

In The News

Joes Fire Dept. fish fry is Sat.

Joes Fire Department is having its annual fundraiser with a fish fry on Saturday. It will be at the Joes Fire Hall, located at the intersection of Highway 59 and Highway 36, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Homestead for seniors July 15

The Yuma County Assessor would like to remind all senior citizens about the upcoming July 15 deadline for the Senior Homestead Exemption. In order to qualify, you must have been 65 as of January 1, 2015, owned your home for 10 years, and currently reside within that home. You may call 332-5032 for more information. Applications must be in the Assessor's Office or postmarked by July 15 in order to receive the discount on the 2015 tax notice for taxes due and payable in 2016.

Greg Hill to be at library, July 17

Author Greg Hill will be a special guest at the Yuma Public Library on Friday, July 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Hill grew up in the Joes area, and still spends some of his time there. He graduated from Liberty School in the early 1990s. His latest book, "The Lonesome Trials of Johnny Riles" was released last month and is available at the Yuma Public Library. Everyone is invited to drop by and visit with Hill on July 17 at the library.

Yuma artists in Holyoke studio

The Yuma Arts Association has a featured show at the Prairie Winds Art Gallery in Holyoke for July. Local artists showing work include Joyce Bardeen, Kay Hoch, Gladys Seifert, Luella Lillich, Leta Smith, Sara Bledsoe and several former members. A reception at the gallery will be held for the artists on Sunday, July 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. The gallery was opened by area artists and has a beautiful display area for art. It is located at 443 S. Interocean in Holyoke. The July meeting of the arts association will host Nancy Dee demonstrating water soluble oil paints on Thursday, July 16, at the Yuma Community Center at 9:30 a.m.

YC Fair singing tryouts July 20

The National Anthem Contest for the Yuma County Fair will be held July 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the rodeo arena, at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma. Contestants must be present to try out. There will be five singing engagements to fill, including the rodeos and parade. Please call Kim Latoski at 630-1615 with any questions.

City manager coffee is July 9

Yuma City Manager Sid Fleming will be hosting his regular monthly coffee today, Thursday, July 9. It will be held at Farm House Market beginning at 10 a.m.



Pioneer Photo/Tony Rayl

Bombs bursting in air!

A firework explodes in the sky during the traditional July 3 fireworks show put on by the Yuma Volunteer Fire Department, last Friday night. The firemen put on a great show for the large crowd that gathered at the Jeff Armstrong Ball Park and neighboring Pioneer Lake fishing hole, along with all those that were able to watch from home and other locations.

Kidnapped child found in Yuma

By Tony Rayl
The Yuma Pioneer

A kidnapping of a young girl by her biological mother in Colorado Springs came to a conclusion in Yuma, last Wednesday, July 1. It began Tuesday, June 30, when the Colorado Springs Police Department was alerted that 5-year-old Sidney Carlisle had been taken by her mother, Kiri McMillian, who grew up in this area and has known ties in Yuma and Washington counties. The report from the CSPD stated McMillian, 28 years old, forcibly took the girl after she refused to leave with her. McMillian was identified as a "non-custodial" parent as she has no custody rights.

Law enforcement agencies in both counties were alerted to the situation by Wednesday morning, July 1, with the W-Y Combined Communications Center keeping it all tied together. An Amber Alert was put out by the Colorado Springs PD on Wednesday, and McMillian's vehicle was recovered in Yuma. Police Chief Jon Lynch said the vehicle used for the kidnapping was a Cadillac owned by Tony Corliss, and it was found at his residence. He consented to a search of his residence, but McMillian and the young girl were not found. Officers were told the pair had been dropped off at a residence in Lindon in southern Washington County on Tuesday evening. The driver reportedly was someone else, whose name was Please see **Kidnapping** on page 6

Future of farming is here at the IRF

By Tony Rayl
The Yuma Pioneer

The future of farming is being tested in the present just north of Yuma. And it gives one hope that humankind will be able to meet the challenges of feeding a growing population for a long time to come. "I am so happy to be at this point, where it was a vision six years ago to seeing it happen, it's a sweet moment," said Charles Corey, executive director of the Irrigation Research Foundation Farm. Continual development of drought-resistant plant seeds still capable of high yields with less water, coupled with technological advancements that allow for highly-precise amounts of water and nutrients, are making for cutting-edge research at the IRF. "We're at the cusp of awesome precision," Corey said last week, during an interview with the Pioneer that included Gary Nock with Agrimeasures, and Erik Tribelhorn with Agri-Inject. The IRF and its research facility was founded in 1994 by area producers, taking over the former DeKalb seed testing location that had been sitting empty. It is a private, non-profit independent research and demonstration farm. It has been a viable operation since its inception, providing a place for seed companies to test their products, and conducting studies on various farming methods. The test plots have shown some encouraging results; for example, in 2010 one plot produced more than 300 bushels of corn per acre with only 12-1/2 inches of water. However, Corey said the IRF has really started to hit its stride over the past several years. Water usage has become more of a focus over the past decade or so, as the region has dealt with meeting Colorado's obligations to the Republican River Compact. Part of that effort was the state implementing measure-

Please see **IRF** on pg. 6



Pioneer Photo /Tony Rayl

Irrigation Research Foundation Farm General Manager Charles Corey explains how it all works while giving a tour of a high-tech precision-agriculture field directly north of Yuma.

Main St. project delayed

No bids by deadline so rescheduled for 2016

By Sid Fleming
Yuma City Manager

The construction start date for the City of Yuma's Main Street Project will be delayed until the spring of 2016. The bid invitation opened in late May, and a pre-bid conference was held on June 10. A number of companies and organizations purchased plan-sets, and nearly a dozen representatives from a variety of organizations attended the pre-bid conference. In addition, three construction firms completed the prequalification process. Despite this apparent interest in the Main Street Project, no bids were received by the June 25 deadline. Rick Coldsnow, SEH Project Manager, contacted each of the three pre-qualified contractors and inquired why they chose not to submit a bid. SEH, which is the city's engineering firm for the project, wanted to ensure that potential contractors did not have concerns regarding the design or scope of the project, which may have prevented receiving any bids. The primary feedback from the pre-qualified contractors was concern over the size and timeline of the project. Because of the spring and early summer weather, these contractors were already behind on current projects and did not feel that they could dedicate the necessary human resources for our project in Yuma. The three pre-qualified contractors reportedly expressed shock that no one submitted a bid, and said they were disappointed that they had not done so. Each said they assumed that there would be plenty of bids based on the attendance at the pre-bid conference. Each of these contractors expressed continued interest in the project if it was re-bid. The bid invitation will be released again some time between late November and early January.