



**HARVEST HAS STARTED** — Roger Zweygart, above, was dumping a load of wheat off a field west of St. Francis. He reported that the yield was about what he had expected -- 20 bushels per acre. Below, Link Zweygart makes the last round in a field as the storm clouds were building in the west. However, little rain fell out of the clouds which rumbled through later on.

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

## Harvest begins; yields not good

*By Karen Krien*

The combines are rolling in the fields and the loads are coming in to the county elevators as wheat harvest gets into full swing. The first load arrived at Wheeler Equity on June 18, early again this year. The wheat crop suffered another year of little moisture and, as it started to mature, there was wind and hot temperatures. For a while, the prediction of harvest yields was bleak but, surprisingly, the wheat coming in has been a little better than expected.

"We were expecting the worse and hoping for better," said Tim Burr, St. Francis Equity manager. "The crop is kind of in between."

There is shriveling and the wheat is light — not good but better than some thought it would be. Weights are averaging around 57 pounds and the moisture is dry.

Manager Burr said that harvest is off to a good start but it is hard to tell exactly where it is at and when it will be done. Some of the fields up north of St. Francis may be abandoned while some of the fields in the south are not as bad as originally thought.

According to some of the farmers, the yields on dryland wheat are averaging 10 to 30 bushels per acre. The irrigated wheat is not quite ready to be cut.

### Information office

Custom harvesters are starting to come through. Bud Erskin, who runs a harvest information office from his business, Majestic Service on 405 South River Street, reported that he has had a few calls from harvesters.

Those needing cutters or drivers should contact him at 785-332-2905. He will probably be open later during the harvest.



## Fireworks, burns banned in county

*By Karen Krien*

For the past several months, the news has been talking about the drought in western Kansas and portions of Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Montana and New Mexico. The tremendous forest fire south and west of Denver has emphasized the potential danger of fire worsened by drought conditions.

Locally, the Cheyenne County Commissioners and firemen have also been concerned with danger of fires especially with the continued 90- to 100-degree temperatures and strong winds which have plagued the area.

With these conditions in mind, Commissioners Ron Krien and Tim Raile met in special session on Friday where they adopted a resolution banning open burning and the use of fireworks in the county until there is measurable rainfall. When the commissioners decide the county is no longer in danger, the resolution will

either be modified or rescinded. (Commissioner Jane Brubaker was unable to attend.)

People are not to have an outdoor fire including burning trash, fields, pasture, fence rows, grassland or ditches, campfires, warming fires, charcoal grill fires or use any fireworks.

However, this resolution does not apply within the city limits of St. Francis and Bird City.

If a person does start a fire outside of the city limits, they will be breaking the law. That person, if found guilty, can be fined up to \$500 and put in jail for up to one month.

With the Fourth of July coming in just days, people need to be aware that, if they light fireworks outside the city limits, they are breaking the law. And, if a fire is started with the present dry conditions, it could burn acres and acres of grass and crop land.

## Council accepts bids for hall renovations

*By Sandy Barnhart*

Renovation of the new city council building on Main Street was one of the main topics on the agenda at the June 18 meeting of the St. Francis City Council.

The council had previously advertised for bids for the completion of the inside of the building and landscaping and bids were reviewed the bids for the

finishing work on the building. Only one bid was received for each of the finish work projects. The council also advertised the sale of 77 blocks which were taken out of the building.

Penn Building Service received the bid of \$98,300 for general contracting of the interior remodeling of the new city hall building. Danny Penn noted

**See BIDS on Page 9**

## Firemen kept busy

George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, reported that there have been two fires in the last week.

On Sunday, volunteer firemen were called to extinguish a wheat field fire south of St. Francis near the Bud McCall farm. About 7 acres of wheat belonging to Tom Bandel were destroyed but the fire chief said it could have been worse.

"The wind was not blowing like it had been earlier so the fire didn't spread," he said.

While there is little proof, the fire chief said that it is believed that the fire started with the careless throwing of a cigarette butt.

A second fire happened when a car belonging to Lavelle Burns, St. Francis, caught fire and burned. Ms. Burns had only been home 15 to 20 minutes when the car began to smolder. Chief Harper believed that the fire was believed to be caused by an electrical short in the wiring. The car was totaled but there were no injuries.

## Hospital board finalizes plans, bids to be let at July 16 meeting

*By Karen Krien*

The remodeling and building on the clinic in St. Francis continues to still be in the planning stages but the hospital administrator, at the June 20 meeting, informed the Cheyenne County Hospital Board that the architect will have the plans completed and the bids will be let at a special meeting on July 16.

