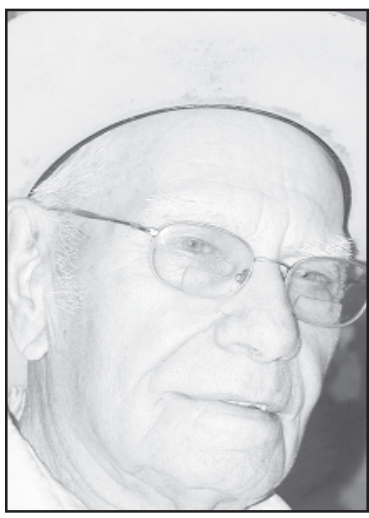


County fair parade is Saturday

St. Francis man is oldest board member



Zwegardt

By Karen Krien
karenk@nwkans.com
 A 91-year-old St. Francis man will be the 2007 Cheyenne County Fair parade marshal. He plans to lead the parade riding in a horse-drawn buggy, driven by his nephew, Eldon Zimelman.
 Mr. Zwegardt is now the only living member of the original Cheyenne County Fair Board. He said the first board meeting was held in front of Egans Drugstore with himself, Ernie Sherlock, Deb Sherlock and Stanley Matney.
 The fairs had been held at the St. Francis airport and behind the courthouse. There were other counties around who had "real" fairs and the men decided that it was about time Cheyenne County did the same.
 There were 10 men who went to the Cheyenne County State Bank and Howard Sawhill loaned them the money to purchase the land for the fairgrounds. All 10 had to sign the note.
 By fair time in 1946, the land was bought and the fair was ready to take place. Jake Zwegardt had hand dug a well so there was drinking water.

Even though there were no buildings, the events were still scheduled. Some of the members went to Greeley and rented bleachers to sit on. A carnival group pulled into town and the fair was in full force.
 Mr. Zwegardt said many of those traveling carnivals were run by criminals and were crooked. "They were a rough bunch," he said.
 He watched a man lose \$50 to one of the game booths and one of the carnies cheated a kid out of \$5. The equipment they brought with them was well used and in poor condition. "People should be real thankful that we have the home-owned carnival today," he said.
 In the late 40s, Hap Shull and Mr. Zwegardt took measurements of the grandstand in Oakley. By 1949, the grandstand had been built and was ready for the fair. Built by volunteer labor, it took about 120 days and cost around \$2,000.
 Building this huge structure was quite an undertaking but it was done right and had a roof for shade in the hot summer sun. Mr. Zwegardt said a man had come to the grounds and offered to help.

They sent him up to the roof to help put on the tin.
 "He put on one sheet and came down," Mr. Zwegardt said, and asked, "'Do you have any ditches to dig?'"
 Grandstand entertainment included baseball games and, later, included rodeos and horse and chariot races.
 "They were also local guys who brought their horses in," Mr. Zwegardt said. "Most of them weren't very fast but everyone enjoyed it."
 During those first few years of developing the fairgrounds, part of a Foster Lumberyard building was moved to the fairgrounds for a livestock building. Later, the block building was built and named after the home extension leader, Miss Jenkins.

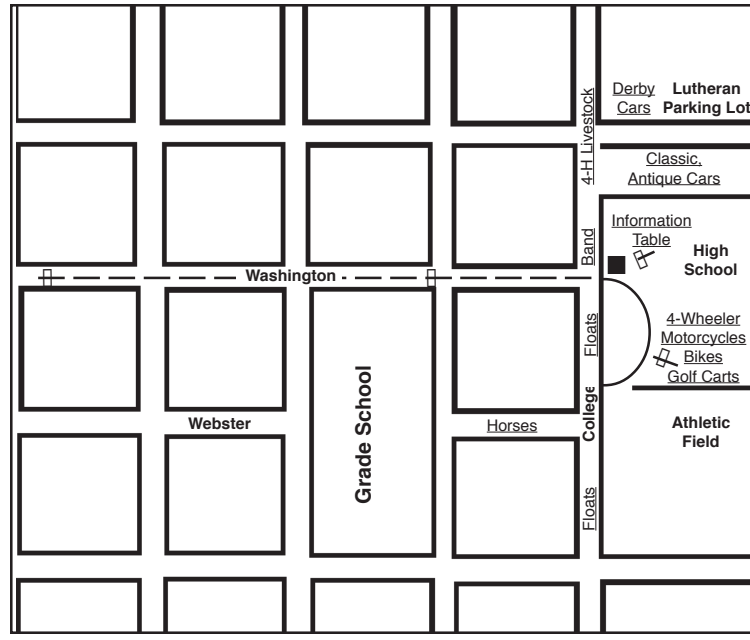
To help pay for the fairgrounds and buildings, admission was charged for events. Mr. Zwegardt said everyone, even board members, paid to get in.
 Mr. Zwegardt has not only stood on the curb and watched the parade but has helped with them and, he and his wife Irene even rode their horses in the parade.
 He said he is happy and excited to be the fair marshal this year.
 In an earlier article, Mr. Zwegardt was asked what he enjoyed the most about fair now and he said, "Everything, especially the carnival. It is a place where people can bring their children and they can ride while the parents visit and go to the programs."

