



Fireworks display set for Sept. 2

By Karen Krien

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Day after day of temperatures over 100 degrees and no rain forced the mayor and St. Francis City Council to forbid all fireworks in the city limits including the planned Cheyenne County July 4th fireworks display.

The decision was necessary, said Scott Schultz, mayor. There

was no rain in sight and we just couldn't take the chance of houses and land catching fire.

Even though we were a little disappointed about not having the fireworks display, said Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, we thought it was the best decision.

The committee of Roger Neitzel, John and Anita Amack, Joyce

Russ and Rodney agreed that, if weather condition improve, they will plan to have the fireworks display including the karaoke, kids singing, hamburger meal and fireworks on Sept. 2, the Sunday of the Labor Day weekend.

Patriotic music will still be great with the fireworks, Rodney said. We are looking forward to it.

On Wednesday, the day started

with the triathlon (swimming, biking and running), the fishing contest, the kid's parade in the park followed by games, the young people's band and the hot dog eating contest at Uptown Market. There was also a hot dog meal served to those watching.

At 1 p.m., the people participating in the road rally and poker run met at the park to register. They

were driving from St. Francis to Atwood, Colby, Goodland and back to St. Francis. They not only had fun but also raised money for the July 4th fireworks display and for the Billy Samler Memorial fund.

Also at 1, the swimming pool open for cooling off while playing games. At 1:30 p.m., the community garden open house was held.

Betsy Ross old fashioned patriotic sing-a-long started 2 p.m. at the Old County Church on U.S. 36. There was also a ice cream social held at the museum at this time.

The day didn't end with a bang but most people were supportive of the council and mayor in their decision to try to protect the people, town and surrounding areas.

Emergency call system will notify residents

Cheyenne County 911, in conjunction with Cheyenne County Emergency Management, are implementing the Nex-Tech Total Notify Emergency alert system.

The TotalNotify Emergency Alert System has the ability to send telephone notifications to Cheyenne County residents in the event of an emergency. Emergency notifications are delivered to your home phone number, but can also be delivered via cell phones, text message, and e-mail if the information is provided.

If you do not have a home phone but utilize a cell phone, enter your cell phone number in the primary phone number field, said Jennifer Padgett, county communications director. By entering your cell phone we will be able to notify you directly should there be an emergency in your neighborhood or surrounding area. If there is no phone number tied to the physical address of your home we cannot guarantee that we will be able to reach you immediately if an emergency should arise.

All information obtained is strictly confidential and will be

used for emergency notifications only.

If you live anywhere within Cheyenne County you can sign up for local emergency alerts. Its quick and easy!

We are in the beginning stages of implementing the mass notification system, said Mrs. Padgett, and it will tied to your 911 home or business address. You will receive tornado emergency alerts.

Go to the following link to sign up! [http://alert.totalnotify.com/Public/Signup.aspx?SUID="+haslDU5zb8oRU3fGETivA%3D%3D](http://alert.totalnotify.com/Public/Signup.aspx?SUID=)

There is a link to the sign up website listed on the Cheyenne County homepage at www.cheyennecounty.org

Please contact Cheyenne County Dispatch, 785-332-8822, or Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service, 785-332-8888, if you need assistance in signing up.

We can help you!!! she said.

Tip

A helpful tip for signing up:
• Enter your house number and password, select submit, and there will be a drop down list of addresses that you are able to choose from.

Administrator leaves hospital for new position

Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital Administrator, has accepted a position as vice president for regional operations for Great Plains Health Alliance. He resigned from his position as administrator effective Oct. 1 at the Cheyenne County Hospital regular board meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Lacy originally came to the community as a traveling nurse in February of 1992 and transitioned to the administrator position in May of 1993.

Mr. Lacy said he is pleased that he will be assigned to Cheyenne County Hospital as one of his responsibilities.

"I believe in the future of health-care in Cheyenne County and hope this transition will help me to be of more value to the hospital and the community," he said.

He said that he has no plans to relocate and he plans to continue to be involved in the community.



FIREMEN RUSHED to a fire west of town when a load of haybales caught fire.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

Hot temps plague area

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis area has had day after day of 100 degree or more weather. There have been a few showers and some people have actually had some rain.

Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported six of the last seven days have had temperatures of over 100 degrees with the highest of 110 degrees on June 26. The report last week had June 23-25 also having over 100 degrees with the high, again, of 110 falling on June 24.

She recorded a trace of rain in St. Francis on June 28, June 29 and June 30.

However, most of the rain was accompanied by lightning.

Lightning, said George Harper, fire chief, along with fireworks have caused most of the fires in the last week. Since the first of the year, volunteer firemen have gone on around 60 runs but the majority of them have been in the last couple of weeks because of the extremely dry conditions. It should be noted that emergency medical technicians have also traveled to the fires to help if there are cases of heat exhaustion or injury.

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WATER, SPORTS DRINKS and snacks are being gathered for firemen as they fight fires. Pictured, left to right, are Mark Mills, Reid Raile and Jannelle Bowers.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Runway completed —



CHEYENNE COUNTY RUNWAY is officially open for business. The new runway, constructed of concrete, is longer and wider, and able to handle the air traffic coming into the county. Look for more information next week.

Funds needed to pay for fireworks

By Karen Krien

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The fireworks display planned for July 4, was moved to Sunday, Sept. 2, because of hot, dry conditions in St. Francis and the surrounding area. However, the fireworks still need to be paid for.

At the first of the week, the money for the fireworks to be displayed on July Fourth was still short of paying the bill. John Amack, one of the fireworks committee, reported that he had paid the fireworks when they were ordered in the spring.

That is how it works when these types of fireworks are ordered, he said.

There were probably a number of reasons why the money was slow coming in. Maybe, Rodney Neitzel said, people could

see the weather forecast and dry conditions and were afraid there wouldn't be a fireworks display. Harvest was also early so many of the farmers and their families were too busy cutting their wheat to worry about money coming in for fireworks.

Whatever the case, the committee was still around \$3,500 short of having enough money.

During the different events held on Wednesday, buckets and other containers were placed so people could drop money in them. A total of the collections will be accounted for in next week's Herald.

People, if they would like to help, can send donations to P.O. Box 673, St. Francis, KS 67756. Checks should be made out to Cheyenne County July 4th..