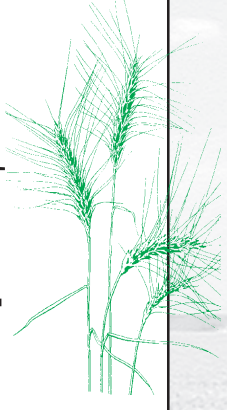


Harvest in full swing



By Karen Krien
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Farmers are running the combines as long as possible in order to get the wheat harvested before anything can happen to it. Northwest Kansas is producing good wheat this year with good yields and the price has been the highest ever.

"It's the best harvest of the century," Tim Burr, Equity manager said. Definitely better than it has been since 1999.

Mr. Burr said it is probably not a record breaker but it will be so much better than it has been. Last year, the average bushel per acre was 15 to 20

bushels and this year, there have been 50 to 60 averages.

Both Wheeler and St. Francis Equity elevators are full, taking only a few contract loads. Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager, said they had loaded out 10 rail cars on Monday. The St. Francis Equity had around 25 cars.

They are waiting on more cars but Mr. Burr figured since the wheat is very good in this area, they may not have to wait long.

Frontier Equity manager, Mark Howerton, reported the Bird City elevators are full and they are starting to pile on the

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MAKING THE CORNER — Dylan Loyd, combine driver, cuts the field of wheat for Gary Yonkey. The field is located 8 miles south of Wheeler. In this area, harvest is expected to wind down at the end of the week.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

\$1,000 shopping spree held Saturday, July 21

By Karen Krien
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It may be hot but people and businesses in St. Francis are thinking "Christmas." That is, Christmas In July which will give some lucky person a chance to win a \$1,000 shopping spree.

Merchants have not officially announced activities for the Saturday of the drawing. But a large crowd is expected for the drawing.

The winner, when his/her name is drawn, will be given the opportunity to spend their \$1,000 scrip in any one or all of the participating businesses. The money has to be spent by Monday, July 23, at 5 p.m. and

they have to agree to let a member of *The Herald* staff follow them around and take photos during their shopping spree.

The contest ends on July 20. Look for the special advertisements in *The Herald* this week. Check them out and plan to shop

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911 system progresses

By Karen Krien
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Plans to have the 911 system for Cheyenne County installed by the first of the year were at the top of the commissioners' agenda when they met on Friday.

Troy Gardner, sheriff, and Jim O'Loughlin, Allied Information Solutions, talked about the grant process and said there were some other contracts that needed to be signed. One contract was for the call

logging and the other contract was for the computer dispatch software. Mr. O'Loughlin suggested that the commissioners give the sheriff permission to sign them after they had been approved by the county attorney.

Mr. O'Loughlin thought the equipment could be installed in November so the system could go online in December. He noted that, if necessary, they could maybe get an extension but didn't foresee any

problems to cause a delay.

Funding the project was again discussed. He said the biggest challenge will be funding personnel.

They talked about the aerial maps which are in the process of being completed. Mr. O'Loughlin said Cale Rieger, engineering student, had worked on the maps and had done an excellent job.

He said that, while it was separate from the 911 process, the maps

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LEARNING TO FLOAT — Sheryl Miller, instructor, helps Shelby Wolf during swimming lessons.
Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

New agent coming

By Karen Krien
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Cheyenne County is getting a new Extension agent.

Joe Leibbrandt, formerly of St. Francis, has accepted the position which was vacated by Tye Faulkender several months ago. Mr. Leibbrandt will officially be the agent on July 30, just in time for the fair.

Extension agents are jointly employed in a partnership between K-State Research and Extension, headquartered on the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, and the local county Extension council.

Mr. Leibbrandt earned a bachelor's degree in animal sciences and industry from Kansas State University. He is transferring directly from the Logan County office where he was also an agriculture and natural resources agent. Previously, he has worked as an agriculture and 4-H youth development agent for the Thomas County and the Post Rock district offices.

Mr. Leibbrandt is the son of Ben and Pat Leibbrandt, St. Francis.



TOM SHARP puts up mail for the last time on Friday.
Herald staff photo by Sandy Barnhart

Mail carrier retires

By Karen Krien
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St. Francis rural route carrier, Tom Sharp, retired Friday after delivering the mail for over 30 years.

"I'm gonna miss the people on the route and the people I work with," Mr. Sharp said.

He started in January 1977 as a substitute Route 2 mail carrier for Harold Winston.

"I was the youngest one (in the office) — I blinked and now I'm the oldest," he said.

Being the youngest in those days was OK as he said all the people in the office were nice, took

him under their wing and helped him. During the days of substituting, he learned all three routes.

Coming from Haigler, Mr. Sharp was at a disadvantage as he didn't know people or roads on the routes. But, when Roland Roelfs retired in 1981, he took over Route 3 which went up through Haigler. He was glad to be in territory where he was more familiar and knew the people.

Two years later, his wife Lois was hired as a postal clerk in the St. Francis office where she worked for 25 years, taking early retirement. He said Lois had to be at the office earlier than he did so she often broke a trail in the road after a snow storm.

Mr. Sharp's route took him over some rugged roads, around Devil's Gap, in the canyons and near Horse Thief Cave. He was stuck more than once. Helen Brown, in the school bus, pulled him out one time. Billie Hilt, who, with her husband Henry, lived near Horse Thief Cave, told him if he ever got stuck out by their place and they weren't home, to climb in the kitchen window.

"Everybody was so nice," he said. "If I hadn't been a mail carrier, I would have never got to know them."

The first winter as a new carrier, Mr. Sharp said he burned up the transmission in both the car and pickup.

There were some scary moments but the one he remembers

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Doctor commends hospital board for foresight

By Karen Krien
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A visit from Dr. Mary Beth Miller was a highlight of the Cheyenne County Hospital Board meeting on Thursday.



Dr. Miller

Dr. Miller came to practice in the county eight years ago. She said that she did not come because the hospital was a great facility but she saw there was a need for a physician and she and her husband wanted to raise their family in this community and send their children to school in St. Francis.

With tears in her eyes, she commended the board and past boards on their foresight.

"When I came, the Bird City Clinic was a room in the Kitten Mall and the clinic in St. Francis was a cramped facility," she said.

She said the board has done so much for the communities and the hospital, from building a clinic in Bird City to remodeling the St. Francis clinic; and, not only remodeling but expanding, onto the hospital.

Robert Van Allen, former board member, said the hospital and clinics needed to increase the market share.

"It worked!" she said. "People are coming."

"You have made the communities better and I am proud of what we have here."

Then, she said, "you put your money where your mouth is and brought in another doctor."

"Dr. (Rebecca) Allard will bring OB — she is so well trained and she will build an OB practice that you will never believe!"

Dr. Miller went on to say that the obstetric practice will bring young families and more of market share.

Swede Calnon, board member, then spoke up, saying "you, Dr. Miller, are the one who made this success happen."

Dr. Miller commented on the two physician assistants who are planning to come to St. Francis.

"They are an intelligent, motivated young staff who plan to put down their roots and stay," she said.

Dr. Miller called a five minute executive session to discuss personnel with no decision being made when coming out of the session.