

Fair board adds work nights to prepare for fair

By Candice Sekich-Goodrich
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At the July meeting, the last scheduled fair board meeting prior to the fair, the topic of the evening was mainly finalizing the fair plans. There are several things that need to be completed prior to the fair and the board members agreed to meet every Tuesday and Thursday evenings to work on the fairgrounds.

Board member, Ryan McAtee, volunteered to finish the new fencing on the west side of the grounds. President, Dick Bursch, told him that the new posts are already in, as is one line of wire. However, the remaining lines need to be put up and the old fence needs to be taken down.

Mr. Bursch noted that the old siding on the new building needs to be taken off. Jared Douthit, board member, told the board that he didn't think it would be feasible to complete the building prior to the 2008 fair. He said that the board may not be prepared for the additional costs associated with the repair of the wash rack line that backs up every year.

Mr. Bursch said he had Ron Krien help dig up part of the line to see if they would be able to determine what causes the wash rack line to back up. They found a repair that Mr. Krien had done several years prior. They repaired a larger patch in the same area that had filled up

with dirt and sand and continued to have back-up problems. Mr. Bursch called in a company from Goodland to use a camera to follow the line to help make sure they knew for sure what the root cause was and discovered the city line was also backed-up with dirt and sand. Although St. Francis city manager, J.R. Landenberger, said he would pay for the city line repair, there was some dispute among the board members about the price quoted for repairs by Mr. Krien, that the board would be responsible for. Despite the controversy, the board agreed that they needed to do what was necessary to their line too, to prevent any future problems. It was also decided that placing a grate over the drain might help keep the dirt and sand from washing and blowing into it during the months when it is not used.

Board member, Megan Douthit-Downey, reported that she still needed to find gate help, noting that Saturday evening for the derby would be the most important. The gate admissions have been set: Saturday's performance will be different from Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which will all be the same. They will also be the same as last year's prices.

Board member, Nick Ketzner, recommended that the 4-H members display the flag and recite the 4-H pledge in the arena prior to shows.

He had seen this done at another show and was impressed.

In other business

In other business:
• Board member, Erika Zimbelman, reported that the vendor rules are now available and even though they already have some vendors that have reserved booths, there is still room for additional vendors.

• Mr. Bursch recommended revising the policy on renting the facilities. The last time it was rented out, he said, he donated an hour of his time to clean and board treasurer, Lacy Reed and her children, donated another two hours to clean the facilities. It was decided that the rental deposit of \$150 would remain the same, however, if board members were required to clean, the renters would forfeit their entire deposit.

• Mr. Bursch informed the board that someone had approached him wanting to purchase the old electric poles that were removed. There's approximately 18 of various sizes and condition. The board decided to give Mr. Bursch authority to negotiate a price with the interested party.

• Extension agent, Joe Leibbrandt, notified the board that he thought several sorting boards were gone or missing. He was unable to find them at the last livestock show.

He asked the board if they would allow Francis O'Leary, 4-H shooting sports leader, to paint stripes on the floor for the shooting sports competition at fair. They normally use chalk but constantly have to redo the lines and thought paint might help simplify things. The board agreed as long as they were kept even and neat.

• Mr. Leibbrandt said that if straw was needed, he has someone who can help supply straw for the beef tie-outs.

• Mr. Bursch said that the new deed for the traded land would have to wait to be completed until a new county attorney was appointed.

• The board would like to "toss" fair T-shirts to the crowd during the parade and the Friday and Saturday evening performances. It was decided that they would have 50 shirts made to give out.

• The board was impressed and pleased with the progress and outcome of the First Christian Church ice cream stand and look forward to having it as part of the fair.

• New board member, Karol Lohman, said she was approached by the Equity board members who wanted to know who floors the beef for fair. Lloyd Wilson, St. Francis Livestock Barn manager, has been flooring it for the past few years, but any new bids would be accepted. The bids need to be turned into the board prior to the sale and a decision is usually made the day of the sale. Past year bids have been anywhere from market price to a few cents over market. One year they had a bid of five cents over market which was a record high bid.



PENNY GIENGER, CINDY NEITZEL, AND RHONDA BORN are busy helping the Amusement Authority prepare the fair grounds for this year's fair. They are painting one of the game booth frames. They help as much as they can every Thursday evening.

Amusement authority seeks volunteers to get ready for fair

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Fair is just a few weeks away but, if people don't step forward and volunteer to help operate games and rides on Saturday, especially the Octopus and Swings, it will be necessary to shut them down.

