



LIVING WATER FELLOWSHIP Church won first place in the organization/church division at the Cheyenne County Fair Parade on Saturday.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Hot temperatures for county fair

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Fair is over for another year. The 4-H'ers and their families, along with all the volunteers, carnival crew and fair board members, headed home Saturday, tired but knowing that it had been a good fair.

The temperatures were hot for the most part. There was rain Tuesday night which left the arena a muddy mess so the 4-H horse show was cut to a minimum with what could be done on the grass outside the arena. There were clouds and a little mist during the show. However, it warmed up for the rest of the events, being in the 90s most of the time.

Carnival games and rides were busy all four nights of the fair but lightning brought the rides to a

halt earlier on Wednesday.

The demolition derby drew the crowd during the fair. Clay Zimbleman, committee chairman, said it sold out again. There were 15 cars competing with St. Francis man, Derek Fromholtz, raking in the first prize money of \$1,500. Second place went to Tony Vandike who won \$700; third prize went to Troy Meyer, who took home \$500. Dustin Fromholtz earned the Mad Dog award of \$500.

Top winners and winners of the heats were also awarded custom-made trophies by John Guthmiller, Ross Manufacturing, and Mr. Zimbleman.

This was the second year for the three-way point system with driver's points being tallied from Goodland, Colby and St. Francis. Derek Fromholtz, St. Francis,

won first prize and \$600; Neal Thornburg, Goodland, was second and took home \$250.

This was the third year for the lawn mower pull contest. Tye Gilliland took first in the stock class, and Tanner Gilliland, first in the modified class. Both are from St. Francis.

The Friday grandstand entertainment drew a big crowd as local entertainment performed. Those entertaining ranged from 8 to 88 years and each act received a round of applause.

On Wednesday, the mutton bustin' and team roping was the grandstand entertainment. The mutton bustin' contest found a number of willing contestants and some hung onto the sheep's wool long enough to get part way across the arena.

The local ropers, in a round-robin order, had some good roping. The local roping was followed by the Gary Grice and Carl Keller Memorial Roping. Contributors added money to the pot, adding to the excitement of the show.

Winners of the local roping contest were Harold George, header, and Lupe Gomez, heeler. Winning second place were R.L. Walz, header, and Rio McCoy, heeler. Third place went to Sergio Chavira, header, and Ryan McAtee, heeler; and taking fourth place were Eddie Brunk, header, and Nahum Mendoza, heeler. They won a little cash plus a belt buckle from St. Francis Equity.

There were 126 roping teams for the Gary Grice and Carl Keller Memorial Roping. The winning team was a Colorado team, Wade

Smith and Tate Kirchenschlager. They took home \$1,400 in winnings. The second place team was Tim Furnish and Junior Meyers and they won \$1,050. Third place, with \$700, was Tim Furnish and Trevor Kirchenschlager; fourth place and \$350 was Joel Bunker and Cody Meritt.

There was \$1,000 added to the purse by Tom Grice, Mark and Gwen Keller and Shay Realty, sponsors.

Tom Grice presented buckles to the winners and the Gary Grice family (Allison and Tammy Grice), gave embroidered rope bags.

Saturday's parade was long with a number of entries. St. Francis' Main Street was lined with people including lots of children just waiting for candy and other treats to be tossed their way.

The grand champion float went to the Kelly Cousins, St. Francis. First in the organization/church division went to Living Water Fellowship Church in Bird City. In the business division, Capstone Counseling was the winner, and the Matthies and Hilt family took home the first prize in the family division.

The 4-H and open class results along with articles and photos of the events and happenings at the fair will be inserted as the *After Fair* section in both *The Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* on Aug. 26.

The fair board and Amusement Authority members will be meeting within the next month to start planning next year's Cheyenne County Fair.

## Teenagers worked long days

By Norma Martinez

During the week before the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show on July 29 - 30, Gerald Wright was busy heading up the steam engine portion of the show. He and his enthusiastic teenagers worked long, hot days getting the steam engines ready to run.

When the state quit inspecting antique boilers, Ernie Bressler became the Antique Boiler Inspector. In 1984, when he was killed in an airplane crash Gerald Wright volunteered to take over his job. At this time Gerald knew very little about the technical aspects of antique boilers and set out to learn on his own.

After being unsuccessful in recruiting help, his wife, Phyllis and several others suggested he recruit some willing young boys to help him out. Since then Gerald has taken his two-week vacation from Birkelman Field Office LOBO Productions at St. Francis volunteering his time.

Gerald dedicates many long hours educating these young men in the ways of steam engines. This consists of the operations and safety precautions needed around boilers, mechanics, soldering, welding, and driving them. Gerald has a standing rule that every boy has to prove himself before they can drive the steam engines or do any of the risky jobs.

This year they learned some blacksmith skills by attempting to restore some old grates out of the 101-year-old Avery Steam Engine. They built a pit and heated these grates in very hot coals. Due to the age of the grates, when heated in the fire for bending they just fell apart in the coals, so this project was abandoned. Their fire pit and air circulation proved to be successful, but the grates would not withstand the tremendous heat and they just crumbled into small pieces. S and W Repair built new grates in time for them to get the steam engine running for the show. They had a lot of fun digging and building the fire, pit and vents and it proved to be a learning process for these boys in blacksmithing in spite of the age of the grates.

