

Fair needs volunteers



By Linda Schneider
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With the fair only six months away, the Cheyenne County Fair Board members got down to the business of getting acts lined up and scheduled events set. At the meeting was the newest fair board member, Drew Flemming. Volunteers are needed to do various duties and are welcomed by contacting Megan Douthit-Downey.

After the approval of the financial report and meeting minutes, derby rules were reviewed and accepted. A local talent show will be added to this year's scheduled shows. Dick Bursch, president, presented a list of possible acts to be considered.

Derby rules

Clay Zimbelman, heading the Derby Committee, presented to the members the derby rules. With only some changes in wording on the car bumpers and safety bars inside the vehicles, they are basically the same as last year's rules.

"This year, the cars can be patched and put right back into action, something we didn't allow last year," Mr. Zimbelman said.

He said Syracuse wants to be a part of the derby-point system, as well as Colby and Goodland. Mr. Zimbelman said that since the Cheyenne County Fair is the last of the derby races, it will be up to the fair board to add up the points and announce the winner. Also, the points system is being reviewed and will be better than last year's. The points rules will be separate from the derby rules.

Discussion followed on how to collect money from the other derby fair board sponsors. Members agreed that it was important to pay the winners the night of the derby. In addition, they request the money to be presented to the Cheyenne County Fair Board by July 1. Members also set the money from each sponsor at \$300.

Talent show added to venue

Gary Cooper, secretary, reported that he had visited with Ruth Milliken of the St. Francis Music Club and the club agreed they would put on a local talent show for the fair. One of the topics discussed was the public announcement system.

He had talked to Roy Elfers about the times he and Scott King had been disc jockeys together. Mr. Elfers said he had talked to Mr. King and he agreed to allow his sound system to be used if it is operated by Mr. Elfers.

This is the kicker, Mr. Cooper said. Roy is the swine superintendent and is involved with the weigh in on Wednesday night. Roy said he could do the sound system on Thursday night for the talent show."

Mr. Cooper said the club was willing to do the talent show on either Wednesday or Thursday. Furthermore, there may be some people from Goodland who would participate in the talent show.

Discussion followed with providing some monetary incentive for the talent show. Mr. Cooper said the Music Club makes donations to the community by way of scholarships. Mr. Bursch asked him what the club might want for performing and what the price of the gate tickets would

be. Mr. Cooper will get more information about the length of the show to get an idea of what to charge at the gate.

In keeping with the topic of the amateur talent show, making a stage available was discussed. Several ideas were tossed around, but it was the consensus that the fair board should provide a nice stage since the club is putting forth the effort to have the talent show.

The last issue is deciding what night it would be scheduled. Members agreed that Friday would set for the amateur talent show with more details forthcoming.

Area scheduling

Brian Hobrock, board member, wanted to discuss having a night set aside for rodeo roping. Last year, there was a good turn out for the roping and he was wanting to see if cowboys from the Yuma County Fair would be available for roping contest.

Megan said that she had talked to someone concerning the roping and there were people who wanted to come. The roping will be on Wednesday night.

Some discussion about the night for the horse verses horsepower followed and was agreed to have it on Thursday night. It was also discussed to have a mutton bustin' event.

Mr. Bursch said the committees should have a meeting before the next board meeting and bring the information updates.

Livestock disease meeting

Mr. Hobrock said he had attended the recent Homeland Security meeting that addressed the topic of what to do in the event of hoof-and-mouth disease in Cheyenne County presented by Gary Rogers, emergency manager.

Mr. Hobrock said that basically the Federal Homeland Security required a plan from the county. He added that everyone hopes that it never happens and it would be nationwide, not just in Cheyenne County.

"The fairgrounds are in the plan, but may or may not be used," he said. "Local livestock owners are being asked to provide materials to build a corral and quarantine area, except for horses."

If there were a diagnose of hoof and mouth, a trench from Garden City to Denver, Colo., would have to be dug to handle the extermination of all the animals in the area. He volunteered to be on the committee that addresses the issue.

Miscellaneous items

Members briefly discussed the following:

- Parking across from the fairgrounds will be available this year and in the future.
- The rental agreement for the exhibit building is going to be revised. Issues about utilities need to be addressed.
- Bill Ehrman, Amusement Authority, will be contacted to talk about the restroom situation. Porta-potties were suggested to handle the long lines.

Next meeting

Next meeting is set for Thursday, March 4, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse in St. Francis.

Conservation meeting planned for Tuesday

The annual Cheyenne County Conservation District meeting and supper will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the cafeteria in the St. Francis Community High School.