Parade starts at 10 a.m., St. Francis

The Cheyenne County Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday in St. Francis and will end with the performances by the St. Francis Pom Pon squad. The theme this year is "Winds of Change."
 Early in the morning, Main Street will be blocked off at Benton Street down to River Street. There are to be no vehicles parked in front of businesses in that four-block area. People can park in front of the courthouse and the park.
 Entries will line up at the high school. Floats to be judged should be on the east side of College Street by 9 a.m.
 The Once Again Band, made up of local residents, will be performing. Along with them will be the St. Francis Singers.
 Parade marshal this year is Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis.
 The parade is once again being organized by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Carla Lampe reported that, for awhile, it looked like the number of floats would be down but, in the last week, the people, organizations and businesses are getting their floats together.
 "It should be a great parade," she said.
 While people don't have to fill out an entry form, those people who had floats in the past are planning to have them again this year and there are new floats.
 Criteria for judging floats include: 1) Unique theme creation; 2) creative use of material; and 3) originality.

There is a grand champion overall winner and three divisions: Family; Organization/Church; and Commercial.
 "You don't have to spend a lot of money to win," Mrs. Lampe said. "Just look at the criteria the judges use for picking the float."
 There will be an information table at the top of Washington Street in front of the high school. Those wanting to know where they should line up for the parade should stop by or check out the map printed in this issue of the newspaper. There will also be a parking map available at the school.
 Floats are to line up on College Street along the east side in the student parking area. All derby cars are to line

up in the Peace Lutheran Church parking lot; bikes, motorcycles, golf carts and ATVs should park in the circle drive in front of the high school gym.
 Horses should line up on the east end of Webster Street; classic and antique autos will be located on the drive just north of the high school auditorium, and the 4-H livestock with kids will be behind the Once Again Sound Band east of Larry Forsythe's residence on Washington Street.
 "Main Street has lots of shade trees and there are benches but to make sure you are comfortable, bring lawn chairs and lots of water," Mrs. Lampe said.



Parade lineup map

Bird City News

On July 12, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dorsch and Erika came to the Keith Dorsch farm.
 On July 14, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dorsch and son of Mesa, Ariz., joined their parents.
 On Thursday, July 19, Tom, Marcy, Bob Clare and son, Joe went to Fort Collins for a week of school and training for Campus Crusade for Christ. Erika, Sammy and Lucas spent that week with their grandparents.
 On Wednesday, July 26, Tom's picked up Erika and returned home to Whitewater but Cassie Dorsch of Parkville, Mo., arrived to spend a few days with her grandparents and cousins.

Bob and family left on Saturday enroute to the Wisconsin Dells to join Clare's family.
 Cassie left on Sunday afternoon.
 Bill Elliott of Amarillo, Texas, came Wednesday to visit his mother, Maude Elliott and to do some jobs plus attend the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show.
 Daughter Becky Babcock of Castle Pines, Colo., came to visit on Thursday.
 Both Bill and Becky left for home on Sunday.
 Visiting Maude on Saturday were Janice Lane, her niece and boyfriend of Denver.

Business Directory

To list your business, call 785-332-3162.

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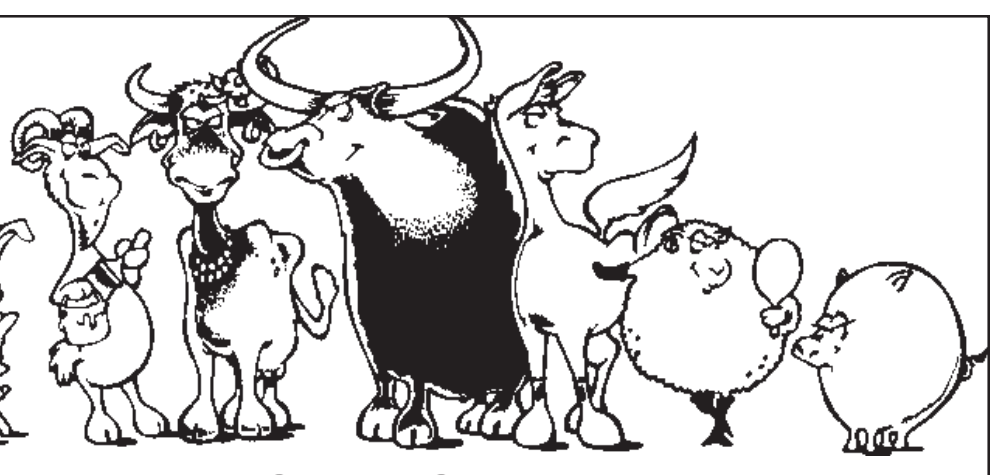
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Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:

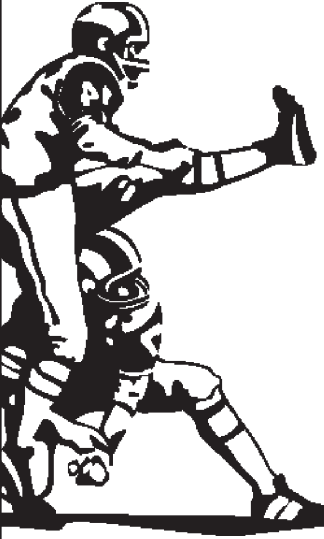
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