

Harvest Countdown winner announced when known

By Karen Krien

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The Harvest Countdown contest began five weeks ago and the guesses have been coming in.

The weather has been cool and wet. While some of the fields are turning, there is still a lot of green wheat.

The question was "what is the date and time of the first cutting in the St. Francis/Wheeler area?"

The contest ended Monday. Now, it is just a matter of time until the first load of wheat is brought in. The scrip money won will need to be spent in participating businesses. The winners of last

year's contest are not eligible to win this year.

The Herald is sponsoring the contest but it would not be possible if it were not for the participating businesses: Pizza Hut, Majestic Service and Truck Stop, Western State Bank, Bella's Market, K-Store, Cheyenne Lumber and The Saint Francis Herald.

There will be three people winning a total of \$100 in scrip money (\$50 first prize, \$35 second prize, and \$15 third prize).

Cheyenne County Wheat Field Tour on Wednesday showed the varieties of wheat looking good. Jim Shroyer, K-State agronomist,

said he estimated that the wheat in the plots would average 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Last year, the wheat had averaged 82 bushels per acre.

Randy Rethke brought in the first load last year. Randy and his dad, Kip, farm the land belonging to Billy Parkinson, 4 miles south of St. Francis. It was brought in to the Wheeler Equity on June 28 and had a test weight of 60.5 and the moisture was 13.8 percent.

Winners of the contest were Dallas (Rogers) Friedli of Hope, first; Connie Rooney, McDonald, second and Rache; Schmidt, third.



CHEYENNE COUNTY wheat plot south of Wheeler showed good stands of wheat on Wednesday, June 15. Dr. Jim Shroyer, K-State agronomist, left, answered some of the wheat questions asked by Spencer Schlepp, county farmer, and Jeanne Falk, K-State agronomist. One of the owners of the plot, Tom Smull, checked out some of the other wheat.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Remote-read water meters on city council agenda

By Karen Krien

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At the June 13 St. Francis City Council meeting, the city superintendent asked for approval to purchase remote-read water meters. The council, after much discussion, agreed that he purchase as many as he could for \$20,000.

The matter of remote-read water meters along with curb and gutter for Main Street was brought up at the last council meeting. Carla Lampe, councilwoman, stated at that meeting and this meeting that she did not want to see the city overspend. Roger Jensen, councilman, said he agreed but thought that city improvements needed to be made. If we don't keep on top of it, he said, we will get behind.

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, said that \$50,000 had been budgeted for improvements. About \$10,000 had been spent leaving \$40,000 in the

fund for water meters. The curb and gutter project which would include two blocks on Main Street would cost around \$25,000. We do have the money for these projects, he said.

The water meters are an investment into the infrastructure, Mr. Jensen said. And, it has a positive return as the city will be paying less for the labor to read the meters.

These meters are also more accurate, Mr. Landenberger said. The superintendent wanted to get the meters in as quickly as possible because they are labor intensive to install and during the summer, there is part-time help. Ordering in bulk has a price break.

The cost of a meter runs around \$200. Mr. Landenberger will order the meters and hopes to be able to install 100 this summer. It takes three to four weeks to get them, he said.

Mr. Landenberger said he had talked to the owner of Krutsinger Construction and Redi Mix, Benkelman. The crew will plan to put in the new curb and gutter in the fall for \$25,000.

Dale Weeks, councilman, was concerned about the red cones attached to plywood which were covering the holes where trees were planted. He had heard that a woman had tripped on one of the pieces of plywood.

The trees had been removed in the spring and the new ones will not be planted for two years. Several ways of covering the holes that would not be so unsightly and dangerous were discussed. Mr. Landenberger said the city crew would take care of the matter.

The council talked more about establishing a reasonable reserve. Mike Day, city attorney, recommended they talk to the auditor.

Many area farmers attend the annual wheat plot tour

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 cooler and wetter weather than normal. Consequently, there are different conditions for the test wheat plot. Additionally, profile moisture also played a big role in wheat growth this year.

The general consensus was the test plot looked very good. Jim Shroyer, K-State agronomist, said, while the plots looked good, they didn't look quite as good as they did last year. He estimated that the wheat in the plots would average 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Last year, the wheat had averaged 82 bushels per acre.

Jeanne Falk, K-State multi-county agronomist, had planted 20 varieties and a seeding rate study with 35 to 75 lbs/ac of TAM 111.

Dr. Shroyer, talked about the varieties planted, giving a short history of each type of seed, along with its strengths and weaknesses to environmental conditions and diseases. Varieties planted included: Art, PostRock, SY Gold, TAM 111, Armour, Cedar, Hitch, Smoky Hill, Winterhawk, Everest, Fuller, Jagger, Overley, Bill Brown, Hatcher, Ripper, T-140, T-158, TAM 112 and AP 503 CL2.

When asked for recommendation on the wheat varieties to look at next year, the speaker told producers to think about their management systems. One way is to choose varieties that have a level resistance to many diseases, including stripe rust. Those varieties include TAM 111, Winterhawk, and Armour. However, producers need to keep in mind that stripe rust may not be a disease that is present every year.

