



The Saint Francis Herald

\$1 (Tax included: 73¢ delivered at home)

12 Pages

Thursday, November 12, 2009

125th Year, Number 46

Fall harvest running late

By Karen Krien

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Trucks waited in line at the elevators on Monday with drivers anxious to get their corn unloaded. With the rain and snow, it has been hard for farmers to get into the fields and harvest their fall crops.

Shirley Zweygardt, Equity grain manager, said a lot of the corn has been just under the limit of 18-percent. The dry weather has held for over a week and temperatures have been in the 50s and up to the 80s.

Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager, said the corn harvest is only about 30- to 40-percent complete. Harvest may continue to drag on throughout month and he said he may be eating his turkey leg at the elevator.

There is still a lot of corn out there, he said.

He is seeing a lot of 17- to 19-percent moisture. The elevators are trying to help the farmers out

by taking some but it is costing the farmer to dry it out. He said some farmers are picking fields where the corn is drier.

Despite the wet weather, Daryl Loyd, Matt Smull and Tom Smull have been able to bring in corn and milo. Some of the fields, Matt said, are wet on the edges where the snow had piled up and it has been necessary to load the trucks on the road.

Mr. Weeks said it was early but he thought corn was averaging 230-bushel to the acre but he thought milo was averaging 80- to 90-bushel yields.

On Monday, on fields south of St. Francis, the Smull and Loyd team were harvesting both corn and milo. The corn had been making around 230 bushels to the acre and the milo 107 bushels to the acre.

Mr. Loyd said, for the most part, the wet weather which delayed the harvest, hasn't hurt the yields or

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FARMERS ARE MOVING into the fields as soon as they are dry enough. Fall crop harvest is behind schedule and Matt Smull is cutting milo and Tom Smull is running the grain cart. Daryl Loyd was waiting on the road to haul a load to the elevator. The field was located south of St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Christmas plans being completed

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis city crews hung the Christmas lights over Main Street while there was warm weather — just another sign that the Christmas opening is just around the corner.

Each year, the day after Thanksgiving, St. Francis residents, family, friends and guests make their way to Main Street before the 6 o'clock whistle blows, which marks the start of the annual Light Parade.

Some of those families, organizations and businesses have spent the last few days building a float, many of which are grand entries, for the parade. Others have come down early to shop the stores, visit with neighbors and friends and enjoy soup and cinnamon rolls at the senior center. Eventually, they all line up along the street to see the floats.

There are lots of "oohs" and "aahs" as the lights sparkle, often music accompanies the floats. There have even been fireworks to spark up the parade. On the last float, generally the fire truck, Santa Claus is seen much to the excitement of children.

As the fire truck stops at First National Bank, children clamor to stand in line waiting to tell

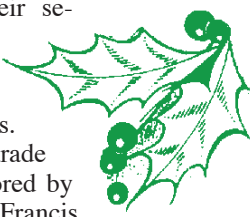
Santa their secret wishes for Christmas.

The parade is sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce and floats are needed to make the parade spectacular. What may be a crude and not so pretty float in the day time is transformed into a lighted wonderland in the dark with the help of many twinkling Christmas lights and a generator.

There are only two rules for entries: 1) The only Santa is the "real" Santa who will be visiting with children at First National Bank following the parade; and 2) throwing candy is not recommended as it is dark and children cannot be seen if they are darting in the street to retrieve candy.

There will be a "People's Choice" award. Voting places will be announced nearer to the Christmas opening. The traveling plaque will be kept by the winner until next year's parade.

Floats need to line up in front of the high school by 5:30 at the latest. The city police will lead the parade.



Hunters should expect to find many pheasants

Hunters will start arriving in Cheyenne County during the day on Friday in order to be in one of the better areas for the opening of pheasant and quail season early Saturday morning.

With a milder winter and later summer harvest, pheasant numbers in northwest Kansas look strong and the quail population is up for the fall bird season.

Jim Pitman, small game coordinator with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, said the pheasant numbers look really strong in most of northwest Kansas.

Despite the hail this summer, farmers are reporting many pheasants in the county.

For the most part, Mr. Pitman said, this fall is shaping up to potentially be one of the best seasons ever.

The daily bag limit for pheasants is four cocks during the regular season. Bag limits for quail is eight during the regular season.

The department does several surveys throughout the year to determine bird numbers throughout the state, he said.

In the spring, the department publishes breeding success by doing a "crow and whistle" survey each

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Helping the hunter

With the opening of pheasant season starting at sunrise on Saturday, many hunters will be looking for a place to eat a good breakfast before they take to the fields.

The Eastern Star, Masons, Shriners and Rebekah members are working together to provide breakfast at the St. Francis Senior Center at the west end of Main Street. They will be serving all-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, bacon, ham, biscuits and gravy, juice, milk and coffee from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The money raised will help buy new carpet in the lodge hall.

"We hope everyone, whether they be hunters or not, will come enjoy breakfast with us," said Deb Lindsten, organizer.

Others open for Saturday breakfast will be Captain Hook's, Wheeler, and the Dairy King on U.S. 36, St. Francis.

Hunting licenses

Hunting licenses can be purchased at the Cheyenne County Courthouse in St. Francis, Mobe's

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS were strung by the city crew. Paul Larson, left, and Earl Hankins are working on the ground while Dan Blair is in the bucket.

Students honor veterans in special program



FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH grade music students honored veterans in a special program Monday evening. In the "Armed Forces Medley," all branches of the service were recognized.