

Board plans work, repair and cleanup days after winter

By Linda Schneider
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With most of the events scheduled for the 2010 county fair taken care of, the March meeting for the Cheyenne County Fair Board was about getting work days planned. There are always repairs to be made and a general cleanup of the grounds after the winter months.

Financial report

Lacy Reed, treasurer, reported that presently the board account is at \$24,714.85. She reported that \$5,682 was paid to Troy Porter for horse barn repairs, Walz Welding \$104, Neitzel Insurance \$3,279, city of St. Francis \$126, Midwest Energy \$277, AT&T \$43. She told the members the grandstand payment of \$9,200 has not been made yet, but was added for their information.

Extension office shows

Linda Elfers, representing the county extension office, reported on several informational meetings she recently attended and updated the members on upcoming events at the fairgrounds.

She said there will be an all-terrain vehicle safety program on April 15, hog and sheep weigh-in on April 28, and the Spring Show on May 31.

4-H Club awards

Mrs. Elfers discussed the topic of 4-H club awards and said the Cheyenne County 4-H Clubs will go along with whatever decision is made about fair trophies.

She had sent out e-mails to other counties to get some suggestions on what they are doing.

"The younger kids really love their trophies," Mrs. Elfers said. "But the older ones would rather have something else."

She added that other counties have used three-year rotations with their awards/trophies. Some ideas for trophies/prizes tossed around included jackets, towels, director chairs and duffel bags.

Adding that in Colby, the duffel bags with embroidered lettering are well liked. She was asking for direction from the board and gave members a catalog on items and costs.

Megan Douthit Downey, member, asked if there was discussion about wanting to do away with prize ribbons? Mrs. Elfers said they wanted to keep the ribbons.

Clay Zimbleman, member, said that he liked the duffel bag idea and Mrs. Elfers discussed several designs to accommodate both St. Francis and Bird City colors by changing them year to year.

"Or you could just make them black with the 4-H clover," Mrs. Downey said.

Mrs. Elfers added that several

counties mentioned they would wait until after the fair and give the trophies and awards at the Achievement Banquet.

By doing this, a high school junior or senior 4-H member who has received many trophies, can choose to accept a trophy or not, and the younger kids get the same option. This could prevent too many trophies from being ordered and save some money.

"We want to get things in order early this year to be ready for the fair," Mrs. Elfers said.

Fair books

In staying in step with suggested money-saving cutbacks, Mrs. Elfers presented a simplified sample fair book. She said most people who attend the fair really are not interested in the exhibit rules or other information that is important to contest participants. In addition, a separate fair rule book could be developed with the information needed for contest entries.

Members discussed the idea of using the same format for the rule books and just make the necessary changes year to year. It was mentioned that Kansas State could do some printing. She added that she is already getting calls about fair events.

Hog barn repairs

Roy Elfers said the hog barn needs repairs and would like to see them get done before the fair.

He said some ditches on the north side are starting to sink and should be filled in before the Spring Show. This would help to keep from getting too muddy in the area.

In addition, he said there are six posts that need replaced. They have basically just rusted away. And the new door that was put in last year is a good way for the hogs to get in, but it is quite a step up for them and he suggested pouring some cement. It also might eliminate water running back into the building.

He said that it would be approximately \$18 per post and some of the door hinges need to be replaced. However, the most important item would be to have gravel on the north side in the sink holes before the Spring Show.

"Last year we just put dirt in the sink holes and with all the moisture this year, my car sunk in quite a bit when I drove it back there," he said. "I would be willing to do the work or you could bid it out. Just something for you to think about."

Dick Bursch, president, mentioned a few other repairs that might need to be done.

Amusement Authority

Bill Ehrman, Amusement Authority president, said that work has been slow due to the recent wet

weather. He added that as soon as it warms up, work will begin.

Mr. Bursch wanted to know if Mr. Ehrman would talk to the Authority about the restrooms. He told Mr. Ehrman that the exhibit building is not able to take the traffic on Friday and Saturday evenings.

"On those nights, I watched from 8:30 p.m. on and saw two lines waiting to get in the restrooms," said Mr. Bursch. "With that much traffic, we were not able to keep them as clean as we would have liked to have them."

Gary Cooper, secretary, suggested an idea to take the room that currently stores the tables and chairs, and make it into the ladies' restroom. He thought that if done properly, 10 stalls could be constructed.

He added that his idea would start with a loan, for just discussion \$15,000, from the bank and the fair board would pay \$1,000 on the loan annually, in addition, the Amusement Authority would pay \$1,000 annually, and the Methodist and Christian churches, the Shriners, and other organizations using the fairgrounds would be assessed for an annual payment of \$150 each per year. The total would be an annual payment of \$3,000.

It was suggested that the actual cost would be quite a bit more and how would the construction affect the exhibit area.

"I am just throwing out the idea to get some funds started," he said.

Mr. Bursch said one thing wrong with the idea is that the fair board cannot borrow money. It can be grant money, but not borrowed money.

He asked members to visit with the different churches about helping to get new restrooms built. He added that he would get a bid on the building to get an idea and bring the information to the next meeting.

Miscellaneous items

Other topics discussed included:

- Checking on the legalities and licenses of using the "quarter dozers" — that it might be considered gambling.
- The fact that Syracuse and Colby are not going to participate in the demolition derby this year, not completely satisfied with the points system.

• That students from the University of Minnesota will be stopping by to paint bleachers on March 13 as part of community service.

• Candi Douthit will redecorate areas of the fairgrounds.

