

Residents vote 'yes' on Village tax

By Karen Krien
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A special election was held to decide if the taxpayers would allow the county commissioners to raise up to 6 mills to help subsidize the Good Samaritan Village. The voter turnout was poor with 696 of the 1,903 voters casting their ballot. When the final vote was counted, 439 voted "yes" and 257 voted "no."

Had the Oct. 19 fire at the Village never happened, the voters would not have been in the posi-

tion of voting.

Having a yes vote will give the commissioners control to make the best decisions for the county. The Good Samaritan Society has also indicated that, if the vote was yes, they would sell the nursing home and apartments to the county for \$1.

There have been two public meetings to help voters understand the matter and ask questions. Until the ballots were counted, there was huge question as to how it would go.

Students enroll for school today

Summer activities are coming to an end and it is time to think about school.

Cheylin students will enroll for the new year on Thursday (today) at the high school library in Bird City. Enrollment times are 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Preschool students, kindergarten students and new students will need to have their certified birth certificates, immunization record and current health assessment when they register.

Applications for free and reduced price meals will be available. Reduced price meals are the same for kindergarten through grade 12 students. There will also be applications in Spanish.

For those not using the reduced price meals, elementary meal tickets will cost \$30 for 20 days of

breakfast and \$44 for 20 days of lunch. The middle and high school meal tickets are \$32 for breakfast and \$48 for lunch.

The first day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 17 at 8:15 a.m. and will be dismissed at 4:15 p.m. Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. however, the first two weeks of school will find kindergartners dismissed at 12:15. They will ride the bus to school in the morning but parents will need to pick them up at the elementary school in McDonald at 12:30 and in Bird City at 12:15 p.m.

For more information, see the ad in this week's issue or contact the school staff at 734-2341 or 734-2351.

High temperatures hold out for thresher show weekend

By Norma Martinez

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The heat held out for the 58th Antique Engine and Thresher Show on Thursday until around 4 in the afternoon, then the heavy rain and hail hit. Things were winding down at the time, but everyone was drenched scurrying around to get things covered up and put away. After the storm, the temperatures cooled things down about 10 degrees for Friday.

First main event for the show was when the outgoing queen, Kathleen O'Neal, relinquished her doll to Bonnie Burr for displaying in Building 8 with the past queen dolls, and saying "We'll see you around," as she exited.

After Queen O'Neil left, folks were still trying to guess who the queen was. Bev Higgins thought she had figured it out, but when they showed the queen with another girl that threw her, thinking she was the new queen's sister, and Vonetta was an only child. The added girl was Vonetta's cousin.

The secret was finally out at 1:15 when the fire truck came and Norman Dorsch introduced Vernetta Haack as the 2011 Thresher Queen.

After Mrs. Haack gave her speech she gave out gifts to 85-year-old Maynard Wright for being the oldest man present; Frieda Black from McDonald, as the oldest women; 2-year-old Elisa Haack as the youngest girl; 2-year-old Jamison Haack as the youngest boy; Oksana Arkhulik from Ukraine as coming from the farthest; the couple married the longest was Lucille and Maynard Wright at 72 years, and the person who lived in a sod house was Mary Dorsch.

Waiting in the crowd was Pat and Don Helton from Pueblo, Colo. Vivian Reade Lanham, her grandmother, was queen in 1987.

They had brought their grandson, Lloyd Stover, to the thresher show for the past 13 years. "He likes to drive the tractor and getting dirty," she said. "For years, he has saved the money he earned doing odd jobs. This year he was only a couple hundred dollars short, so his parents helped him out and he bought a 1941 John Deere tractor and was driving it in the parade.

Frieda Black has lived 2.5 miles north of McDonald since she was 1-years-old, but was born in Atwood. I was a city girl at heart, she said, and was not going to live in the country, but someone (Harvey) stole my heart and changed my mind.

The Thresher Princess, Kaitlyn Figgins from St. Francis, was waiting for Gerald Wright to hook up his steam engine to the thresher so she can throw in the first bundle of wheat. Entertaining her were Middall Adams, Nathan Sowers, Cory Andrews and Ellie Sowers.

Norma Garretson from Smith Center, and Donna Garretson from McCook, were on their way back from the cool Colorado mountains and stopped to check things out.

During lunch time and between events Jacob Brubaker and Derek Vandike entertained the kids with turtle races. They had 15 turtles with numbers on their backs for the children to race. During the summer they collected them from north of Atwood, one was found in a Bird City yard, but most of them were found by Rob and Susan Jensen.

The boys kept them in a big cattle tank until time for the show. Jacob assured everyone they were not abused, by saying, "It might sound like cruelty, but they were fed very well, and had lots of grass in the tank."



ANNOUNCING THE QUEEN is Ken Beougher, while Phyllis Wright adjusts the ribbon on Vernetta Haack. Vernetta's sons Ron and Roger stand by.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

2011 queen announced on Thursday

The new Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen, Vernetta Haack, said it was indeed an honor to be selected as Bird City's 2011 Thresher Queen.

Vernetta was born 87 years ago on Halloween in Falls Sanitarium in Beatrice, Neb. She was given the name Vernetta Jeneva Duitsman.

"Can you imagine that long name?" she said. "And I kept that long name until I married a young man by the name of Nor-

man Haack. Haack surely is a lot shorter than Duitsman. It was the tradition to be named after one's grandma. My grandma's name was Etta. I had a cousin who already had been given the name Loretta so my mother came up with the name of Vernetta."

The first year of her life she lived with her grandma. She also had two uncles still living at home so she said she was spoiled. They later rented a farm nearby. Her parents worked in the fields so

she always went along. Her dad had fashioned a box in which she sat on the back of the binder. She could watch the wheat being cut and bound or even take a nap in that little box.

When her parents shocked the wheat, she was put in the shade of a big stock. As she grew older there was none of that sitting in the shade, she had to help shock the wheat. At that time they farmed with horses. Later they had a Hart Par tractor and a Waterloo Boy

tractor. Her dad and his brothers had a large threshing machine named Yellow Fellow. They went from one neighbor to another to thresh their wheat.

From a very early age, she milked cows, the old fashioned way, she said, not the electric milking machine like today's dairy, and it was raw milk, not homogenized, pasteurized.

"I liked squirting milk in the kitty's mouth," she said. "The kit See QUEEN on Page 7



GETTING READY — Mike Levin, driving, Lynn Osburn and Arnold Wright put on the belt from the thresher on the steam engine.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez.

On Thursday Jacob and Derek held three races. Those who selected the winning turtles were Blaine Burns, Derek Vandike and Justin Michaels.

Jacob was a busy boy, as he also worked in the Golf Club booth selling, cinnamon rolls, breakfast burritos, and beverages. All proceeds from this booth

went to help pay the Cheylin Golf Club expenses for this coming year 2011-2012. Other members who helped out in this booth were Tristan Archer, and Ruben Razo. Jane Brubaker was there as she said "for emergencies."

The "Klepper Connection" served the best lemonade in town. Serving lemonade and cherry

limeades, they have never raised the prices from \$1 since 1974.

Anita and Julie Wilkins started out selling Water Weenies at the Thresher Shows. These were handmade water guns made out of tin. Kids loved them, but they had to quit selling them after the kids started getting into trouble getting the ladies' long dresses

wet. Back then most all of them dressed in long dresses. Julia now owns the Parkhill Restaurant in Atwood.

These two girls are now married and have grandchildren. Their children and grandchildren come every year and help run the stand as a three-generation business.