Rueben Schultz, board member, was concerned that the bid date was so late. Board member Swede Calnon asked if the late bid was going to cause some problems when it came to running cement — would it be too cold? There

were several on the board who did not think that it would be that cold before they started running cement but it appeared to be the consensus of the board that the remodeling needed to get started as soon as possible. Mr. Schultz also said that he did not think it would be necessary to remove all of the evergreen trees on the east side for the remodeling and the administrator said he would talk to the architect.

Robert VanAllen, board member, said he had been asked why the board had not tried to borrow interest-free money from Prairie Land Electric.

However, Kelly Gienger, board member, asked, "do we want to borrow money, even if it is interest free?"

Administrator Les Lacy said that it could be that, even if they wanted to borrow money, the board was not in a position to use Prairie Land. It was pointed out that the hospital board could not "borrow money" but he would talk to the county attorney, Kevin Berens, about the legalities and if there was some way that the board could borrow money.

The money for remodeling the clinic **See PLANS on Page 9**

## Board informed about doctor leaving area; another sought

*By Karen Krien*

The hospital administrator informed the Cheyenne County Hospital Board at the June 20 meeting that Dr. Eric Jacobsen, doctor who come to the clinic to see patients, especially expectant mother patients, will be leaving the area. Since the county hospital does not deliver babies, serving these to-be moms could be a problem. Administrator Les Lacy said that Dr. Mary Beth Miller is looking into the situation and there may possibly be a solution to the problem by the next meeting.

Troy Herman, physical therapist, has left the hospital for another job but Shara Johnson will be taking his place starting in July. Mrs. Johnson was born and raised in St. Francis.

The administrator reported that he had been talking with a surgeon working in Rawlins County about also coming to St. Francis to do surgery.

On July 1, the hospital will begin contracting directly with Kim Zweygart for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

services. Before, the services were purchased from Rawlins County Health Center. Administrator Lacy said that, by contracting directly with Nurse Zweygart, this will help maintain her services in the community for the future and the plan is agreeable with the Rawlins County Health Center.

### Improvements being made

The first quarter quality assurance improvement for the hospital on a continuous basis review had been made and the administrator reported several improvements were made including: making the laundry pattern safer for employees; getting a dietitian consultant, making it easier for patients to sign in, improve medication safety, and tracking all purchasing to see that all changes are made. There will also be changes made in the housekeeping department and upgrade infection control. The administrator said that the retakes in radiology are lower and the staff is trying to improve even more.

**See DOCTOR on Page 9**

## Sainty girl earns 2003 title

*By Karen Krien*

Fifteen girls vied for the title of Cheyenne County Junior Miss 2003 on Saturday evening after putting in a week of practicing routines, talent and mock interviews. When the evening ended and the judges had made their final decision, Jennifer Weems was selected to represent the county in Belleville March 23 through 29.

The Junior Miss Program recognizes excellence through on-stage performances and public demonstrations of abilities. They are awarded cash scholarships along with having the opportunity for college and university grants available.

The first runner-up was Heather Culwell; second runner-up was Brooke Kibel; third runner-up was Samantha Coates and Heidi Rohweder was the fourth runner-up.

Samantha was also awarded the Spirit of Junior Miss; Jenny was awarded the Scholastics, Poise and Talent Awards; Heidi the Interview Award and Heather, the Fitness Award.

As part of the Poise presentation, each contestant was asked the question, "If given \$1,000, what charity would you give it to and why?"

**See TITLE on Page 9**



**JENNIFER WEEMS, right, was selected to represent Cheyenne County as the 2003 Junior Miss. Presenting her bouquet was Meaghan Jamison, the 2002 Cheyenne County Junior Miss.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*



# BIDS

Continued from Page 1

that the job would begin the first of July with completion hopefully around October.

Great Western Landscaping submitted a bid of \$26,105 for landscaping and concrete around the building. Troy Porter explained that he would begin the first of August. The city crew will be tearing the concrete out.

Deb Patton submitted a bid of \$35 for all 77 of the glass blocks. The council approved the bid.

### Fireworks

A fireworks license was approved for Mark Keller and John Keller. The council is hoping that residents of Cheyenne County will take into account the dry weather and that the fireworks will be displayed only in city limits this year.

### Recycling

Councilman Roger Jensen reported that there would be a meeting with Thomas, Logan and Cheyenne counties on June 27 in Colby. The county representatives will be working on a regional co-op agreement. This will not be a formal co-op as there would be too many legalities involved. The group is considered a membership program with each county paying a membership fee of \$1 per capita per year. Cheyenne County's fee is \$3,165. This was approved at the April 16 meeting with the commissioners paying the full amount.

Councilman Jensen said that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment had advertised a 1999 Isuzu truck with an enclosed box that the county reps might consider for use as

an area-wide pick-up service.