Another way is to choose a variety that has a good yield history in variable environmental conditions (ie drought), but has

some level of susceptibility to stripe or leaf rust. By doing this, producers know they may need to spray for these diseases in some years. These tend to be varieties that have a good yield history and producers feel comfortable planting. These varieties include PostRock, Fuller, and TAM 112.

Last year, the wheat yielding the highest in the test plot was Winterhawk with 96.4 bushels per acre. Coming in second was TAM 111 with 94.7 bushels.

Jeanne said she had checked a number of fields after calls asking about wheat streak mosaic. To control wheat streak mosaic, she said, is to control the volunteer wheat. The wheat curl mite moves the wheat streak mosaic virus and lives in volunteer wheat. The worst case scenario for infections of wheat streak mosaic is to spray volunteer wheat less than 2 weeks before planting. In this case, the volunteer wheat is dying just as the new wheat is emerging. This causes the wheat curl mites to move directly into and transfer the virus into the new wheat.

Alan Schlegel, agronomist at

the K-State Research Center in Tribune, also spoke at the wheat plot tour. He discussed three long term studies at Tribune addressing tillage systems and crop rotations. He said in a 3-year rotation, a complete no-till system had the best yields for the summer crop. However, one of the challenges with this system is getting wheat established and a good stand. They are addressing this challenge with a study looking at limited shallow tillage just prior to wheat planting.

Finally, Jeanne asked what producers would like to see in the test plot next year. This plot is set up to be a place to address producer questions and learn how wheat responds in our own backyard. If you have ideas, please contact Jeanne or the Extension Office.

Following the wheat plot tour, farmers went to Goodland Greenline in Wheeler where they enjoyed supper provided by the county grain dealers.

When the wheat test plot is harvested, the results of yields will be printed in The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times.

Two board members retire

By Karen Krien

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Two board members attended their last regular meeting on Thursday, June 9, and were presented plaques.

Bonnie Zweygardt was honored for serving 16 years and John Knodel served 14 years. Taking their seat on the board are Mila Bandel and Cory Busse.

Northwest Kansas Technical College

Dr. Ed Mills, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, talked about the progress

the college has made in the past year.

We are focusing on technology, Dr. Mills said. Every student on campus last year had an I-Pad. The college was the first I-Pad college in the state and the second in the nation.

I-Pads is hands on learning in a new way, he said. We are on the cutting edge of technology.

I-Pads also allow anytime, anyplace learning. They are beneficial in teaching students who are not able to get to class. Today,

there is no requirement to travel in inclement weather as most students have internet service.

Dr. Mills noted that there has been a culture change in the college. It is an exciting change, he said, and we are just getting started. Besides academics, the college added wrestling, women's golf and rodeo. Next year, they will be offering men's golf, and men's and women's soccer.

In other business

A summer contract for Nathan Smith, summer weight lifting program, was approved. The Recreation Commission will pay for a portion of the wages.

Superintendent Schiltz said 33 licensed employees and 28 non-licensed employees had been signed. The board approved the contracts for the board's signature.

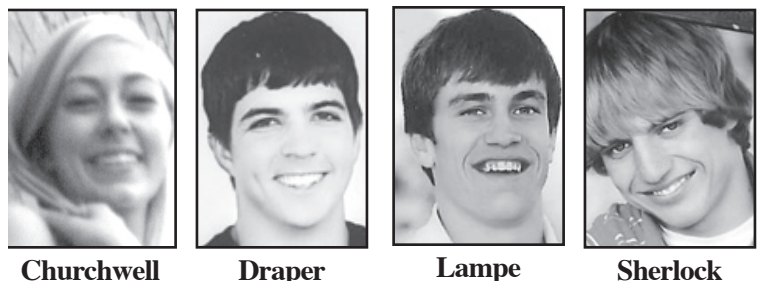
Myra Douthit, former board member, was approved as the board's representative on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board in Goodland. Mrs. Douthit has actively served on the board for a number of years.

Administrators' contracts were approved. A 2-year contract was approved for Scott Carmichael, principal; and a 1-year contract for Rob Schiltz, superintendent.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the school board is a special meeting set for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, to approve the final businesses for the fiscal year.

The next regular meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, in the meeting room at the high school.



Churchwell Draper Lampe Sherlock

Scholarships accepted

Four area students have accepted scholarships to attend Fort Hays State University for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Whitney Churchwell, a 2011 Cheylin High School graduate, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award.

Churchwell is the daughter of Eric and Janice Churchwell, Bird City.

Ryan Draper, a 2011 St. Francis Community High School graduate, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award and a \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in chemistry.

Draper, son of Robert and Stella

Draper, St. Francis, plans to major in chemistry.

Brett Lampe, a 2011 St. Francis Community High School graduate, accepted a \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award.

Lampe, son of Rod and Carla Lampe, St. Francis, plans to major in health and human performance.

Cody Sherlock, a 2011 St. Francis Community High School graduate, accepted an \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award.

Sherlock, son of Gilbert and Cindy Sherlock, St. Francis, plans to major in chemistry.

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For more info contact Penny Gienger 785-332-3949