Breeze wins national award in photography

The Wauneta Breeze won an honorable mention award for sports photography in the National Newspaper Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

The Breeze award was in the non-daily division for papers with a circulation of less than 3,000 competing with newspapers from across the country.

Winners were announced at the NNA annual convention held last month in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Imperial Republican earned two awards in the contest, taking first place in editorial writing by Russ Pankonin. The Republican also earned a third place award for editorial page.

Runners sought for Pumpkin Run event

The annual Pumpkin Run will again originate and end at Cox's Pumpkin Patch near Champion this year.

The run is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15.

Entry forms are available at Imperial Super Foods or by visiting the Chase County Tourism web site at chasecounty tourism.com.

The day will begin with a 7 a.m. check-in and race day registration. The 5K and 10 mile races begin at 8 a.m., while the kids' run begins at 9 a.m.

Awards and prize drawings will be held about 10:15 a.m.

The routes are the same as last year, according to coordinator Jill Moline. The 5K race makes a figure eight through the cornfields and pumpkin patch. The 10 mile race circles around Cox's Pond and through Champion and surrounding hills.

The cost for adults is $15 before Oct. 8 and $18 after that. The kids' run is free. Sponsors are Super Foods, Running Times Magazine and the tourism committee.

For more information contact Moline at (308) 883-5389.

WVFD responds to field fire north of town

Tuesday afternoon the Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department was summoned to a field fire near the Nona Kerchal home north of Wauneta in western Hayes County.

A soybean field being harvested by the Kerchal family caught fire, likely sparked by the combine said W.V.F.D. Fire Chief Donn Allen. The fire was knocked down by the time fire trucks arrived, with the department extinguishing smoldering hot spots to ensure the fire did not reignite later. Only a small strip of the field was affected, said Allen.

State Patrol issues safety reminders

Harvest season is underway and motorists in Nebraska are reminded to use extra caution and pay special attention. Drivers can expect to see an increase in agricultural equipment on state roadways. In addition to farm implements, motorists are encouraged to watch for deer often scared from the fields during this very busy time.

“We encourage all drivers to stay alert,” said Colonel David Sankey, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. “At this time of year, motorists on rural roads and highways are urged to pay extra attention as they may encounter large slow moving equipment, as well as displaced wildlife.”

Combines, grain carts, tractors and other agricultural implements travel at slower speeds. Due to their dimensions and loads, operator visibility is often reduced. Motorists are urged to be cautious when approaching, following or attempting to pass farm vehicles.

Operators of agricultural implements are reminded they may travel upon the shoulder of the roadway, when available. They are also reminded of the need for SMV warning triangles and to utilize their flashing yellow caution lights whenever they are on the road.

When turning left from a roadway into a field or farm entrance, operators are cautioned to be aware of vehicles attempting to pass them.

As always, drivers are encouraged to buckle-up.