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Council agrees; Fourth celebration plans still in place

By Karen Krien

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The Fourth of July is a week away and plans continue to be put in place as the Cheyenne County July 4th celebration nears. Earlier, the commissioners had put a burn ban on the county but the St. Francis City Council voted to allow fireworks within the city limits including the July 4th celebration.

"We are taking all precautions against starting a fire," said Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators. "We will have at least one and possibly two fire trucks at the site."

"We have a great day planned," he said. "And it will end with 55 minutes of spectacular fireworks set to patriotic music. It is one of the best shows in the area."

There will be activities starting at 7 a.m. on Wednesday. Look elsewhere for more information on plans throughout the day.

The evening activities begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Hill Restau-

rant and Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning lots. There will be two food vendors serving a variety of food ranging from funnel cakes and tator twists, to cotton candy and snow cones. The Great American Hamburger Meal will also be served.

From 6:30 to 9:45 p.m., there will be music provided by Randy Smestad as well as a karaoke sing-a-long. This will be held at Neitzel's parking lot. At 8:30, the young people will take over the microphone, singing patriotic songs. All kids are welcome. For more information, call Kari at 332-3654 or 332-2101.

The fireworks will begin at 9:50. There is plenty of space for parking vehicles as well as bodies. People are urged to find a place anywhere along U.S. 36 as long as it is between College and Denison streets. There is plenty of space from the sale barn to the drive of the Good Samaritan Village.

There will be plenty of food,

Schedule

- 7 a.m.-Triathlon, swimming pool.
- 7 a.m.-Fishing contest, Keller Pond.
- 10-10:15 a.m.-Kids Parade, Park.
- 10:15-noon-Children's games, park.
- 10:30-1:30 Young Peoples Band, park.
- 11:30-1:30-Hot dog meal, Uptown Market.
- Noon-Hot dog eating contest.
- 1-4 p.m.-Swimming/games at Pool.
- 1 p.m.-Road Rally/Poker Run, park.
- 2-3 p.m.-Patriotic sing-a-long, Old Country Church, U.S. 36.
- 3-4 p.m.-Museum open house and ice cream feed.
- 6:30-8 p.m.-Hamburger meal, Park Hill Restaurant.
- 6:30-10 p.m.-Food vendors.
- 6:30-9:45 p.m. Music, karaoke, Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning lot.
- 8:30 p.m.-Young people sing.
- 9:50-11:45 p.m. Fireworks.

snacks, sodas and water for sale, said Mr. Neitzel, so most people won't need to bring anything other than your lawn chairs and blankets.



FIREWORKS WERE SPECTACULAR last year and they are expected to be even better this year. Make arrangements to attend the celebration. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



DR. MARY BETH MILLER is instructing Lauren Ferrell during her rotation in Cheyenne County. Dr. Miller has received notification that the American Academy of Family Physicians has named her National Exemplary Teacher, Volunteer Status. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

County adopts burn ban with city excluded

By Karen Krien

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Concerns have been raised as to whether or not to allow fireworks to be lit through July 4. As of 4 p.m. on Tuesday, people may light fireworks in the city of St. Francis as long as there is extreme caution made while doing so. Parents are advised to supervise their children while lighting fireworks. If there are any fires caused because of fireworks, a ban could be put in place immediately.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the June 15 meeting, voted to adopt a burn ban resolution, but were waiting for the recommendation from George Harper, St. Francis fire chief, as to whether or not to ban fireworks.

On Tuesday, Chief Harper said that his recommendation was that there be no fireworks in the county but cities could set bans as needed.

Both Bird City and St. Francis councils met on Monday evening. The St. Francis city council voted to allow fireworks within the city limits; the Bird City council voted not to allow

fireworks within the city limits.

Anyone starting a fire outside the St. Francis city limits or anywhere else in the county, whether it be a ditch fire, trash or fireworks, can be fined up to \$500 or one month in jail or both.

Hot temps continue

Temperatures have been 100 degrees and over for the last week. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported five days of temperatures over 100 with the highest being 110 degrees on June 24. The National Weather Service is forecasting 100 degrees or more through Monday.

The wind, for the most part, has blown an average of 15 to 20 miles an hour with gusts anywhere from 30 to 50 miles per hour.

The hot weather was great harvest weather and farmers are reporting good yields despite earlier predictions. However, the pastures are suffering. The St. Francis sale barn will be opening again on Wednesday, July 11, and then every other week afterwards. This will give

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Stephanie Busse earned the title, Cheyenne County Young Miss at the program held Saturday. Runners up were Allyson Northrup, Laura Brunk and Aubrey Mills. See article on Page 7. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Wheat harvest in Cheyenne County winds down

As you drive the roads and view all the stubble fields, it appears that the 2012 wheat harvest in Cheyenne County is all but over. "There are a couple of producers who are finishing their last fields, and should be done within a day or two. The big push is well over," reported Sean Cravens, location manager at Frontier Ag in Bird City.

Often, producers have to return to previously harvested fields to finish cutting the low spots and lagoons that needed to dry out. "That won't be the case this year. Man, it's been so hot and dry, everything got ready fast," said Shirley Zweggardt of the St. Francis Equity.

Weather, which usually plays a roll during harvest, again played a roll by providing good cutting conditions. Since the beginning of harvest, there was only one rain which delayed cutting by only about a day. This harvest, which may have been one of the earliest to have begun, may also be one of the earliest to be completed.

Grain dealers report that most producers seem quite pleased with their yields. There had been con-

cern that the hot and dry spring may have hurt the crop, but that doesn't seem to be the case. Wade Carmichael, Bird City producer, stated that he was very pleased with his harvest. "We had some continuous crop that wasn't very good, but the rest of our harvest was great."

"We're hearing some very good numbers on yields, and we saw excellent quality," said Dale Weeks of the Wheeler Equity. The elevators were able to handle the harvest pretty efficiently, moving some grain out by rail and truck, to be able to keep dumping. A lot of grain also went in to on farm storage according to the grain dealers.

The dry spring is having an effect on the county cattlemen, also. Grass, which should be tall and lush this time of year, is short and brown. Cattlemen are being forced to intensively manage their pastures and feed resources much earlier in the summer than usual. Weather, in this agricultural community, governs our farming and ranching efforts. The weather forecast for the remainder of this week is continued hot and dry.



GRANT KELLER scared up a pheasant while cutting a wheat field for Stanley Keller. By Tuesday, most of the wheat in the county had been cut. The weather has been hot but yields have been reported good. Herald staff photo by Tim Burr