



TOWN MEETING — Norman Dorsch talks to Senator Ralph Ostmeyer; (r) Dan Carson enjoys a visit with Representative John Faber.
Times staff photos by Linda Schneider



New rules for kids ranch rodeo set

By Candice Sekich-Goodrich
The Kids Rodeo will be held again on Wednesday evening of the fair and will begin at 7 p.m. However, the Cheyenne County Fair Board, when they met on Thursday, noted some of the rules from the previous year will be changing.

Children must be five years-old or up to 70 pounds to be able to participate in the Mutton Bustin' contest.

The fair board will be adding a new event — a steer riding contest for the older children, 9-12 years of age (there is no weight limit since the steers will be large enough for the older kids). Adam Arensdorf, St. Francis, has offered to help supply the steers needed for the event. The committee hopes to have about 15 head of steers available that will weigh anywhere from 300 to 500 pounds. The calves, which will be mostly holstein or holstien/angus cross, are expected to be a little tamer, and not so wild.

The board was unsure what the stock charge would be for these calves, so they tabled the discussion to the next meeting when the board has a chance to get more information together and is able to discuss the matter with Mr. Arensdorf.

The board voted to spend up to \$500 for different size helmets and the rigging necessary for this event along with any other items needed.

The committee also discussed adding a Catch-a-Pig contest during the Kids' Rodeo event. The junior and senior barrel racing will wrap up the evening.

The committee decided against having the Ranch Rodeo this year since it coincides with the Professional Bull Riders event in Goodland, which is the same evening.

Team sorting/team roping
The sorting and roping event will be held on Thursday evening and will be similar to last year. The committee will go through the same person for obtaining the roping steers as last year and will use Ryan McAtee's steers for the sorting contest.

Lawn Mower Races
The Lawn Mower Races will take place on Friday evening. Clay Zimbelman said he had a lot of feedback from people in the community who are excited about participating in it or watching it. The information for a contact person and rules

for the races will be included in the derby flyer.

The Derby Committee needs a ream of paper and 100 stamps to get out their flyers.

Petting zoo
The board discussed some ideas about a offering a petting zoo in Jenkins Hall between the front area and the sale arena. It was noted that it would require a significant amount of time and participation to do, so it was tabled to the next meeting hoping for more ideas about how to make it successful.

Fairgrounds upgrades
The wooden floor in the new fair board building by the east arena gate needs repair and the board considered a permanent, concrete floor. Once the board receives prices for concrete, they will schedule a workday to finish the 10 by 16-foot slab that needs to be done before the new building is placed. It will also help make it a permanent structure.

They discussed adding dirt or sand to the grandstand arena, since it's about 2-feet lower in the center. Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, agreed to help haul in the needed material, but, recommended limiting the amount of sand since it will blow away quickly. He said the board could have silt from the city pond since it would hold better, but it would not dry out as well as sand would. The board is going to look into a mixture of dirt and sand to see what may work best. There is not price on sand yet and it was decided the board should level the arena before deciding how much more would be needed to get it to the depth they need for the horse events and the Derby event.

The door on the north side of the barn needs to be completed. The board decided to obtain a bid from Billy Krien and board president, Dick Bursch, will talk to a construction company in Goodland for a bid on the metal door.

Donations
Gary Cooper, member, suggested that donations to help keep up the fair be made at the First National Bank in St. Francis. He thought this would easily allow the board to keep track of the name and addresses of the donor, as well as the name of the memorial. He noted that it be emphasized that donors know only the First National Bank in St. Francis would be able to accommodate the donations.

Town meeting is held for politicians

By Linda Schneider
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On Saturday, the Heritage Café in Bird City hosted a town meeting with guest speakers, Kansas Senator Ralph Ostmeyer Representative John Faber. Speaking mainly on the issue of coal versus atomic as an energy source, they also answered a variety of questions from Bird City residents.

Rep. Faber opened by asking the group who was in favor of coal as an alternative energy supply, two or three hands went up. Then he asked who had concerns about the use of coal, five or six hands went up.