The work crew consists of young men from the ages of 10 to 19 years of age. All of these boys can be instantly recognized by the black of the coal and soot on their faces,



THE BOYS CHECK TO SEE if the 40 leaks that were silver soldered by Rex Weishapl held. Those pictured are (l to r) David Burns, Rex Weishapl, Brady Colson and Tanner Gilliland.

Times photo by Norma Martinez

hands and clothing. At noon time they were all seen eating lunch at The Bird City Diner. Some days they were so black they had to eat outside instead of cooling off in the air conditioned diner. In spite of their rough looks, these boys are very knowledgeable of the aspects of steam engines. On Wednesday, July 21, the crew was busy working on a 1922 Holt Combine that hadn't been driven in the parade for two years. With Gerald's assistance, Rex Weishapl soldered 40 leaks in the radiator with silver and they had the engine running and ready for the show by the next evening.

The crew of eight young men consisted of: 19-year-old Rex Weishapl from Bird City who is a sophomore at Northwest Kansas Technical College. Rex is studying diesel mechanics and has been attending the thresher shows for 14 years and worked with Gerald for 11 years. He is the son of Cheryl Weishapl who works in Atwood at the Good Samaritan Center. He lost his father, Bill Weishapl in 2005.

David Burns, age 17, is a senior at Cheylin High School and plans to go to Northwest

Kansas Technical College for heating and air conditioning. He has attended thresher shows since he was 6 months old and worked the shows for 5 years. He is the son of Dave and Kris Burns from Bird City.

David Michaelis, age 17, is a junior at Garfield High School in South Dakota and has worked the show for 4 years. He spends summers here in Kansas with his mother, Nancy McCann of Atwood. He is the grandson to Jim and Sharon McCann who live in Bird City.

Nick Thomas, age 17, and Marcus Thomas, age 16, are from Goodland, the sons of LeRoy and Barb Thomas.

Brady Colson, 14 years old, is from Colby and has been working the shows for 2 years. Marcus and Brady are the sons of Cheryl (Knapp) Colson from McDonald, and they stay in town with their aunt and uncle, Kathy and Mark Loop of Bird City during the show festivities.

Zack Walling, 14 years old, is from Colby. This is his first year for the thresher show.

Ivan Kemp, 12 years old, goes to the Cheylin School and has been working shows

for 3 years. He is the grandson of Linda and Brad Schneider of Bird City.

Many other boys and girls have served as crew members in year's past. Elsa Craig Burr, one of the girls, was as black as the boys on thresher show days. She and Ivan Kemp took turns giving all the kids rides on the 1961 3/5 scale Model Case Steamer.

Gerald could not handle all the work without the help of Mike Levin from Kansas City, who has been helping 12 years and his father, Barry Levin from Topock, Ariz., and Lynn Osborn from Denver, Colo., who have been helping Gerald for 11 years. They come for relaxation and enjoy being a part of the show.

These boys and Gerald Wright all show a remarkable dedication to their jobs. Some of them even hold part-time jobs. Gerald does a great job of mentoring to these youth as well as teaching them skills involved in the lost art of a dying trade. With all the new technology in farming and ranching equipment it is going to be up to these young men to carry on the art and skills of the Antique Steam Engine and Thresher era.

## Red Cross collecting blood

The Red Cross will be collecting blood from noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 25, at the American Legion at 111 W. Bressler, Bird City.

Thanks to a generous donation by the Ford Motor Company, the American Red Cross and Red Cross Racing are giving away a 2011 Ford Fiesta to one lucky winner.

Donors can register online at [redcrossracing.com](http://redcrossracing.com) for a chance to win. Visit the website for official rules. The sweepstakes ends Nov. 1.

Register online and become a Red Cross Racing donor today! Every time a donor records their blood or platelet donations online, they'll get points which can be exchanged for cool prizes.

Red Cross Racing is an innovative program designed to encourage NASCAR fans to donate blood through the Red Cross. Thanks to on-going support from 3M Company, the Red Cross has two full paint schemes on the Rousch Fenway No. 16 Ford Fusion this racing season.

Visit an American Red Cross blood drive or donor center this summer and you could also drive away with some free gasoline!

Anyone who presents to give blood at a Red Cross blood drive or donor center Aug. 1 - Sept. 15 is automatically entered to win a \$100 gasoline card. One winner each day! Be sure to check [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for winners and other updates.

People are urged to consider scheduling a summer blood donation appointment with the Red Cross.

For your convenience, people may now schedule blood donation appointments online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767).

Donors may subscribe to Red Cross texting by sending redcross to 42227 or registering online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

All blood types are needed to ensure the Red Cross maintains an adequate blood supply. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Donors must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old (16 with completed Parental Consent Form). New height and weight restrictions apply to donors younger than 19.