

# Commissioners adopt burn ban

By Karen Krien  
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The Cheyenne County Commissioners voted to adopt a burn ban resolution when they met on Friday.

As of Friday morning, there had been days of temps in the 90s and 100s accompanied by wind that blew day and night. The wheat fields were ripening and the pastures dry – all conditions that could tender a fire that could spread and wipe across acres of wheat and grass in minutes.

Ryan Murray, emergency director, had brought a draft of a burn ban resolution. The commissioners discussed having a ban on fireworks but decided to wait to see if it rained.

On Friday night, rain fell with reports being anywhere from .25 inch to .75 inch. While it dampened some of the alumni gatherings, it brought some much needed moisture but not enough to rescind the ban. The burn ban is still in place until the commissioners deem fit to lift it.

# Fireworks have been unloaded

Part of the Fourth of July celebration fireworks have been unloaded for this year's elaborate display and they are more than just firecrackers and roman candles.

"They are bigger and better than last year's," said Roger Neitzel, one of the organizers for the celebration to be held in St. Francis.

There will be around 55 minutes of fireworks set to patriotic music with the larger fireworks being set off toward the end of the celebration.

This year, some of the fireworks are costing \$125. The organizers have planned the show so there is little delay between each display but that means lots of fireworks.

However, the cost of the celebration includes more than fireworks.

While the fireworks cost is the most expensive, said Rodney

Neitzel, there are also the costs for advertising, prizes, banners and the port-a-potties.

Containers have been placed at Bella's Market, Uptown Market, Owens, K-Store and several other places. People are asked to drop their change in the containers along with larger bills and checks. Those people who are not out and around may send a check to Box 673, St. Francis, 67756. Make out the check to Cheyenne County July 4th.

We appreciate all the donations, Mr. Neitzel said.

If there is money left over, some will be put back for next year's celebration but the majority of the money will be used to help purchase flags for the highway.

Each year, we plan to make the July Fourth celebration bigger and better, Mr. Neitzel said. And, each year, we plan to give back to the community.

# Special guests attend regular club meeting

The St. Francis Lions Club met at the Church of Christ for their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 11. The past district governor, Bill Beamgard and his wife Jean, Atwood, were special guests as Mr. Beamgard installed the new officers for 2012-2013. They are Milton Lampe, president; Warren Cico, first vice-president; Joyce Russ, secretary; Elmer Kellner, treasurer; Marvin Zimelman, Lion Tamer; Dale Patton, Tail Twister.

Informational packets were distributed to the members for the Community Calendar Campaign which will begin soon. In other business the club voted to send \$50 to the "One Shot-One Life" Measles Eradication program for Lions Club International. An additional \$50 was committed to the



Milton Beamgard

State Lions Band Uniform Fund. The 2012-2013 Budget was also presented for study and approval at the July meeting.

Mr. Beamgard shared information about the State Lions Sight Foundation and three success stories of individuals from the North-west Kansas area that had been helped in the past and have a much better life after the Sure-Sight detected and the KU Med Center corrected their eye problems.

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ST. FRANCIS FIREMEN were called northwest of St. Francis to put out a wheat field fire on Monday.

# County wheat harvest in full swing

By Tim Burr  
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The wheat harvest in Cheyenne County has been progressing since the first load was delivered on June 9. Rain, which fell Friday evening, stopped the combines for about a day, but by Sunday afternoon machines and trucks were running, and wheat was again being delivered to grain facilities across the county. The annual lineup of trucks waiting to get on the scale and dump their loads at the grain elevators indicated that harvest was in full swing.

Producers who have been contacted have stated that the quality of the crop has remained quite good, even after the rain. Test weights are consistently averaging over 60 pounds, and moistures are good. Protein levels are yet to be determined.

Those producers who have talked about yields say they have been pleased. There had been some concern that the dry spring would effect yield, but reports are that yields have been good. Grain prices, which can vary greatly within a few days, or even within the same daily market, seem to have been somewhat stable for the past couple of weeks.

Weather forecasts for the remainder of the week indicate very warm and dry conditions, which will be ideal for the crews to get the harvest out of the fields. Hot and dry weather, abundant stubble, and a lot of vehicles and equipment in the fields also set up conditions favorable for field fires.

There have been a number of fires reported in the area over the last few days. Rural fire crews from Bird City and St. Francis worked a fire just northwest of St. Francis on Monday afternoon, after the St. Francis crew had been called back from assisting Yuma county on a fire near the Three Corners area of extreme North-west Cheyenne county earlier that morning. The fire was in a field that was partially harvested, and the fire crews were able to contain the fire to that field. There were no reports of damage to equipment or vehicles as a result of the fire.

At the pace harvest can progress with large and efficient equipment and crews, and if the weather holds, by the end of the week a large portion of the 2012 wheat harvest is expected to be completed.



DARRIS DeGOOD, above, pulls his truck into the elevator to haul a load of wheat at the St. Francis Equity on Monday. Below, Jared Douthit pulled on to the scales at Barlett Grain.

Herald staff photos by Tim Burr



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