### Property cleanup

Attorney Mike Day informed the council that Resolution 2002-4, which the council had adopted at the June 4 meeting had been delivered to ErvaGene DeAragon concerning the white trailer house on the property at 506 E. Second Street. The resolution states that the trailer house must be removed from the property within 20 days of notification.

The 20 days elapsed on June 25 and, Attorney Day after contacting the council members, will file a petition in the District court and the matter will be heard before a District judge.

The cleanup progress of the other three properties on Washington Street which were delivered letters were also discussed. The council felt that all property owners were making progress however, the council did have concern about the items on the sidewalk on the west side building belonging to Bud Houtman. The council noted that the sidewalk had still not been cleared and were concern about safety.

The council noted that the commissioners had discussed starting a cleanup project similar to the city's which would involve the perimeters of St. Francis.

### Building permits

The building permits were approved contingent upon Superintendent J.R. Landenberger's approval, for the following residents: Carol Wolters, run concrete; Bill Wilger, repair sidewalk

and relocate fence.

### Superintendent report

• Superintendent Landenberger asked that the council consider purchasing a Ford pickup at Yost Ford-Mercury. The pickup was formerly Councilman Jensen's. The 1996 Cherokee presently being driven by the superintendent has 103,000 miles. Superintendent Landenberger noted he had checked prices and the pickup would cost \$19,000 without a trade-in and \$13,000 with the trade-in of the Cherokee.

• Superintendent Landenberger informed the council that the street overlays and replacements were completed with some cleanup left.

• The city crew is looking into fixing the air conditioning at the theater. There will report back at the next meeting.

• The council was informed that the alley on Quincy Street had been inspected. Melvin Schlepp and Walter Hilt had approached the council at the June 4 meeting concerning the water runoff. Superintendent Landenberger noted that he would like to have Miller and Association of McCook look at the alley the next time they were in town to see if there is a solution.

### Police report

Chief of Police Jason Ryan reported that Mark Davidson will start patrol for the city on June 21. Currently Officer Davidson lives in Bird City, but is looking for a home in St. Francis.

### Clerk report

City Clerk Mary Lampe reported that

the audit will be presented along with the auditors reviewing the 2003 budget at the July 9 meeting.

The city employee picnic will be held July 20 at the swimming pool.

Councilwomen Kay Shay and Natalie Knodel along with Clerk Lampe will attend the League of Kansas Municipalities meeting at Goodland the end of June.

The council approved to block off part of Whittier Street on July 13 for Velma Goodell's auction.

### Other business

In other business:

• A lengthy discussion was held discussing the five-year plan. The council agreed for each committee to meet and bring the immediate needs to the second meeting in July. At the second meeting in August the committees will present a more long-term agenda on future needs.

• Susan Hobrock, coordinator of the Cheyenne County Development, requested the entire corporation's allotment of money for the year 2002. The council approve the allotment of \$5,000.

She also asked that the council that

the council budget the corporation into the 2003 budget.

• Pool manager Danielle Krieh reported the plan was to continue to close the pool at 6 p.m. due to low attendance instead of the original 8 p.m. on Sundays.

• Councilman Rick Krieh suggested starting an "Adopt-a-Park" program similar to the state's Adopt a Ditch. He felt that organizations or businesses would be interested in a program of this nature.

• Tuesday, June 25, the council met in executive session to discuss the wage budget for 2003. The council will report their decisions for the audit and budget at the July 9 meeting.

### Executive session

Superintendent Landenberger requested 2 minutes in executive session for personnel.

Councilman Rick Krieh requested 5 minutes in executive session for personnel.

### Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the St. Francis Public Library.

# TITLE

Continued from Page 1

Some of the girls said they would give to the cancer society, several others would give to orphanages while one would give the money to the emergency medical technicians, another to "Locks of Love." Jenny, who won the Poise Award, said that she would give the money to an orphanage even though it was not recognized as a "charity." "It is sad for children not having parents," she said.

Meaghan Jamison, the 2002 Cheyenne County Junior Miss, performed her last duties by handing out awards and presenting flowers to the winners. She told about her experiences throughout the year, especially at the state contest, and thanked her family for their support.

Other participants in the Junior Miss Program on Saturday were: Tara Neitzel, Jill Zumbahlen, Vanessa Wieck, Kelly Garner, Joy Zumbahlen, Amanda Poore, January Fiedler, Samantha Jensen, Kari Gienger and

Jessica Flemming.

Jenny Busse and Penny Krien were the mistress of ceremonies. Tyler Voorhies, Tyler Howard, Kyle Buffington, Chancy Livingston and Dillan Zweggardt were escorts. Amy Rieger provided entertainment during the time when the judges were making their decision.

Vicki Cress, coordinator of the program, praised the girls for their hard work and coming together to make a great program. Each girl had a backstage mom who spent much of the week helping and encouraging their "daughter."

