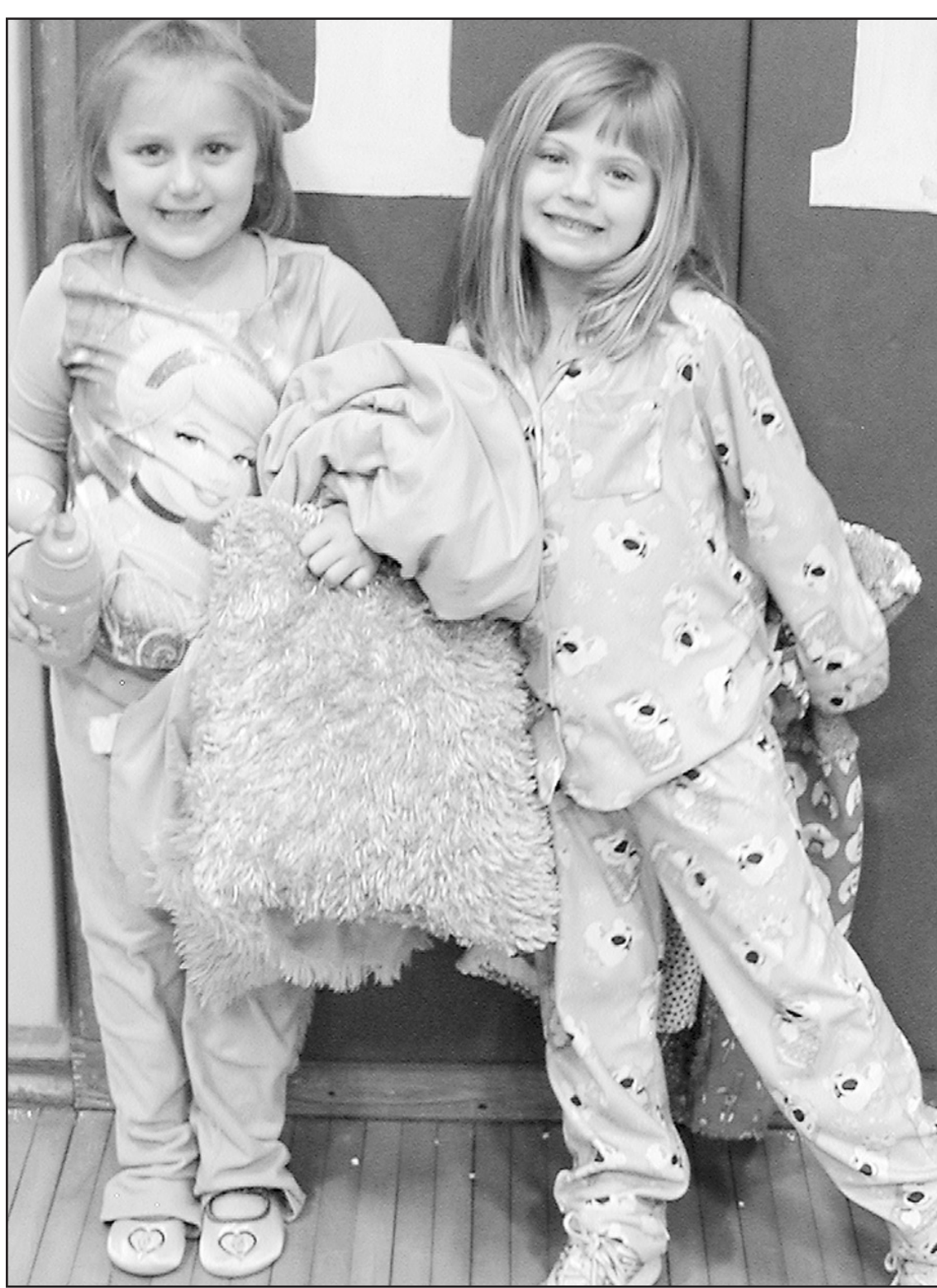
and grandparents. Once a child had chosen their gift, volunteers helped wrap them up so that they could stay a surprise until Christmas.

