

## Local News Briefs

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
Thursday, 07 July 2011 20:26 -

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### **Pennington family pictures, ceramics at museum on Sunday**

This Sunday, the Chase County Historical Society will feature ceramics made by Ruth Spencer of Wauneta. She has been making ceramic pieces since 1968 and since 2003, has taken classes in ceramics in McCook and Sterling, Colo.

The Pennington pictures are family pictures that include pictures of the Wauneta elevator and bridge-building in Wauneta. There are also many pictures from Harvest Fest Days in Wauneta. While preparing this display, Mrs. Spencer discovered a picture which was identified as one which had been displayed at the Chase County Museum in 1970.

Museum hours on Sunday are from 1 to 4 p.m.

### **Wheat harvest could begin late this week**

In what feels like a flashback to last year, wheat harvest is coming a little later than normal again in 2011.

Elevators in Wauneta, Palisade and Imperial are yet to see activity, according to Frenchman Valley Co-op Grain Manager Ryan Schultz.

A few loads of cropped wheat did begin showing up in Benkelman and Culbertson at the end of last week, but it wasn't enough to provide a strong sample test, said Schultz.

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Schultz said he thinks the activity in Wauneta and Imperial could start as soon as tomorrow (Friday).

This year's heavy moisture has provided healthy crops, which prolongs the start of harvest. Cool temperatures early in the season also slowed the harvest.

A weekend thunderstorm that swept through northern Kansas temporarily postponed the 2011 Kansas wheat harvest. According to Kansas Agricultural Statistics, farmers had harvested about 85 percent of the state's wheat crop as of Sunday evening. Eric Sperber, manager of Cornerstone Ag in Colby, says harvest is about 50 percent complete in Thomas County, with about 1 million bushels taken in so far. Sperber says yields range from about 40 to 70 bushels per acre in dryland fields, although some of the poorer dryland wheat is yet to be harvested.

According to the USDA's weekly crop progress and condition report for Nebraska dated July 3, only 2 percent of the state's wheat is ripe, compared to 11 percent at this time last year. The report also rated 88 percent of Nebraska's wheat crop as fair or better.

Cash wheat in Wauneta closed at \$6.44 a bushel on Tuesday, marking an upswing in the market from last year's price at this time of \$3.23 a bushel. At this time in 2009, the price was \$4.90.

### **Polly on Jay Leno show tomorrow (Friday) night**

William Polly, grandson of Karl and Judy Polly of Wauneta, and son of Wauneta native Kris Polly, will showcase his unique stacking abilities on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno tomorrow evening. The show comes on the air at 9:35 p.m. MT/10:35 p.m. CT.