The evening ended with an "after glow" in the cafeteria where the girls were congratulated and cookies and punch were enjoyed after a long, hot stay in the auditorium.

Judges for the program included Neala Carmichael, Sterling, Colo.; Susan Brown, Akron, Colo.; Sherri Stank, McCook; Randy Berls, Goodland and Lori Curry, Atwood.

# PLANS

Continued from Page 1

was raised through state tax credits but after the plans had been made and the amount of money set, the board decided to move the county health office to the basement of the clinic. Consequently, a handicap access elevator to the office would need to be installed and some minor remodeling done. The board will look at these improvements after the remodeling is done. In the meantime, the health clinic is located in the Dr. Brett Poling Chiropractic office on U.S. 36.

### Hospital remodeling

Following the completion of the clinic remodeling, the board will look

at the hospital remodeling and addition project. The slope of the roof on the new addition has been discussed for several months. The architect had only a 1/4-inch slope which would mean that it would be almost a flat roof and the board did not want that type of roof. The board wanted to raise the slope to 1-inch which would put the roof slope up to 2 foot at the top and the architect was worried about how it would look. The additional slope would cost more — probably \$4,000 to \$5,000 — but, in the long run, the board felt like it would pay for itself in future repairs as it would allow the water to run off. The board approved the 1-inch slope.

# DOCTOR

Continued from Page 1

### In other business

In other business:

• The hospital board discussed the remodeling and letting of bids for the clinic in St. Francis. See related article in this issue.

• Patients and swingbed patients staying in the hospital has been slow. Administrator Lacy said that this is typically a slow time of year and the poor economy has not helped the situation. However, the hospital has been able to meet its cash needs since the last board meeting.

• The hospital will be granted an ad valorem tax exemption on the old county health building on U.S. 36 during the time that it was owned by the board.

• The administrator is applying for a Small Hospital Improvement Program grant for \$25,000. If the grant is received, the hospital will most likely receive \$11,000 to \$18,000 and it will be used to comply with the Health Information Portability Acts.

• The administrator will know by early July if the board and hospital have

been approved for the Community Service Project application.

• The administrator reported that he had recently learned that the hospital's total cost report settlement will be just over \$200,000 in the hospital's favor and should get \$160,000 back. "This should put us pretty close to budget on our audit but we haven't seen the money yet," the administrator commented.

• An air-conditioning unit at the clinic in St. Francis quit working. After visiting with the architect, who had no plans to make changes in this area when the clinic is remodeled, the administrator had the unit replaced for \$800. He noted that to repair the unit would have cost \$600.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the hospital board will be a special meeting set for 2 p.m. on July 16 and, at that time, the bids for the clinic remodeling will be let. The regular board meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 17. Both meetings will be held in the basement of the clinic across the street from the hospital in St. Francis.

# Granddaughter completes space training program

Laneah Petitjean, Hutchinson, attended Level I of the Future Astronaut Training Program at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson June 12 through 17.



Petitjean

The intense week-long program, which was developed by Cosmosphere staff, incorporates actual astronaut training with briefings on subjects ranging from how the body reacts to spaceflight to principles of rocketry. The camp strives to motivate and inspire careers in space education in an environment which stresses team work and problem solving.

During the week, campers trained on numerous simulators related to both manned and unmanned spaceflight. They simulated walking on the moon in the 1/6 gravity simulator and performed stress tests on a three-axis training and in the Centrifuge, a g-force training. They also repaired a malfunctioning satellite utilizing the simulated

Manned Maneuvering Unit, flew the Advanced Flight Simulator housed in an actual F-101 cockpit and directed a Lunar Rover mission much like the Mars Pathfinder, guiding a computer-controlled rover around rocks and craters and picking up samples to return to Earth. The week culminated with the campers flying their own space shuttle mission aboard the Cosmosphere's state-of-the-art space shuttle simulator, the Falcon.

Future Astronaut Training Program participants learned about the history of the space program in the Cosmosphere's Hall of Space Museum, which houses one of the largest space artifact collections in the world. The museum features the actual Apollo 13 command module Odyssey and the largest collection of Russian space artifacts outside of Moscow. Campers also utilized the Cosmosphere's planetarium and IMAX Dome Theater throughout the week.

Laneah is the daughter of Mike and Tish Petitjean of Hutchinson; the granddaughter of Aletha Murphy and granddaughter of Chuck Petitjean of St. Francis.

Explore the  
wide world  
of the Web  
with our  
faster connections

The world.  
As close as  
your phone.  
332-3162

*We can connect you today!*

# nwkansas.com

For information about the Internet and how to sign up with nwkansas.com, contact us at

The St. Francis Herald • 310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kansas, 67756 • 785 332-3162