

Christmas lights turned on Friday night

By Karen Krien
Friday marks the opening of the Christmas season in St. Francis. At dusk, the colored Christmas lights which form a ceiling across Main Street and the lights on the trees will light up the street. Following Thanksgiving Day, there are many visitors in town to enjoy the festivities and they gather on the streets and in the many stores which will be open later in the evening.
At 5:30, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in St. Francis via fire truck with lights flashing and the siren sounding. After a few trips up and down Main Street, they will be at Owens' True

Value to visit with children and hand out candy canes.
Stores will be open until 8 p.m. and while people go from store to store, there will be Christmas music coming from the bank. Many of the businesses will have in-store drawings to entice people in to see their many gift items when they sign up.
The St. Francis firemen plan to have their "elf train" in service throughout the evening giving kids rides.
The movie showing at the Cheyenne Theater will be *Santa Clause 2*. St. Francis banks will

sponsor the first 100 tickets to kids, 14 and under. The St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce will provide free popcorn. Other concessions may be purchased. The movie begins at 7:30 but kids will want to arrive early to make sure they receive a free ticket.
Open Sundays
Many of the St. Francis businesses plan to be open on Sunday afternoons which will give people some extra shopping time. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at different businesses with Town and Country Clothing hosting the jolly couple on Sunday; Stevens' Kansas Territorial

on Dec. 8; Krien Pharmacy on Dec. 15 and Dee's Creation Dec. 22.
Dec. 15 celebration
The big Christmas celebration sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce has been set for Dec. 15. Stores will be open from 1 to 4 and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting with children first in Krien Pharmacy and then going to the band shell in Sawhill Park at 3 p.m.
The Caroling Contest will start at 3:30 p.m. More information is available in a related article in this issue of *The St. Francis Herald*.
Chili will be served in big cups starting at 3

p.m. and the drawings will be held at 4:30 p.m. The Chamber will be giving away three prizes of \$200 each in scrip money and there will be a drawing for a 24-inch flat-screen television. The Christmas On Us drawings for \$1,600 will also be held at that time. Check article elsewhere in this issue for more details.
"It should be a fun day and a fun holiday season," said Shawna Blanka, Chamber Christmas Committee chairman. "We are hoping that everyone plans to come to town, shop the stores and enjoy the entertainment, drawings and chili."

One person claims \$50 scrip money in weekly match

Last week, the Decision Weather and Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King ads had numbers matching the red Christmas On Us tickets on Page 2B but only one person came into the St. Francis Herald office to claim their \$50 in scrip.



McAtee

Becky McAtee, St. Francis, received \$50 in scrip and said this is the first time she had won a Christmas On Us prize. Her number was listed in the Decision Weather ad. She was uncertain how she would spend the scrip but mentioned the grocery store might be a likely place.
This week, there will be four numbers listed in different ads sponsored by businesses participating in the Christmas On Us Promotion. Throughout the next two weeks, there will be a total of eight Christmas giveaway numbers drawn and chances for eight \$50 scrip prizes. Those giveaway numbers un-

claimed by the Dec. 12 St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times issue will be given away at the Dec. 15 drawing held at 4:30 p.m. at the band shell in Sawhill Park.
In the holiday spirit, The St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times are once again sponsoring the Christmas On Us promotion. Anyone over 18 years old may participate in the giveaway by shopping at any participating St. Francis and Bird City businesses. Customers will receive one red ticket for each \$10 they spend.
People can also get one free ticket each week from The Herald or Times offices. No purchase is necessary.
Each week, ticket numbers will be placed in ads found on 1, 2, or 3B in the Herald and Times. Numbers should be matched with the second half of the tickets kept by customers. If a number is claimed before the grand drawing, it will once again be thrown back in with the other tickets to be drawn for on Dec. 15. Be sure to bring in your half of the ticket when claiming the prize and after Monday, the number will not be any
See SCRIP on Page 9A



WORK CONTINUES on the new addition and remodeling of the Cheyenne County Clinic in St. Francis. The rafters were placed on Friday and the superintendent plans to have it completely closed in by the end of the week.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Board follows progress on clinic addition

By Karen Krien
The Cheyenne County Hospital Board met with the clinic construction superintendent at their regular meeting on Nov. 20.
Rick Wells, Thissen Construction superintendent for the St. Francis clinic construction, updated the board on construction progress. He said the new addition will be framed in against the cold weather by the end of the week but broke the news that the clinic would need to be closed for approximately nine weeks while the demolition and actual remodeling is done. At that time, providers and staff will move temporarily to the basement of the hospital. The scheduled nine weeks out of the clinic could be less and should take place at the first of the year.

