



## Harvest in full swing

By Tim Burr  
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People in the county who are not directly involved still expect to see lots of activity in the area when the wheat harvest arrives. Normally, pickups, combines, and support equipment will be hurrying from field to field, trucks will be heading to town to take their place in the line at the elevators, the tire repair shops are busy keeping people going, and lots of food and drinks are headed out to the hungry crews. This year, people may not see much this activity, it would seem, as the harvest is quite noticeably less busy than usual.

The wheat harvest generally progresses from southeast to northwest in the area. The wheat south of town had suffered the most distress from the drought, and overall yields, as was expected, are low.

North of town, yields are better, but still a long way from good. As of Monday, there were some fields with green wheat still needing a few more days to ripen.

The elevator operators all stated that test weight and quality were remaining acceptable, in fact, better than expected, and that they had plenty of room, expecting to be able to easily handle the harvest.

"Its hard to tell, especially this harvest, but we may be as much as half done by Monday night," said Shirley Zweygardt, St. Francis Equity grain manager.

"Combines, equipment and storage space are plentiful. The only thing that isn't plentiful is the amount of wheat in the fields," said Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager.

Large, modern equipment can cover a lot of acres in a hurry.

"Another week, with good weather, and there won't be much left," said Bob Ochsner, a producer who was unloading his truck at the elevator.

Yields and quality of this harvest will be assessed after the harvest is complete.

"No one expected good yields, and it is proving true" said Ray Magnani, Frontier Ag.

## Many enjoy Fourth activities

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 Shriner's Candy Wagon was set up so people could get drinks, popcorn and cotton candy. At Neitzel's, Randy Smestead had his music playing and the youth choir sang.

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. After the national anthem, the display started. For the next hour, there was an outstanding display of fireworks accompanied by patriotic music.

### Parade and games

Activities started at 10 a.m. at Sawhill 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



**FIREWORKS WERE ENJOYED** by young and old. The display of fireworks that Thursday night were awesome. Asher Robbins enjoyed lighting a fire truck fireworks.

Herald staff photos by Doug Sloper

in decorated wagons and strollers. It was a collage of red, white and blue. The parade was led by Cheylin and St. Francis school cheerleaders. The parade ended in

the band shell.

Games followed. Organized by Holly Hingst and Meghan Kinen, there were three-legged races, bubbles and water-balloon

tosses. Prizes were handed out to everyone who participated. On the stage, patriotic tattoos were placed on arms by the cheerleaders

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## Local doctor heads Kansas academy

Dr. Mary Beth Miller, physician at the Cheyenne County Hospital and Clinics, was sworn in as the 67th president of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians on June 14, in Wichita. The ceremony was performed at the annual meeting President's dinner and installation of officers.

Dr. Miller came to the county 14 years ago. Not only did she supply the county and surrounding area with a physician but also expanded her talents as a teacher, bringing in future physicians to work so they could see what general practice was like in the rural areas all the while working with patients. In 2011, she received the Doug Parks Family Medicine Volunteer Preceptor Teaching award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Kansas University School of Medicine - Wichita.

Today, she is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and serves on the Kansas Primary Care Research Network. She is also a clinical preceptor with the Wichita State University



Dr. Miller

Physician Assistant Program and the Fort Hays State Nurse Practitioner Program.

She graduated with a Science-Med Tech degree from the University of Nebraska and went on to earn her medical degree from KU School of Medicine-Kansas City. She completed her residency at Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program, Salina 1999.

Also attending the ceremony was Terry Miller, Stacy Kaup and Kathy Biggs.

## Courthouse closed for day

The Cheyenne County Courthouse, Sherman County Courthouse, and James Milliken, Chartered were closed on Tuesday, July 2, after criminal threats were made by Vance White, formerly of St. Francis.

White has been charged with Terrorism, Criminal Threat, Endangering a Child, Harassment, and Stalking.

White was arrested in Salina on July 2 and transported back to St. Francis. He made his first appearance in Cheyenne County District Court on July 5.

A preliminary hearing has been set for 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11, in front of Judge John Cahoj. Jared Holste is the special prosecuting attorney due to a conflict of interest with the Cheyenne County Attorney's office.

White is currently being held at the Sherman County Jail. Bond has been set at \$750,000.



White



'COURTHOUSE CLOSED' sign was posted on the door Tuesday afternoon after a threat was made.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

## Pilot cars, flaggers expected to cause delay on highways

On Monday, several road construction projects began in both Rawlins and Cheyenne counties.

During construction, flaggers and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through both work zones during daylight hours. Delays of 15 minutes or less should be expected through the construction time frame. The public should plan their travels accordingly. The department of transportation urges drivers to pay attention to the signs and workers within a construction zone. Slow down and "Give 'Em A Brake!"

A 29-mile project to profile mill and perform a 1.5-inch overlay of U.S. 36 will take place from the Cheyenne/Rawlins County line to the K-27 Junction. The same scope of work will be applied to K-27 Highway in Cheyenne County, from the Sherman/Cheyenne County line to the U.S. 36 junction.

The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded the construction contract, totaling \$3.1 million, to Venture Corporation, Great Bend.

Two jobs to seal U.S. 36 and K-27 in Cheyenne County will also begin as soon as next week.

Starting at the Cheyenne/Rawlins County line and continuing east approximately 10 miles on U.S. 36, workers will spread a thin layer of asphalt

over the pavement then coat it with a layer of rock chips that are pressed into place with heavy rollers.

Another chip seal project will take place along 21 miles of K-27 Highway from the U.S. 36 junction north to the Nebraska state line.

Chip seals are a low cost method of sealing minor cracking in a roadway, preventing water from seeping into the pavement and therefore extending the life of the road.

The department of transportation awarded the chip seal construction contracts, totaling \$772,000, to Heft and Sons, Greensburg.

These highway projects are funded by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May of 2010; and designed to create jobs, preserve highway infrastructure, and spur economic development opportunities across the state.

Weather permitting, all the work should be complete by early August.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Kansas Department of Transportation Area Two, Engineer Eric Oelschlager at (785) 626-3185 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood; or Kristen Brands, Northwest Kansas Public Affairs manager at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton