



MAHRA PADGETT was enjoying her cotton candy  
Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Fourth deemed a success

By Karen Krien  
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The weather was perfect for the Fourth of July fireworks display Monday evening. There was a slight breeze, the temperature had cooled down and people were everywhere.

The evening's activities were held on the Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning and Park Hill Restaurant lots. The Girl Scouts and the Shriner's Candy Wagon were set up so people could get cupcakes, cookies, drinks, popcorn and cotton candy. At Neitzel's, Randy Smestead had his music playing and Amy Rieger

was in charge of the Karaoke singing.

People had brought lawn chairs, others were sitting on blankets or in the backs of pickups. People living anywhere close had their yards full of people. Vehicles were parked everywhere.

As the sun went down, John Amack and his crew and Roger and Rodney Neitzel were ready to light the fireworks they had set up earlier in the day. Amy sang the national anthem and the display started. For the next hour, there was an outstanding display of fireworks accompanied by patriotic music.

### Triathlon

The Fourth activities actually began at 6:30 a.m. when people started registering for the triathlon sponsored by the Sainty swim team. Young and old participated with Michael Sager coming in with the best time, having swam 13 laps, rode his bike to the end of the oil on the River Road north of town, then back to the pool, only to park it and run another .50 mile. The younger kids had a shorter race. (See results elsewhere in this issue.)

### Parade and games

The activities continued in the park where a kids' parade was

held. There were children from babies to sixth graders. They were riding decorated bikes, scooters, trikes and skates. The younger kids were being pulled in decorated wagons and strollers. It was a collage of red, white and blue.

After the children paraded in the band shell, they then paraded around the block with Reid Raile leading the children on a four-wheeler with patriotic music playing.

Games followed. Organized by Lori Raile, Sharissa Andrist and Kari Gilliland, there were three-legged races, bubbles and water-

See FOURTH on Page 9A



## More rain keeps harvesters out of wheat fields

By Karen Krien  
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Rain has delayed wheat harvest in northwest Kansas for a while but, by Tuesday, the trucks were lining up at the elevators. The threat of rain had the trucks coming in well after dark.

The first load of wheat brought in to end the Harvest Countdown contest was Wednesday, June 29. The days were hot. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported a high of 104 on June 30. Then the rain began and Mrs. Woodcox reported 2.17 on Friday, July 1. The temperature that day was a high of 91 but, by the Fourth of July, it was up to 98 degrees.

The National Weather Service is forecasting a chance of showers for the next five days and temperatures below 100.

Shirley Zwegardt, St. Francis Equity grain manager, said trucks came through until almost midnight Tuesday but the showers pretty much shut down the harvest. Most of the wheat was coming from south of U.S. 36. Not much has been harvested north of St. Francis.

She said it is a little early in the season to determine yields but it appears that this year's wheat is an "average" crop. The test weights have been good at 61 to 64 pounds.

Wheeler Equity was slow on Wednesday because of the rain that morning.

The rain, high humidity and little sunshine has pretty much stopped the combines. Dale Weeks, manager, said. If it didn't rain that night, Mr. Weeks expected harvest to start up the next day.

Some of the wheat, he said, has been good and some poor, but even the poor is decent. Yields have been from 29 bushels per acre to the mid 70s.

In Bird City, Claude Gleason brought in the first load to the Frontier Ag elevator on Friday, June 29. Actually he brought in five loads that day.

Harvest in Cheyenne County is just getting started. Much of the wheat in the fields is ready to be harvested but the fields are just too wet for the machinery to get in.

Virgina Cooper, northwest of St. Francis, reported 4 inches of rain on Saturday night. Gilbert Ochsner, northwest of town, had 1.5 inches of rain.

Rain has also caught some alfalfa on the ground waiting to be baled. However, the corn, feed, other crops and pastures are looking good.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
June 28	78	49	
June 29	103	65	
June 30	104	59	T
July 1	91	67	.02
July 2	87	58	2.17
July 3	92	58	
July 4	98	62	
July 5	100	64	.22



HARVEY NEITZEL brought in the first load of wheat to the Wheeler Equity Elevator on June 29. Adam Arensdorf probes the wheat before it was unloaded.  
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Farmer brings in first load

By Karen Krien  
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Wednesday, June 29, Harvey Neitzel put on his new shirt and drove to the Wheeler Equity bringing in the first load of wheat in the St. Francis/Wheeler area.

Dale Weeks, elevator manager, said the load came in at 8:12 a.m., had 13.8 moisture and

60.7 test weight.

Harvey's wheat came from his land south of Wheeler. He has been a frequent winner but said, next year, he probably won't have the first load as he is planting a different variety.

I've planted Jagger for years, he said, saving seed each year for next year's crop. Next year, he

plans to plant a variety that yields more bushels.

At 80 years old, he said he has farmed most of his life. When his brothers went off to war, he stayed at home to help his dad.

Harvey raises wheat and cattle. A real competitor, he said he has enjoyed bringing in the first load.

## Contest ends on June 29

By Karen Krien  
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The Harvest Countdown contest ended Wednesday, July 29, when the first load of wheat came in at 8:12 a.m. at the Wheeler Elevator.

There were 32 people guessing that June 29th would be the date the first load of wheat came in and the winners had the June 29 date on their entry form. Wilma Floyd was the first place winner, guessing the time to be 8:39 a.m. She will receive \$50 scrip money.

Second place went to Deb Patton, with a time of 9:15 a.m. and she will receive \$35.

Taking home \$15 scrip will be Mary Merlkin who guessed an early-in-the-morning time of 6:38 a.m.

"We had a good turnout with hundreds of guesses," said Anita Schmid, ad salesman for *The Herald*.

The winners will need to pick up their scrip money at *The Herald* office and will be able to spend it in the following participating businesses: Bella's Market, Cheyenne Lumber, K-Store, Majestic Service and Truck Stop, Pizza Hut, The Saint Francis Herald and Western State Bank.

### First load

Bringing in the first load was Harvey Neitzel. His wheat came from his land south of Wheeler. The moisture was 13.8 percent and the weight was 60.7 pounds.

See ENDS on Page 9A