The board approved to pay Thissen Construction \$25,533.
The county health office will eventually be located in the basement of the clinic. It is presently located in the Brett Poling Chiropractic building on U.S. 36. Administrator Les Lacy said that most of the work in this area will be done by the hospital maintenance staff but, to make sure liability issues are covered, the area will need to be designed by an architect.
Administrator's report
Administrator Lacy reported that the number of people using the hospital was down compared to last year's numbers, blaming the low numbers on the economy and drought conditions.
"It has been a rough year for the hospital," he said.

He believes that the board and staff needs to be striving to keep residents at home for their health care needs instead of going out-of-town.
However, the hospital has been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting.
Susan Roelfs, county health nurse, and her staff have been providing flu vaccine, making the vaccine available at the senior centers, nursing homes and schools. The county health office has also opened after hours to allow working people a chance to be vaccinated.
The hospital staff has made some good contacts on the tax credit project and, while the economy is not good, there are some people in a position to use the tax credits. (See related article elsewhere in this issue.)

New employees at the hospital include: Kristina Blair, medical records to fill the clerical position vacated by Connie Holzwarth; Chaylene Krieger, lab-X-ray clerk, filling the position left by Bonnie Stasser.
The hospital employee Christmas party will be held Dec. 6 with employees paying their own way.
Financials reported
Jackie John, area director for Great Plains Health Alliance, gave the financials noting that the Bird City Clinic continues to be a "bright spot," running above budget.
Next meeting
The next meeting of the hospital board has been set for 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 19 in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

Weather turns cold; warms for holiday

By Karen Krien
After a week of warm temperatures ranging as high as 78 degrees on Friday, a cold front moved in on Sunday and left a few snowflakes and cold 30-degree temperatures during the day and dropped to 10 degrees during the night and early morning hours.
Up to 3 inches of snow had been predicted but it fell west in the Colorado front range which was obvious during the televised showing of the Bronco/Colts football game Sunday evening.
Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported highs throughout the week from 56 to 78 degrees. People were hanging Christmas lights and finishing up fall yard work before the cold spell moved in.
The area still needs moisture but

this cold spell brought nothing that could be recorded. Weather Observer Woodcox said it was so cold that the few snowflakes that fell didn't accumulate.
The National Weather Service is forecasting warming temperatures with the high on Thanksgiving Day predicted to reach 45 degrees and no moisture. The high on Friday is forecasted to be 48 but the low will drop to 20 degrees.
Temperatures recorded by Weather Observer Woodcox for last week are as follows:

Date	High	Low
Nov. 19	56	35
Nov. 20	63	42
Nov. 21	62	31
Nov. 22	78	32
Nov. 23	51	30
Nov. 24	30	20

Contractor bids job with no cost for labor

By Sandy Barnhart
Most of the Nov. 19 St. Francis City Council meeting was spent reviewing bids for cement work at the recycling center. The bids consisted of two packages. Package A would detail cement work for one-third of the building and package B detailed cement work for a 20 by 28 foot portion of the building where the new baler would set.
After reviewing all six bids the council accepted the bid from Anita Construction contingent upon Superintendent J.R. Landenberger and John Amack agreeing with the specs.
Anita Construction's bid stated that the city would furnish the materials of approximately \$2,500 for package A and approximately \$900 for package B. The bid then said that Anita Construction would volunteer the labor.
Other bids submitted were: Travis Milne, \$4,850 for package A, \$1,950

