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Tornado warnings, hail but little rain

By Karen Krien

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The wheat is nearing the cutting stage in Northwest Kansas. With the hot temperatures predicted this week, farmers were talking like the first loads of wheat could be harvested by the weekend.

However, Monday night, residents in St. Francis were sent scurrying to their basements when the tornado siren sounded about 8:50 p.m. There ended up not being a tornado but there was thunder, lightning, wind, hail and rain.

As of Tuesday, there had been reports of little damage to the crops but there were reports of hail ranging anywhere from marble-size to baseball-size. At the Bradley Waters farm, between Wheeler and Bird City, Barbara Waters reported hail the size of baseballs knocked out windows in their house and outbuildings.

Mrs. Waters said the first storm which came from the north had little damage but the second, which came from the south, was the one which did all the damage. The clouds, she said, were like mounds of whipped cream that were circling. "I had never seen anything like it," she said.

After that, she and Bradley were in the basement waiting out the storm.

Dave Flemming, who lives only a mile from the Waters, had no damage and little hail but reported .80 inch of rain.

Brian Holzwarth, who lives about 3 miles south of St. Francis, had both of his pickups, a four-wheeler and other equipment parked in the carport just feet away from his house. He was standing at the door watching the storm and saw the carport ripped down the ditch south of the house. Nothing in the carport was disturbed

and a plastic cup which was probably 30 feet from the carport never moved.

He said there was a strip northwest of the house where it was evident that a storm, tornado or something had moved through. There is a line of trees several miles north in that path where the storm had uprooted some of the trees.

South of the Holzwarth place, there was a tree uprooted. Brian said he had spent the morning trying to pick up metal and replace some fence posts which had been broken off.

Russ Christensen, 519 W. Webster, St. Francis, had a huge part of a tree fall. He said he was standing on the porch watching the storm when he heard a loud crack and the tree landed just missing the porch roof.

Mark Mahlberg, Beecher Island, reported that the Beecher Island auditorium that was scheduled to

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LARGE PART OF A TREE at 519 W. Webster, St. Francis, fell across the yard, barely missing the porch where owner, Russ Christensen, was standing.



HAIL, the size of golf and tennis balls, or bigger, was brought into The Herald office Tuesday morning. Marvin Miller brought in the hail in this photo.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



CARPORT MATERIAL was scattered along the ditch by the Brian Holzwarth home.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Wheat plot tour shows varieties

By Karen Krien

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About 60 farmers gathered at the K-State wheat plot tour on the Sunny Crest Farm south of Wheeler Wednesday afternoon. It was hot and the wind was blowing but that didn't deter the people from coming.

This has been an unusual year with cool, wet weather. Consequently there are different conditions for the test wheat plot.

It appeared that the general consensus was the test plot looked good. Jim Shroyer, K-State agronomist, said he guessed the low yield in the field to be at 60 bushels per acre. There should be some very good yields this year, he said.

Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist, had planted 22 varieties, then strips of wheat with seed treatments and treated other plots with foliar fungicide treatments.

Brian Olson, K-State northwest area agronomist, and Erick DeWolf, K-State wheat pathologist, along with Mr. Shroyer, talked about the varieties planted, giving a short history of each type of seed, along with its strengths



JUNIOR SMULL checks out the kernels in the wheat heads at the wheat plot tour.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

and weaknesses to environmental conditions and diseases. Varieties planted included: Turkey Red, Jagalene, Jagger, Overley, Fuller, PostRock, Santa Fe, Hitch, Tam

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Airport receives more funds

Cheyenne County received funding for two of 22 projects selected for safety and service enhancements through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Airport Improvement Program. The projects totaled \$2.7 million.

The projects will address maintenance, facility and equipment needs at non-primary public use airports. These are airports that are classified as having fewer than 10,000 passenger boardings a year.

"We're pleased that 91 percent of this year's projects are strategic improvements from the Kansas Aviation System plan that improve air ambulance access and other quality of life issues," said the department's director of aviation, Ed Young.

Recognizing the importance of air service to the

Kansas economy and emergency health care services, department of transportation established the improvement program in 1999 under the Comprehensive Transportation Program.

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs, up to a maximum of 50 percent based on population. Total cost of the projects, which includes the sponsors' share, is approximately \$3.6 million.

The Cheyenne County Airport in St. Francis will receive money for crack repair and ramp construction as well as taxiway and ramp improvements. Also in Northwest Kansas, the Trego County/WaKeeney will receive money for an aeronautical survey and overlay and widen 2,000 feet of runway;



JUSTIN LOHR, noxious weed supervisor, checks out his spraying equipment before leaving town.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Rain, warm weather — ideal conditions for weeds

By Karen Krien

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It has been an extremely wet spring. With the rain and increasing high summer temperature, the weeds are growing.

Among those weeds are noxious weeds - weeds that are considered harmful to the land and are required by law to be controlled by the landowner.

"There is a huge infestation of noxious weeds throughout the county," said Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor.

Common noxious weeds in Cheyenne County include bindweed, musk thistle, Canada thistle and bull thistle. Burr rag weed, bindweed and Canada thistle must be sprayed to get rid

of the weed as it has a rhizome root system that spreads.

The musk and bull thistle weeds can be controlled by using a spade to cut it off before it matures. If not, each flower contains hundreds of seeds which will come up the next year.

Cheyenne County's noxious weed supervisor for the last 11 See WEEDS on Page 9

Fireworks lighting times released

By Karen Krien

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It is time for the sky to be lit with hundreds of fireworks. Those enjoying the fireworks and lighting them should be aware that in May at a St. Francis City Council meeting, the council adopted an ordinance which limits the days and times that fireworks can be lit within the city limits.

Fireworks can be lit from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 27, to Saturday, July 3, and on July 5. On July 4, fireworks can be lit from 8 a.m. to midnight.

Within the city limits, fireworks can only be sold if the person owning the stand has a license. As of Monday, there were only two people who had bought licenses.

Illegal fireworks in Kansas include cherry bombs, silver salutes and M80s. Even though they have been banned since 1996, these illegal fireworks account for one-third of all Fourth of July injuries.