The children only had to pay 50 cents for each person they bought for. Kids walking in said they had brought money from their piggy banks to buy presents. Many families came to take advantage of such a fun time for the children.

Sherry Schultz, thrift store director, said that about 100 children came to shop.

"It was an amazing turnout. The kids all had a lot of fun! We appreciate all the help, the volunteers, and the donations of presents and wrapping materials."

Mrs. Schultz said that they plan to hold a kids shopping day again next year because the turnout was wonderful.



AS SCHOOL ENDED for the holiday break, there were a number of activities going on including a Christmas Tea at the home of Tim and Robin Burr, Polar Express party where grade school children wore their pajamas to school, brought their pillows and camped out on the gym floor for the 'Polar Express' movie, and gathered canned goods to give to the Food Pantry. Left, Kaylee Doyle and Cheyenne LaBarge were dressed in their pajamas; below: (l to r) Ryan Zimbal, Jesslynn Hountman, Talexa Weeter and Molly Gilliland.

Preparing for winter travel can save lives

It is the time of year where we do a lot of traveling with our families in the winter weather. We all want to arrive at our destination as safely as possible. Here is some information to help protect our littlest members of our families.

Most child car seats do not work properly or protect the child while the child is wearing heavy winter clothing. The harness cannot get tight enough and the child can slip through the harness during a violent crash. As a general rule of thumb bulky coats should not be worn by children in a car seat. Here is a way to check to see if your car seat works with the coat your child wears:

- Put the coat on your child, sit them in the child seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the harness webbing with your thumb and forefinger.
- Without loosening the harness, remove your child from the child seat.
- Take the coat off, and put your

child back in the child seat and buckle the harness straps, which are still adjusted as they were when he was wearing the coat.

• If you can now pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.

In order to keep the child warm while in the car seat, here is a few tips:

After placing the child in the car seat and properly securing the harness, place the coat backwards on the child, the closure towards the seat and the back of the coat facing away from the child. Placing the arms through the arm hole and having the coat on the outside of the harness working kind of like a blanket.

You can also use blankets or other clothing placed tight around the child as long as they are not between the child and the harness straps.

Information provided by Sheriff Beeson and Consumer Reports



Herald staff photos by Amanda Miller and Tim Burr



The 2013 Wigwam received an All-Kansas award. Bailey Merklin, senior caption editor, along with Randee Grover and Aly Schlepp, editors-in chief, review their All-Kansas critique from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association.

"Your book is impressive," said Judge B. McLachlan. All-Kansas is the top honor awarded to high schools for their publications, said Brenda Day, Wigwam staff instructor.

Herald photo by Brenda Day

First baby of year contest to begin

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With the first of the year arriving, the contest for First Baby of the Year 2014 has begun! The contest will end when The Herald staff receives a phone call and the baby and parents meet the rules of the contest.

There is only one requirement to win. The baby must be born to parents living in Cheyenne County for one month or more.

With the departure of Dr. Rebecca Allard, babies are not being delivered at the Cheyenne County Hospital at this time. However, the hospital is gearing up for resuming obstetric services in 2014. Dr. Megan Brown will begin accepting new obstetric patients in March, with deliveries to begin in August.

Without obstetric services at the hospital right now, any baby born to parents that live in Cheyenne County can win the baby contest. These parents and their new-born infant will be awarded gifts from

sponsors. Last year's First Baby of the Year contest winner was Krissiana Grace DeJong. Her parents are Chad and Lisa DeJong, of Goodland. Krissiana was born on Jan. 3, delivered by Dr. Allard at the baby and parents meet the rules of the contest.

Krissiana and her parents received prizes from St. Francis merchants as well as gifts from the hospital. Some businesses that participated in last year's contest included: Owens True Value, a gift; The Flower Shop, gift basket; First National Bank, a gift; Krien Pharmacy, room humidifier; Western State Bank, a gift; Sainty Liquor, bottle of champagne; United Methodist Thrift Store, \$20 gift card; and a year subscription to *The Saint Francis Herald* or *Bird City Times*.

The Saint Francis Herald office or staff must be notified as soon as possible following the birth. The Herald's number is 785-332-3162 or call 785-332-3246.