for package B; St. Francis Redi Mix, \$6,369 for package A, \$2,371 for package B; Goodys of Goodland, \$6,864 for package A, \$2,352 for package B; Troy Porter, \$5,470 for package A, \$2,047 for package B; Colby Stupka Construction, \$6,241 for package A, \$2,324 for package B or \$7,843 for both package A and B.
City hall
City Clerk Mary Lampe asked that the council consider putting blinds on the windows on the north side of the building. She explained that people had commented that when an officer was in the building at night the windows provided a clear view of what the officers were doing. The council asked that Clerk Lampe get bids for the windows on both sides.
Superintendent report
Lights - Superintendent J.R. **See NO CHARGE on Page 9A**

Collection of state income tax credits was one of the items of business at the Nov. 20 meeting of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board. Earlier this year, the board and administrator applied for and received permission to collect state income tax credits totaling \$300,000 with the money to be used for installing a heat and air conditioning system in the old part of the hospital and to erect a drive-through ambulance entrance on the rear of the old facility.
Both of these projects are needed and it would be easier and would cost less if the projects, especially the heat and air conditioning system, were installed when the new addition is being built on the hospital.
However, the board is nervous about making decisions to purchase systems and materials before at least \$200,000 has been committed.
"We will be taking our hospital project to bid in February and the board needs to feel relatively certain that we can fill the tax credit program to be comfortable enough to go with that part of the project," said Les Lacy, hospital administrator.
The heating and air conditioning system in the existing facility was a component of the original hospital project that was defeated in November 2000.

State taxes can be directed to hospital

Tax season is just around the corner but now there is a way that state taxes can be directed back to St. Francis.
"A lot of us have feelings about how much of the tax money we send to Topeka ever gets back to St. Francis," said Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator. "The hospital has a Kansas income tax credit that lets people steer their taxes back home and this is a way for people who want to donate to the hospital to maximize their contribution while minimizing their cost."
To qualify for and take advantage of this tax credit, taxpayers must file taxes in Kansas. When they make a qualified donation to the hospital's Emergency Entrance and Mechan-

ical Project, they will get 70 percent of that donation back as a Kansas income tax credit.
"This means that 70 percent of your donation is used to pay the Kansas income tax you owe. It's money you would have had to send to Topeka," the administrator said.
The most this program can cost the taxpayer if they don't overshoot their Kansas income tax liability is 30 percent of what is donated.
Using state tax credits
When the taxpayer files their federal income tax, their entire donation is deductible. Since everyone's tax circumstances are different, Administrator Lacy advises people to talk to their tax preparer about the impact of this deduction on the remainder of the cost.

While larger donations are welcome, Administrator Lacy uses the example of a \$1,000 donation:
Donation - \$1,000.
70 percent tax credit - \$700 (These are taxes paid even without making a donation.
Cost - \$300 (This \$300 had an impact of \$1,000 on the hospital because the taxpayer steered his/her taxes back home.
Federal income tax benefit - \$?? (Varies according to the person's income tax circumstances. Some people have a greater advantage, even making money, others may have little or no advantage. Again, visit with the tax preparer.)
"The bottom line is your maximum
See TAXES on Page 9A

This piece was cut out to be certain the remaining critical issues would have a chance of passing the general obligation bond election last April.
Administrator Lacy pointed out that replacing the heating and air conditioning after the remodeling project would require a repeat of some of the construc-

tion that will take place during the current project. He said that if the replacement of the 50-year-old system is to take place at all, it really needs to be done with the current project.
The hospital board and administration have been actively seeking donations for the project which brings do-

nors the reward of 70 percent Kansas Income Tax credits but a lot more work needs to be done. Administrator Lacy is quick to point out that Robert Van Allen and Rueben Schultz, hospital board members, have been volunteering time to help in one way or another
See COLLECTION on Page 9A



BUSY WITH ART PROJECTS — Makayla Rogers, left, and Sydney Sundstrom were finishing up their art projects at ABC Preschool.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

SCRIP

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good and a new number will be drawn and published in the next week's issue of the newspaper.

