

Special election set on Aug. 2

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

On Oct. 19, a fire at the Good Samaritan Village destroyed the middle section of the facility. Residents were sent to different nursing homes in the area.

The Good Samaritan Society had the west wing restored and 23 patients were able to come back in March. The kitchen area was opened but food needed to be transported by going outside the building to the west wing.

The Society is in Phase 2 of the remodeling project which will add three private rooms and three offices, plus a corridor joining the kitchen and dining room with the west wing. The Society wants to partner with the county if the residents pass a vote to levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for a home for the aged. The resolution signed

by the commissioners on May 16, does include that the money will be used for the operation of the existing nursing home.

A special election has been set for Tuesday, Aug. 2, in Bird City and St. Francis.

Public forum

Before the election, a public forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, at the St. Francis high school auditorium. People are urged to attend so they will be better informed when they reach the election booth.

Those who have not registered to vote will need to do so before 5 p.m. on Monday, July 18, when the books will close. People can register during regular business hours at the county clerk or city clerk offices in St. Francis or at the First National Bank in Bird City.

Thresher queen identity told first day of the show

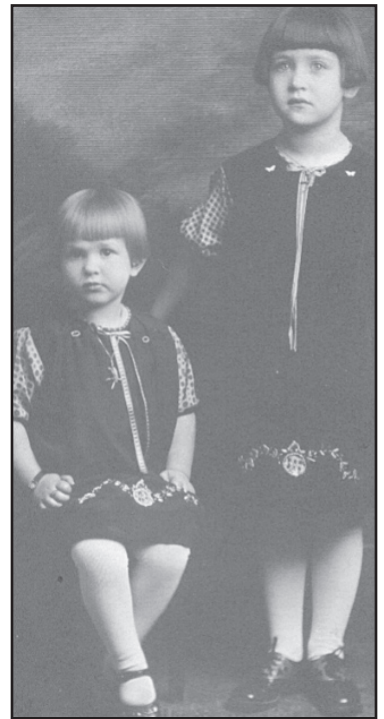
The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association members and volunteers have kicked into high gear as they prepare for the 58th thresher show. The show will be held from July 28 to 30 at the show grounds east of Bird City on U.S. 36.

This year's queen is still a mystery and her identity will not be known until Thursday of the show.

She is pictured, all prim and pretty, showing off her homemade dress that she always wore to church. She will be just as pretty as she reigns over the 2011 Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show this year.

The queen started working in the field with her parents at a very young age. She has hands on experience with shocking the wheat, milking cows and many other aspects of farming.

Gas lights were used for special occasions but usually it is the kerosene lamps that lit the kitchen as they kept warm on cold winter



Thresher queen and cousin evenings by sitting near the toasty open oven door.

Any guesses as to her identity?

Entries extended

The 2011 Cheyenne County Fair open class wheat show is being held again this year. Samples were due by Wednesday, July 13, at the Extension office. However, the wheat show deadline has been extended to July 21.

Sponsored by Cheyenne County grain dealers, wheat entries should be placed in a gallon zip-lock bag. The person entering can enter as

many samples they want but they are limited to only one per field.

Wheat will be judged at the Kansas Grain Inspection in Colby. The top 10 samples will be entered in the Kansas State Fair Wheat Show.

The grand champion will receive \$75 and a plaque; reserve champion will receive \$50 and a plaque.



THUNDERSTORMS were building in the west as David and Victoria McDuff, Tye, Texas, hurried to cut the last of the wheat. The field is farmed by Tom Hnizdil and his son Martin.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Rain, humidity stalls harvest

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The wheat is ripe but much of it is still in the fields. Rain has fallen practically every day for the last week. Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis weather observer, reported .87 inch on July 6, .60 on July 8, .04 on July 9 and .54 on July 10 for a total of 2.05 inches.

Harvest crews are parked at the sale barn, old Windmill Restaurant and Majestic waiting for the fields to dry out. Farmers have been bringing in wheat samples to the elevators, hoping the moisture content will be low enough so they can start bringing in the loads.

On Wednesday, a Nebraska Kansas Colorado RailNet train engine derailed between Wheeler and Bird City. Mud across that

tracks was apparently the reason for the accident.

Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager, said if the wheat harvest would have been in full swing, the delay could have caused some problems.

The engine was back on the tracks the following day and back in service by Friday.

Mr. Weeks reported 35,000 bushel came in to the elevator on Monday. The humidity, he said, is so high that harvesters can't get an early start so they are able to cut only three to four hours a day.

I figure, he said, that, as of Tuesday morning, maybe 30 percent of the wheat has been cut. With three or four days of good weather and, with the big, fast-moving combines, the majority of the wheat in

this area will be cut.

Shirley Zwegardt, St. Francis Equity grain manager, said the wheat is slow coming in.

"There is a lot of wheat out there," she said. "We just need some good harvest weather."

There have been reports of hail damage on wheat, corn and soybeans south of St. Francis and farmers are hoping they get their crops in before it hails again. Shirley said that the test weights go down every day the wheat stands in the fields after it is ready to be harvested.

Wheat that has come in to the St. Francis Equity has averaged between 61 and 64 pounds but she expects those numbers to go down each time it rains.

As of Tuesday, the National



Weather Service is forecasting a chance of rain on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. The temperatures are expected to soar to 104 on Saturday and 103 on Sunday.



ENGINE DERAILS - The engine of a Nebraska Kansas Colorado RailNet train derailed between Wheeler and Bird City on Wednesday. There was no official call from company officials but it appeared there was mud across the tracks which could have been the reason for the accident.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez