

Board approves way to work with sponsors

By Karen Krien

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At the Thursday meeting, the Cheyenne County Fair Board approved the new way to work with sponsors for trophies given during the fair.

Marty Fear, extension agent, had suggested at a prior meeting that a letter be drafted with a list of trophies needed and sent out to those who might want to be sponsors. They can then pick the trophies they want to sponsor and pay for them in advance. This way, the trophies can be paid for before the fair begins.

There are certain trophies including the belt buckles provided by the St. Francis Equity and Bumper To Bumper that will be excluded from the list.

Mr. Fear had several other suggestions. He would like to start a market heifer division at the fair. The commissioners agreed to the new division as long as there were at least three participants.

He also asked for the board's approval of a catch-it-lamb program. There have been four or five kids interested, he said. The discussion turned to the matter of the 4-H'er selling the lamb at the premium sale. After discussion, the board agreed that each 4-H'er is allowed to sell two items at the sale and if they chose their lamb as one of them, it is OK.

Mr. Fear said he had been comparing the Cheyenne County Fair Book to other books. He plans to go through the county's book and make suggestions for the board's approval.

Donations of grain

Brian Hobrock, board member, wanted to know how complicated it would be to get an account at the local grain elevators which would give farmers the opportunity to donate a certain number of bushels of grain to the Cheyenne County Fair Association. Karol Lohman, board member and manager of the St. Francis Equity, said she didn't think there would be a problem.

The board discussed how and when the grain should be sold,

agreeing that the idea should be pursued after talking to the other grain elevators. The fair association is considered a 501(c)(3) so all grain given would be tax deductible. There will be more information towards harvest time.

Dick Bursch, board president, noted that for a number of years, there were several people who made donations to the fair association. The donations had helped out, he said.

Roping

The board once again discussed the renaming of the roping event held one night of the fair. For several years, the name has been the Grice-Keller Memorial Roping.

There have been requests that other names of cowboy/rodeo participants be added. The board had agreed to change the name to the Cheyenne County Cowboy Memorial Roping and there will be a sign placed on the crow's nest with the memorial names listed.

Gary Cooper, secretary, will send letters to the Keller and Grice families explaining the decision. Clay Zimbleman, board member, suggested that if they still want to make special presentations, they would be welcome.

Fair building

The fair building was once again on the agenda. The leasing of the building appears to be working out. The last time it was used, those renting the building kept the doors shut and there was no abuse of the heating.

Mr. Brusck had a list of the number of tables and chairs which belong at the fairgrounds. There were some of them missing, in fact, there were many missing.

There are several groups, including the St. Francis Chamber, city of St. Francis and the Stearman Fly-In, which use them, taking them from the grounds. However, it was noted that these groups were careful to return all of them.

The board discussed not letting the chairs and tables leave the grounds but came back to the fact that they could maybe loaned out

similar to renting the fair building. If there is a request made to Ms. Lohman, with possibly a contract, that might be a way of solving the problem of missing chairs.

Mr. Fear asked how many keys to the building were out. Mr. Bursch said every board member had a key, the Amusement Authority, Lampe Hardware and Terry Miller had a key. There was a key to the restroom for the ball team leader and two of the 4-H leaders had a key.

The board said that if the fair building is rented or in use, the tables and chairs will not be available to use off the grounds. Other than that, no decision was made on solving the problem of missing chairs and tables.

Members

The fair board by-laws state that if a member misses more than three or more meetings, they will be asked to resign. One member had been absent the three meetings. There was considerable discussion as to whether the matter should be turned over to the commissioners as the commissioners approve all fair board members.

The board finally decided that a letter would be sent and the name of the member released after there had been time for the letter to reach him.

In other business

- Ms. Lohman said she had talked to the Kari Gilliland, county attorney, concerning the bad check which was paid for the use of the fair building. Mrs. Gilliland said the check had never been filed and suggested that it be filed so it is on record.

- The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2,592.

- Fair committees were discussed. The committee members were urged to meet before the next meeting. Mr. Zimbleman questioned if the derby points system should continue but there was no decision.

Next meeting

The next fair board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



ONE OF THE rooms at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis after the fire in October. Cleanup has begun to get the building reopened. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

Arlie Archer died this past weekend at the Rawlins County Hospital. His funeral will be on Thursday, January 13 at the Methodist Church in St. Francis.

Arlie and his Dad, Harry Archer, could almost be considered as Pioneers of McDonald, as they knew so much of the History of the City. His Dad had passed a lot of information on to Arlie, and he was often asked questions about McDonald. He will be missed by all who knew him. The symphony

of the entire community is extended to his wife, Delores, and their son.

There is not much news this week. People listened to the weather forecast, and then made preparations to get ready for the predicted weather.

Barbara Krandt and Betty Knapp enjoyed lunch together on Thursday at a St. Francis Cafe.

Members of the Federated Church helped Dixie Lauderbaugh celebrate her 50th birthday

on Sunday after Church.

The meeting of the McDonald Town and Country Garden Club which was scheduled for Wednesday, January 12 has been cancelled due to the cold and snow.

R.J. and Susie Sabatka were Sunday evening visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek.

Kenny and Phyllis Wilkinson were last Tuesday visitors of Laddie and Vera Kacirek, and Agnes Reeh.

Cutoff date announced for incentive program

March 4, has been set as the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative, according to State Conservationist Eric B. Banks of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Kansas farmers who are transitioning to organic agriculture or who are currently certified organic may apply for financial assistance through the program

to meet their conservation goals. They can receive up to \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 over six years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas, which administers the program, is setting aside a separate pool of \$1.4 million Environment Quality Incentives Program money to help Kansas organic farmers and those that are transitioning to organic production.

"The Environment Quality Incentive Program has always been available for organic producers to treat resource concerns on their land," said Mr. Banks, "but the 2008 Farm Bill allows for dedicated funds to be set aside to assist organic producers. Hopefully, with the specific program's funding for the Organic Initiative, Kansas will have more organic crop acres enrolled across the state."

Applications for the program's Organic Initiative are taken continuously throughout the year, but to be considered for Fiscal Year 2011 funding with the Initiative, producers need to have an application signed and returned to their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office by March 4.

A number of conservation practices may be funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program organic ranking category, including cover crops, crop rotations, fencing and watering for rotational grazing, pest management, and field borders. A conservation practice added in Fiscal Year 2010 was for the establishment of a high tunnel. Producers who qualify could receive financial assistance for one high tunnel.

A fact sheet on Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic is available at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs.

Some participants are eligible to receive a higher payment rate; those are limited resource farmers, beginning farmers, and socially disadvantaged groups. For more information go to http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer/.

Visit your local Department of Agriculture Service Center and talk to the Natural Resources Conservation Service office staff about the details the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Organic Initiative, conservation planning, and other programs to help you protect your farm. For more information about the program, go to <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/> and click on Kansas 2011 EQIP information.

Public Notice

County to conduct first public meeting

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursdays, January 6 and January 13, 2011. (1-2)

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TO ALL RESIDENTS OF
CHEYENNE COUNTY**

The Office of Cheyenne County Emergency Management along with E-Fm Consulting, LLC will be conducting the 1st Public Meeting for discussion and input on the Cheyenne County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County and incorporated areas are developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans per the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and guidance of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will guide local activity to reduce risk and prevent loss from natural hazards such as tornadoes, wildfires, floods, hail and severe weather. The intent of the plan is to:

- Identify natural hazards impacting the community;
- Describe risk and vulnerability to the community;
- Describe mitigation actions and goals associated with the prioritized vulnerabilities;
- Describe how the community will maintain its plan in the future

YOU ARE INVITED to learn more, participate, and comment at this public meeting concerning the development of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Members of the Planning Committee and our consultant will be present to answer questions, receive public input and information, and address public commentary.

When complete, the new plan will meet the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Under this Act and related legislation, states, communities, and tribal governments must complete FEMA-approved plans to be eligible for certain federal assistance programs. These assistance programs provide communities with pre- and post-disaster funds to implement mitigation projects.

After the meeting the draft plan will be available for review at the Cheyenne County Emergency Management Office, and at the Public Library in St. Francis.

TIME: 9 am
WHEN: January 20, 2011
WHERE: St. Francis Emergency Services Building
125 W. HWY 36
St. Francis, Kansas, 67756

For more information contact Ryan Murray at 785-332-2560
Or E-Fm Consulting at 785-312-9150

Coming Soon: Winter Sports Special Section

This section will feature St. Francis and Cheylin Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!



This section will feature the Conservation Award Winner in Cheyenne County. BANKER'S AWARD DINNER JAN. 31



WORKING WOMEN'S SECTION

Coming the first of February!

THIS SECTION

IS PACKED WITH ADS FEATURING WOMEN.

For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

Bird City Times

The Saint Francis Herald