Next meeting

Next fair board meeting is scheduled for April 8 at 7 p.m., in the Cheyenne County Courthouse Commissioner's Room.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS WERE celebrated by Meta Dankenbring (l), Norm Dorsch, and Dee Dorsch.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Site Council gives report

By Linda Schneider
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During the March Cheylin Board of Education meeting, Dave Hubbard, Site Council, reported to the board what was discussed at the recent Site Council meeting. He added not only did a large number of council members attend, 18 were counted, but students also attended the meeting.

He said that several topics were discussed and the first was the attendance policy for students. It concerned the Adequate Yearly Progress and days students were missing school and possibly losing the Adequate Yearly Progress status.

It was suggested the students make up the hours on Fridays, but the questions came up during the meeting what staff would be available for those hours and how to getting those students to attend.

Another suggestion from the students attending the site meeting, was giving rewards for perfect attendance, and determines eligibility attendance and bringing up failing grades to go to sports events.

Mr. Hubbard brought up the suggestion to give out Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards again. He said with the awards come scholarships.

Members discussed the reason for stopping the awards was due to the consolidation of McDonald and Bird City schools and couldn't decide on how to choose the best, so went with recognizing the top 10 percent of the graduating students.

Mr. Hubbard pointed out that now colleges are giving out scholarships of \$1,200 for Salutatorians and \$1,500 for Valedictorians. He felt it is something the students are missing out on.

He said the one topic that was discussed at great length was finance. He added that the site council knows it is a tall order for the board of education, but one thing for sure is that no one wants to cut school programs.

It was not 100 percent on school programs, he said, but it is known that when the school doors close in a community, it creates a domino effect and people start leaving and pulling their kids out.

He told the board these non-academic programs, such as band and athletics are just two examples, create a balanced curriculum that keeps the kids interested. Without them, parents will take their kids to schools that do have them.

He then asked the board where the money should come from to help keep these programs. He said several members of the council



DAVE HUBBARD REPORTS to the Cheylin Board of Education about recent Site Council.

suggested that people might be willing to donate money for certain activities, such as fuel for student transportation to school-sponsored events.

"Even donations for paying for sports officials, which has already happened," said Mr. Hubbard.

He added there was much discussion on donating straight into the schools accounts. Furthermore, he believed that there are 200 people within the Cheylin school district that would be willing to donate \$500 each year, totaling \$100,000.

He said there is talk about raising taxes, he would rather give the school \$500 than to have his property taxes raised \$500 and given

to the state for them to distribute as they see fit, building roads, bridges, etc., with only \$20 of it getting back to Cheylin.

He recommended a Community Forum in both Bird City and McDonald to discuss the options with the residents. The board agreed and scheduled a Community Forum in Bird City on March 23 at 7 p.m., location to be announced. And in McDonald on March 25 at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium cafeteria.

"I believe it was the first time we ever had students at a meeting and it showed the students are just as concerned about what is happening in their school as we are," said Mr. Hubbard. "It was a good turn out."

Students receive scholarships

Seniors Lance Leonard, Hudson Louderbaugh and Ana Ponce of Cheylin High School, and Dale Northrup and BreAna Zweggardt of St. Francis Community High School, have received Dane G. Hansen Foundation Scholarships as they prepare to further their education next fall. Katherine Jones, a student at Colby Community College and a former student of St. Francis Community High School, has received a Hansen Community College Scholarship.

Jones received one of 15 Community College scholarships. These awards are made available to Kansas Community College students of the current school year who plan to continue their education at a four-year Kansas college or university. These awards are for \$2,000 and may be renewed for one year upon completion of satisfactory work as evaluated by the Scholarship Committee.

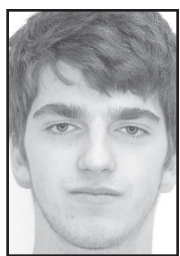
Northrup received one of the 100 Hansen Student awards. These awards are for \$2,000 and may be renewed for one additional year provided the student has maintained a satisfactory academic record.

Zweggardt, Leonard, Louderbaugh and Ponce are four of 91 students interested in vocational training who have received a one-year award of \$2,000 each.

These St. Francis and Cheylin high school students are among 250 high school seniors and 15 community college students from 59 northwest Kansas high schools who have received scholarships from the founda-

tion.

The Hansen Foundation also awarded 10 Hansen Leader of Tomorrow scholarships, for \$5,000 renewable for three additional years, provided the student has continued regard for the principles which guided the success of the late Dane G. Hansen. They also need to maintain a 3.00 or better grade-point average at the college level and furnish a letter describing progress toward educational goals. Fifty students were named Hansen Scholars who were awarded \$3,000 for one year. The scholarship may be renewed



Leonard



Louderbaugh



Ponce

for one additional year under the same general conditions as set forth in the Leader of Tomorrow Scholarship.

In selecting award winners, the Scholarship Committee considered proficiency in verbal and writing skills. Other important factors are academic records, test scores, and community service in which the student may have participated.

Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet



Friday, March 26
Dinner from 6:30-8 p.m.

Cheyenne County Fairgrounds, St. Francis

Tickets available at *Bumper To Bumper *Owens True Value

*Frontier Equity *Republican Valley Auto Parts

* Mobe's Archery Supply *C.C.W.I Board member

Only 300 tickets will be sold —
there will be no more available and none at the door.

At the banquet will be a Diamond Grade 12 ga. shotgun along with 16 other guns with the 25th CCWI logo engraved on the stock.

Stop by Ross Mfg., 301 W. Washington, St. Francis, to view the 48-gun Liberty Safe.

Gun cabinet, made by Cliff Semler, on display at First National Bank.



Robbin and Michelle Antholz invite friends to meet their son Austin's bride, Joanie and her son, Kyle, at an open house Friday, March 19 2-4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in McDonald

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