"We don't want to have two rides not running during the busiest night of the fair but we just don't have the people to man them," said DeEtta Knorr, who is charge of lining up people to work rides and games.

The rest of the time slots on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday have pretty much been filled. However, there are other activities going on including the demolition derby in front of the grandstand which appears to be keeping people from volunteering.

Volunteers running rides only work for two hours.

"It is work but it is great to see the kids having fun," Mrs. Knorr said.

Visitors who have come to

town for fair, whether they be friends or relatives, may want to spend a couple of hours working at the carnival. What fun it will be to tell their friends back home about running a ride or helping kids play "Plinko."

It is also a fantastic way to meet people they haven't seen for years.

For more information or to volunteer, people can call Mrs. Knorr at 785-332-2551.

Workers needed before the fair

Getting ready for the fair is also work! People who arrive when the lights are brightly shining, the music playing and kids are running around with cotton candy and prizes won with tokens, don't realize the "behind the scene" work that has taken place.

Amusement Authority volunteers start in the spring and spend time painting, cleaning, replacing, fixing and setting up.

People don't need to wait to be asked to help!

"We need everyone who is

willing to help us get ready," Mrs. Knorr said.

Cindy Neitzel, Penny Gienger and Rhonda Born are volunteering this year. They have been mostly painting.

Ms. Born said that it is relaxing and rewarding to see a booth frame newly painted. Ms. Neitzel felt the same way and tries to arrange her work schedule so she won't miss a Thursday evening work night.

Mrs. Gienger said she is planning on being a member of the Amusement Authority.

People are also needed on the Authority board. They start meeting after the fair, sorting out the games that worked or didn't work, repairs that will be needed before the next fair and take stock of leftover prizes (if there are any).

To find out more about the Amusement Authority, call Greg or Susie Walz, 785-332-2968 or 332-2332; or Mrs. Knorr, or any Authority member.

Grandstand fair events are finalized

By Candice Sekich-Goodrich
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The fair board discussed some of the entertainment which will be held during the Aug. 6-9 fair. Clay Zimbelman, chairman of the Derby/Lawn Mower Races Committee, reported that the plans for the lawn mower races set for Friday and the derby set for Saturday during the fair, are coming along well.

Although Mr. Zimbelman had recommended that participants 14 and under have additional requirements to participate in the Lawn Mower Pulls, it was decided that 10-16 year-olds would only be allowed to ride stock mowers and would need parents to sign release forms. Contestants 10-14 years old would need parents to be present on line to assist them.

Participants must be at least 16 years with a valid drivers license to ride any modified mowers in the mower races. The board also agreed that for liability reasons, they would have to abide by the four wheeler manufacture specifications for age limits for those races.

The board discussed bringing in additional bleachers for seating. Megan Douthit-Downey, member, said she would be able to provide collapsible bleachers that wouldn't be labor intensive to set up. She offered to bring them during a Tuesday or Thursday work night to

make sure they would work.

Kids Rodeo/Barrel Race Committee

The Kids Rodeo is ready. The helmets and necessary equipment have been purchased and Brian Hobrock, board member, reported that Adam Arensdorf said his calves are ready for the steer riding.

Dick Bursch, board president, asked for a report on the Ranch Rodeo, informing the board that people have made comments about looking forward to it and have questioned him about it. The board reviewed their minutes and noted again that they decided to not have a Ranch Rodeo because of the bull riding conflict in Goodland. Mr. Bursch thought it was important to note to the community that there will not be a Ranch Rodeo this year.

Grandstand Memorial Fund Committee

The Grandstand Memorial Fund plaques for the donations have not yet been ordered because it was still undecided how many name plates were needed on each plaque. The board decided it wasn't an issue since additional plates can be added.

The most important thing was to finish the box for donations and to have donation envelopes available. All the of the donors will be acknowledged in the paper after fair, as well as at next year's fair.



ELECT Sheriff Craig Van Allen, Republican

Back Row: Part-time deputy Norvin Anderson, Part-time deputy Frank Serrano, Undersheriff Cody Beeson, Deputy Ted McCoy.

From Row: Deputy Jonathan Lanz, Sheriff Craig Van Allen, Clerk Carol Gamblin.

"With a team you can trust..."

Pol. adv paid for by committee to elect Craig Van Allen, Kody Krien, Treasurer

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Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:

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