In short, the cost of coal is more inexpensive than atomic, and

there is potential of being able to sell the electricity to other communities, even outside the state.

On the concern of unhealthy emissions, Rep. Faber said that precautions are being implemented from the beginning of the construction. With modern technology, using Denver as a example of high smog that has been reduced by using better and better technology, building coal-based power plants are very efficient and cost effective.

Sen. Ostmeyer continued the conversation by saying that there have been some negative ideas about coal as energy, but that people should listen to both sides before making a decision.

"Could there be tax incentives for using solar/wind as energy alternatives?" asked Rick Reeser.

"There is for solar, but not wind at this time," said Rep. Faber. "The best way to receive any incentive is to partner with the utilities companies."

The hiring and education of illegal immigrants was a hot topic for the group.

"This is a great country, but it has been a burden on the taxpayers to educate them," said Sen. Ostmeyer. "And we are not out to close any business down."

"We are trying to right a wrong, but on the Federal level, this important issue is not being addressed, especially by the presidential candidates."

Sen. Ostmeyer said, "Each state needs to come up with a solution."

"You say the right things, but nothing happens," said Mike McCarty, dairy manager.

Sen. Ostmeyer and Rep. Faber

answered questions on Bill 604, requiring farmers to have the same road regulations as commercial trucks.

"Farmers are not the problem; we are fighting to keep the negative talk out. Kansas has the safest farm drivers in the country," said Sen. Ostmeyer.

Planned Parenthood, nursing bed tax and home schooling were also discussed.

"It is tough to get a two-thirds vote to pass a bill," said Rep. Faber.

The meeting ended with both Sen. Ostmeyer and Rep. Faber personally talking with the attendees.

For more information about Kansas, go to www.kansas.gov/kanview/

Club Clip

The American Legion Auxiliary met on March 7, with seven members present.

For part of the meeting, Hulda asked members to share something about plans for Easter or something that was happening in everyone's lives or about this winter. Rose shared about her husband and his work with the National Guard and that he still might be called upon to serve in Afghanistan. Wanda shared that her son-in-law is at Fort Riley right now and will be shipped to Afghanistan the first of April. Mary Dorsch shared about her winter and her illness, but she was glad to be with everyone today. She still has some bad days and some good days.

Carol Peters shared that they will be going to her son's at the end of the month to celebrate her birthday. Hollis shared about her having the flu as well as John, but they were doing better.

Joy told that her granddaughter is getting married later this year and she is busy with e-mails back and forth to her. Hulda finished up with the story about how their travels to Arizona and about how they enjoyed this time, but she was ill for a couple of days while they were gone.

Rose reported on Kelly Ray Simmonds return from Iraq. There were a few people from the community who were there to greet him, but it was still very disappointing that there weren't more to share in this special time for him.

For the rest of the program, Hulda read some information about the bombing of the recruiting stations in this country. She had received an e-mail about a Marine recruiting station in Berkeley, Calif. which had been a target of bombing and there have been others in New York and other places. "It is hard to imagine how people can do this when it is because of the Armed Service Men and Women that we have the freedoms that we have in this country" said Hulda. Another article that she read came from the Dispatch magazine in which the National Commander of the American Legion spoke out against these bombings. He also

criticized the Berkeley, California City Council for its Jan. 29 resolution telling the U.S. Marines that they are not welcome in the city. He wrote and said, "Nonetheless, our Marines continue to bravely serve, and in so doing, allow Americans to spout such foolishness."

April Meeting will be a work-day. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on April 4 for a time of cleaning in the Legion Hall. Then will go to the Heritage Corner Café for a dutch treat lunch around noon. We will have a regular meeting at 1:00 at the Legion Hall. Please ask for all of our members to please come for this day.

If any of you are eligible to join us, it would be welcomed. Join in as we work to support the troops and veterans who are serving and have served to keep the freedoms that are in this country.

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