Honored this year will be Jon Waters, Bird City; Ron and Beth Maifeld, St. Francis; and ZAZ Farms - Ron, Bonnie and Zack Zwegardt, St. Francis, who are the Bankers Conservation Award winners. The Windbreak Award winners are Marty and Tammy Church, St. Francis. Others recognized at the meeting will be the student winners of the poster contests.

The meeting is held each year to honor the men and women of the county who nurture, tend and care

for our most priceless resources — the land, windbreaks and wildlife habitats.

During the business meeting, there will be a report of finances and activities from the supervisors of the county's conservation district. The term of board member, Lonnie Willis, will be expiring and an election will be held.

Check the special Cheyenne County Conservation issue inserted in this week's issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*. There are articles about the award winners and conservation practices. Take special notice of the advertisers who helped make the section possible.



JADE KETZNER (l to r) LOOKS INTO his grandfather's, Ernie Ketzner, lunch box to see what special treats were there, while his sisters Joslyn and Jacquelyn have already started on their basket. Time staff photos by Linda Schneider

It was not a large crowd attending the Saturday evening boxed lunch auction, but what was lacking in numbers was made up in having a good time by everyone.

The auction was the first of monthly activities that are being planned by the Bird City 125-year Birthday Activities Committee through to June 12.

Royce Rambat was the auctioneer for the evening along with his side kick, Wade Carmichael who kept track of the bids. Rod Young and Ernie Ketzner displayed the baskets for bid.

After the auction was over, everyone sat down with their meal that consisted of homemade goodies like fried chicken, enchiladas, even a bottle of wine was in one basket.

Baskets were gaily decorated in all manners of way with colorful paper and fabrics.

At the close of the event, an award went to the best decorated basket and the winner was Stan and Dee Dorsch with a basket of cardinals nesting among the food.



CHAD HENDRICKS (l to r), Barbara Waters, and Bradley Waters sit down and enjoy the baskets their bids won during the auction. No one left the American Legion Hall hungry.

Saintly man plans to run for election

By Karen Krien

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At a meeting following the town hall meeting held in Bird City Sunday morning, Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, announced that he plans to run for Representative of the 120th District on the Republican ticket. The position is presently held by John Faber, Brewster.

He said he had been approached by groups from Decatur, Norton and Phillips counties, asking him to consider running because he is recognized throughout the area and they thought he will do a good job representing Northwest Kansas.

"I am pleased that these people feel I could be a candidate for the 120th District," he said. "I have been told that someone who spends their career in education would not be a good candidate because we are all about raising taxes."

"That is a long way from being accurate!" Mr. Cassidy believes that everyone should do everything possible to maintain communities without raising taxes.

At the town meeting on Saturday, Mr. Cassidy said Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, did a great job of stating how all the entities in a community are woven together — when

one gets hurt, they all get hurt.

Mr. Cassidy has been in education for 40 years, working six years as a teacher, 16 years as a counselor and 20 years as a principal.

Being in education, I can think of several ways we can cut state costs, Mr. Cassidy said.

"To me, that is the solution — everyone working together to solve problems," he said. "We need to preserve our lifestyle and after exhausting every other means, if it is necessary to raise taxes, then so be it!"

As a representative, Mr. Cassidy is asking those living in Northwest Kansas for input on how issues and new bills would affect them.

"I have many farmer, business and medical friends that have great knowledge and would always be willing to help," he said. "The key is input from Northwest Kansas people — not lobbyists and special interest groups."

"If we don't all stand up to protect our Northwest Kansas way of life, we will have to take what is dished out."

He is asking the people to come to the polls in August and November.

"I want to see the largest turnout in the history of our five counties," he said. "Then, maybe the legislature will take notice."

We have the best people and a lifestyle that we have worked hard for, he said. Let's fight to keep it that way!

Mr. Cassidy earned a specialist degree in education finance from Fort Hays State University and a master's in administration and counseling from Northwest Oklahoma State University.

He has served on numerous boards including: Kansas State High School Activities Association Board (3 years), Board of Secondary School Principals (8 years); board member for State Access for Handicapped Students, St. Francis Fire Department and was on the board of directors for Riverside Recreation, St. Francis.

He was named Area Principal of the Year (1989). He was a motivational speaker (1991-2000), Colby Community College Outreach instructor in education (6 years); Fort Hays State Outreach instructor, taught school and community relations and current educational issues (6 years).

Mr. Cassidy and his wife, Gloria, who is first grade teacher, have two daughters: Jenny and husband, Cory Busse, who is a farmer; and Penny and husband, Kody Krien, who is a businessman on St. Francis' Main Street. They have six grandchildren, Tate, Cassidy and Ben Busse, and KC, Adam and Ellie Krien.



WARD CASSIDY announced to the audience in Bird City his plans to run for state representative