At 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 15 in the band shell, the grand drawing will be held. Some lucky person will take home \$1,000 in scrip. Two other Christmas On Us drawings will be held with the second place winner receiving \$500 and the third place winner \$100.

This year, the Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with the Herald and Times and will be giving away \$600 in scrip in three separate draw-

ings. Winners must be present to claim the prizes.

There will be caroling and chili in the afternoon. It should be a fun afternoon. The last day tickets will be given away is Dec. 13.

Sponsors for the Christmas On Us giveaway are:

- Bankwest
- Bier's Hometown Store
- Burr Liquor
- Cheyenne Bowl and Dairy King
- Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
- Decision Weather
- Downtown Repair

- Goodell Greenhouse
- Lampe Hardware
- Owens True Value
- P & L Ideal Meat Market
- Parkhill Restaurant
- Pizza Hut
- Tim E. Poling, D.D.S.
- Saintry Super Foods
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Equity
- St. Francis Herald
- Stevens' Kansas Territorial
- Tri-State Lumber and Tubing
- Video Kingdom

Book Reviews

Book Reviews from the St. Francis Public Library

Dana's Valley
By Janette Oke

Dana's Valley cradles an average town in mid-America. The Walshes are a rather ordinary family by today's standards. They love one another and do a lot of laughing and fun things together. Daily activities intertwine through church, school, work and play. Faith is an integral part of their lives as a family and as individuals.

The Walsh family includes the father, David, who is a leader both at church and in the community. Angela is a full-time homemaker, and she is a wonderfully nurturing and creative mother. Brett, the oldest of the kids, is just entering high school, and sports captivate his interest and fill his time. Dana, not quite ready for junior high, is petite, pretty and a very good student. Erin is a year

younger and a bit taller. Besides being sisters, the two girls are also best friends. Little brother Corey is a delight to the whole family with his curiosity and enthusiasm. And then, seemingly overnight, everything changes...

Each member of the family will be called on for resources and reserves of strength and character they did not know they had. And each will need to discover anew the God who is there in times of distress and in times of triumph.

The Haunted Mesa
By Louis L'Amour

L'Amour's inspiration for *The Haunted Mesa* is an enigma that has long baffled historians and anthropologists: the disappearance of a race of cliff dwellers whom the Navajos called the Anasazi. They were a progressive tribe who built their magnificent houses on and in cliffs in the Southwest. Suddenly, in the 13th century, they van-

ished. To this day, their disappearance remains unexplained.

The Haunted Mesa begins near a mesa so forbidding neither Indian nor white man chooses to live in its shadow. Summoned to this dark desert plateau by the desperate letter of an old friend, internationally renowned investigator of unexplained phenomena Mike Raglan finds himself slowly drawn into a world beyond the laws of man and nature, and learns the astonishing legacy of the Anasazi.

Drawing on his extensive knowledge of Indian lore and mysticism, as well as his love for the Southwest's Four Corners country, L'Amour has written an authentically detailed epic adventure that travels across the most extraordinary frontier his readers have ever experienced.

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POLICE OFFICERS The City of Topeka is recruiting for Police Officers. To pre-register for Civil Service exam to be given on 12/20/02 and 12/21/02 call City of Topeka Human Resources at (785) 368-3867 or e-mail tpd_test@topeka.org. Registration deadline: 5:00pm 12/19/02.

Chattin' With Casey

In every challenge lies an opportunity

Everyone has experienced a challenge, problem, or setback at one time or another. When the challenge meets you head-on, it can be overwhelming. I would invite you to look through the challenge, and you may find an even more overwhelming opportunity.

Dry years are tough to plan for, and even harder to pull through for agricultural communities. As the soil dries up, so do plants, animals, and income potential in the short term. Looking through those dry years and creative thinking to reach the other side is where one may find opportunity.

Plastic tips on shoe laces were an excellent idea that many benefit from.

Just as someone invented these plastic tips, probably after struggling to lace a shoe, farmers and ranchers have the opportunity to benefit from ideas that pull their operations through the drought. Creative, "outside of the box" thinking can result in less costly, more efficient means of agricultural production.

