



BENNY WEBER has once again opened his pumpkin patch to children. A group of Cub Scouts were picking out pumpkins one evening last week. Each child was allowed to take a pumpkin home. Pictured are, l to r, Jasper Hunt, Mason Schmid and Nick Paulsen (back). *Herald staff photo by Tim Burr*

Fall harvest crops begin coming in

*By Tim Burr
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Most county producers have completed their wheat drilling tasks and are now turning their attention to the upcoming fall harvest. Throughout the county, there are fields after fields of dryland corn, soybeans and milo, along with the many acres of irrigated crops.

"Most fields have looked good all summer, except for those that caught the hail storms," said Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager. "It got a little dry late in the season, and some fields in those dry areas started to show some stress."

Local elevators are beginning to receive some early loads. Frontier Ag in Bird City has been receiving soybeans and corn for over a week.

"The quality of the beans and corn is OK for early harvest, and the yield seems to be OK, too, although it is way too early in the harvest to tell," said Sean Cravens, location manager.

Wheeler Equity has been receiving

some corn for several days. Bartlett and St. Francis Equity also began receiving corn this week.

"Some of the dryland fields are ready, but many are not," said Doug Ross, Bartlett manager. "The irrigated corn is still a ways off. It is just the normal way for a fall harvest to start."

All of the managers expressed concern about having enough space to handle the harvest.

"After a big wheat harvest, and struggling with transportation issues, there just isn't enough time to get everything moved before corn comes in," said Shirley Zwegardt, St. Francis Equity.

Frontier Ag is prepared and expects to use ground bunkers. St. Francis Equity expects to use a bunker in Haigler.

Grain prices are still good compared to multi-year averages, although they have fallen some in the past few weeks. With yields expected to be good, the elements for a successful fall harvest seem to be in place.

Trail ride set for Sunday northwest of St. Francis

*By Karen Krien
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The 21st Cheyenne County Trail Ride has been set for 2 p.m. sharp on Sunday. The ride, which will last about 2.5 hours, will start at the Tyler and Kristle Raile residence, northwest of St. Francis. To get to the Raile's from St. Francis, go 8 miles north on K-27 (follow the first curve), to Rd. 10. Turn north and drive 1 mile. Turn left (west) and drive up the private road to the yard. Coming from Haigler, drive 13 miles south, following the curve to the east to Rd. 10. 8 miles north on K-27 (follow the first curve), to Rd. 10. Turn north and drive 1 mile. Turn left (west) and drive up the private road to the yard.

The ride is always planned for the second weekend in October. It is generally a little cooler and the trees are turning colors.

Last year, the ride was at the Jeter Isley farm, northwest of Wheeler.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said this ride will be a little easier terrain and ideal for kids. There will be no water crossing and it is nice pasture riding.

Following the ride, the Cheyenne County 4-H's involved in the horse program will be hosting a barbecue.

Mr. Cooper has been coordinating the annual ride for the last 21 years. Another coordinator, Sharon Olofson, has been helping with the ride for 20 years.

Mrs. Olofson is also responsible for raising money to help St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year, not only will people be able to donate to St. Jude's but they will also be able to help Linda Elfers who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Mrs. Elfers grew up riding horses and has seldom missed a trail ride.

For more information, contact Mr. Cooper, 785-332-2904 or Mrs. Olofson, 785-332-2248.



VOLUNTEERS SERVED around 500 people Sunday at the benefit dinner for Linda Elfers. Helping serve are: l to r, Kathy Vandike, Sondra Bracelin, Amber Faulkender, Dani Holzwarth and Melissa Zwegardt. *Herald staff photo by Tim Burr*

Benefits raise needed money

*By Karen Krien
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A benefit dinner and a poker run were held Sunday to help Linda Elfers with medical bills.

The dinner, held at the St. Francis high school, served 500 meals and there were 116 meals carried out. Shirley Zwegardt, one of the organizers of the event, said they had prepared fried chicken for 400 people.

It was like Jesus feeding the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fish, she said. The food just stretched and stretched. The last few people ended up with deli sandwiches served with potatoes and gravy.

Most people, she said, had come to help Linda, not eat. Donations were taken.

The United Methodist Church and Peace Lutheran Church ladies provided a wide range of desserts. The 4-H club members had three long tables filled with bake-sale items.

Volunteers were wherever they were needed including those who delivered food to the different homes, cooked and cleaned up.

To make the benefit even more successful, Thrivent For Lutherans provided supplemental funds. For those who were unable to make the benefit dinner, donation checks may be made

payable to Thrivent in care of Miriam Yonkey, 145 Clinton Ave., Wheeler, KS 67756.

Poker run

The Cheyenne County Cruisers car club held a poker run that afternoon. Kent Kechter and Scott Schultz reported about 50 motorcycles and nine vehicles participated in the run which started at St. Francis, went on to Wray, to Haigler, south of Benkelman and back to St. Francis.

There were 73 poker hands sold and the winning money was donated by the Cruisers

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JESSE SCHIELD spent a lot of time fertilizing and watering her chrysanthemums throughout the summer and the flowers are blooming beautifully. Mrs. Schield lives at 115 S. Adams in St. Francis. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*



THE POKER RUN, held Sunday starting in St. Francis, also raised money to help Linda Elfers with her medical expenses. *Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*