



Drought takes toll on fall harvest

By Tim Burr
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As it was with the 2012 wheat harvest, the 2012 fall harvest in Cheyenne County has arrived several weeks earlier than normal.

Although most irrigated corn fields are not yet dry enough to pick and store, there have been several fields of high-moisture corn picked and delivered to local feedlots. There has been some spot cutting of milo near Bird City, and a few fields of soybeans have been harvested. Quality of these early fields has been reported as better than expected, although not enough has been harvested to determine any yields.

The continuing drought has certainly taken a toll on the crops. In every part of the county, withered and stunted fields are quite visible.

Many corn and milo fields, which were planted in the spring with the intention of harvest for grain, have been chopped for ensilage or swathed to be baled for cattle feed. Many fields may be abandoned.

Even on irrigated fields, it is a concern of many producers that the hot and dry conditions this growing season, especially during the pollinating period, affected the ability of the plant to produce grain. Producers always look forward to the harvest season, but most feel that this will be a challenging harvest.

Nationwide, crops have been affected by growing conditions, and yield expectations are low. The commodities futures markets reflect this information, as grain prices, especially soybeans, are at near record highs.

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FALL HARVEST has just begun in the county. This field of milo is being swathed instead of putting it up for grain. The

drought has been hard on fall crops and it looks like planting wheat will need a rain.
Herald staff photo by Tim Burr



THE FLOWER SHOP has a new owner. Above, Andi Culwell arranges flowers for a bouquet. See Page 6 for more information on the shop. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Teacher takes over new class

By Karen Krien
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The Headstart program has a new teacher this year.

Marian Ochsner, also known as "Ms. O," replaces Lori Beth Rieger, who taught children in the program for several years.

This is Mrs. Ochsner's first year for teaching the program, although for the last 16 years, she taught second grade in Burlington, Colo. She has a full class with 18 "active, ready-to-learn little bodies," she said.

"I love working with children of all ages," Mrs. Ochsner said.

Last year, she had the opportunity to sub in all grade levels. While she said she had a great time, she missed her own classroom.

This being my first year in Head Start, she said, I have many goals I want my little ones to accomplish, but I need to weigh my excitement on time and ability. They are all individuals with different ability levels. My main goal is to prepare them for kindergarten.

When I was young, she said, I wanted to be a teacher. I would have the neighborhood kids at my



NEW HEADSTART teacher, Marian Ochsner, enjoys sitting with her little students at breakfast. Staff photo by Karen Krien

house after school and I would have all sorts of activities for them to do.

As her children were growing up, she had different jobs but, she said, the one she loved the most

was having a preschool and day-care in her home.

"Their creative abilities inspired me to go on to college and get my degree in teaching at Fort Hays

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Week of activities starts

Brunk Douthit Harris Gienger Neitzel Keller

Northrup Leibbrandt Whitmore Raby

St. Francis high school homecoming week has arrived and will end with the crowning of the homecoming king and queen on Friday followed by the football game on Greene Field with the Wray Eagles. Game time is 7 p.m.

On Friday, this year's king and queen candidates were selected and they are: Thomas Douthit, Zach Gienger, Casey Keller, Mikey Leibbrandt and Tyler Raby, Laura Brunk, Krissy Harris, Clarice Neitzel, Ally Northrup and Sarah Whitmore.

The crowning of the king and queen will be held during a pep

assembly starting at 2 p.m. in the gym. From 5:30 to 7 p.m., the cheer squad will hold a cheesy potato and chili soup supper served with cinnamon rolls.

Throughout the week, activities have been planned. Monday, the students came to school dressed as if they were working their dream job. That evening, seniors painted a portion of Main Street.

Tuesday, students brought their pens, wore their T-shirts and had a T-shirt signing party. The bonfire started at 8:15 and First National Bank employees served ice cream floats.

There were lots of "look alike"

walking the halls on "Twin Day," held on Wednesday.

Thursday, was volleyball appreciation day and all students were encouraged to dress up. At 4 p.m., the high school volleyball ladies hosted the Imperial and Benkelman ladies in the high school gym.

The junior high football and volleyball teams will host Oberlin-Decatur County with the volleyball games starting at 4:30 p.m. and the football team playing at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, the homecoming dance will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the high school.

Man retires after 42 years

By Karen Krien
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Keith Dankenbring's last day at Bumper to Bumper was Friday.

After 42 years, Keith said, I am retiring!

Mr. Dankenbring went to work for John Wolfe at the parts store in 1970. In 1981, Keith and Roger Lauer bought one-half of the business with Myron Bracelin and John Wolfe remaining as silent partners. Within 5 years, Mr. Lauer and Mr. Dankenbring bought out the silent partners and were sole owners until Andy Beikman bought the business in January 2008. Keith continued to work for Mr. Beikman.

"I'll miss the people," Mr. Dankenbring said about his retirement. "I'm a people person and I've enjoyed working with a lot of good customers that have supported us through the years."

But it wasn't always "work." He said that he had 42 years of fun at the parts store.

Being there, he said, made it easy to be involved with people who were broke down or stranded. Like the pretty girl whose car was broke down.

"I brought her to my house and I asked Cinda (his wife), 'can I help her?'" he said.

Her grandfather and brother picked her up the next day.

We had fun everyday, he said. Almost every customer that came in got picked on or insulted in some way with a few exceptions. One customer said he was feeling pretty good about himself so he



KEITH DANKENBRING looks up a part on the computer. Friday was his last day at Bumper To Bumper.

thought he'd come down and get insulted.

However, there were a few frustrations along the way, especially, he said, when the freight truck broke down or was unable to

come to St. Francis and there were customers waiting for parts.

Working that many years, Mr. Dankenbring had stories to tell. One in particular was a story that

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