K-State Research and Extension would like to assist the farmers and ranchers by providing information and tools to help them make management decisions. This information is available through publications, conversations with agents and specialists, and programming brought into the area. Up-



Casey Johnson
Extension Ag Agent

coming programs include:
NRC Ration Balancing Workshop on Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Court Room
Kansas Water Issues and Policies on Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stevens County Courthouse in Hugoton.
Any Questions, information requests, or suggestions from subjects of future programming are encouraged and appreciated. With some creative thinking, the next widely used farming practice, ranch management practice, or cost-effective ration for livestock could come from a producer in Cheyenne County.

NO CHARGE

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Landenberger reported that the Christmas lights were up.

Well 11 - He noted that Well 11 had been pulled and the motor had gone bad. The motor will cost approximately \$6,500 plus the \$800 for pulling the well.

The well, since being put down, has pumped around 2 million gallons of water or has been used around 40 hours. Superintendent Landenberger explained that this was minimum for the well and will be checking with the contractor that put the well down as to what went wrong with it. He will also check with the insurance company to find out if the well is covered by insurance.

Ball field - Superintendent Landenberger told the council that Eric Fiala had given him the water meter readings for the ball field and the readings were under the state's water rights regulations.

Boiler - After checking five different name brands for boilers at the swimming pool, Superintendent Landenberger settled on one for approximately \$6,250. This price does not include installing the boiler. The council noted that the purchase of a boiler was in the 2003 budget and asked that Superintendent Landenberger see if the price would still be good after the first of the year.

Attorney report

City Attorney Mike Day informed the council that the annexation agreement for the property owners south of town was complete. The council approved the agreement and instructed Clerk Lampe to contact the owners for their signatures.

Attorney Day also noted that a letter had been received from James Hardt concerning the north part of the River Walk. Mr. Hardt still requested no public access across the property.

Other business

In other business:
• The council approved to give city employees each \$125 in scrip money

this year. The amount is the same as the previous year.

• Transfers include \$35,000 from Utility Funds to Employee Benefits and \$30,000 from Utility Funds to General Funds.

• Assistant Clerk Glorianne Milne gave a brief summary on the schooling in Wichita she attended.

• Mayor Scott Schultz reminded the council on the possibility of putting up a plaque in the hall of the city building. The plaque would hold the names of memorial donations to city projects or entities.

Council comments

• Council woman Natalie Knodel noted that when the Swimming Pool Committee is formed that Margaret Poling would be interested in serving

on the committee.

• Council woman Kay Shay also noted that Anita Marin would also be interested in serving on the Swimming Pool Committee.

• Councilman Rodney Bracelin asked that Attorney Day check into what it would take to name the street in the new development area south of town.

Executive session

Superintendent Landenberger requested 5 minutes in executive session for legal matters.

Attorney Day requested 5-10 minutes in executive session for legal matters.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the St. Francis Public Library.

COLLECTION

Continued from Page 1A

with this project. (See related article for more information about tax credits to the hospital.)

The hospital has raised \$428,500 and still needs \$271,500 to reach its goal by Dec. 31, 2003. Tax credits are available for 2002 and 2003 tax years.

Administrator Lacy believes the hospital's goals can be reached by making a sufficient number of contacts both locally and out-of-town. He points out

that the drought has been a huge factor in the ability of county residents to participate. At the same time, he believes that if people will participate even at the minimum \$250 level (he is quick to add that more would be better), the goal is attainable.

"This project is critical and these tax credits are too good of a deal. Failure is not an option!" Administrator Lacy said.

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

much cost at 30 percent of your total donation. Your actual cost could be much less than this if you itemize your deductions for federal income tax," Administrator Lacy said.

Contact

Contact Melissa Workman or Administrator Lacy for details on how to make a contribution.

"If you can't donate now, you may

want to commit a donation by the end of the year to reserve tax credits in your name," Administrator Lacy said.

It is a good way to make donated dollars stretch to do the most good. Tax credits are available in 2002 and 2003 and, while commitments are welcome in 2003, it is important to have at least \$200,000 committed by the first of the year.

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