

Fair Board meets to discuss ways to improve fair

The Cheyenne County Fair board held a short August meeting at Jenkins Hall on the county fairgrounds Thursday evening. Board president Dick Bursch called the meeting to order, with nine members present.

The board discussed the recently completed fair, bringing up items that might be improved, problems encountered during the fair, and concerns and complements from fair participants and attendees.

"Overall, I believe the fair went very well" said President Bursch. "There were a couple of small glitches, just like every fair, but I received way more complements than complaints."

The board was in agreement that the addition of the roof over the show arena was a great improvement to the facilities.

The board discussed the demolition derby, and what might be done to enhance it next year. Different formats, different payouts, and different ways of running a derby were discussed.

"The derby was again a good moneymaker for us, well attended and pretty popular. We need to keep making it a good attraction," said Adam Peter, board member.

No decisions on changes were made. The board will renew their discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Bursch reminded the board that the upcoming October meeting will be when the board

elects officers and fills vacant board positions.

"There will be several board positions open," he said.

Some members of the board had names of potential board members, people who had expressed an interest in being on the fair board. Members of the board will contact those who have expressed interest, along with some other named, to make sure they would be, if appointed, willing to serve.

There had been some confusion on setting the dates for the 2014 fair, and setting the date for the Baxter Black performance.

"The Thresher show always starts the last Thursday in July, which is July 31, so we need to go to the next week, which will be Aug. 6 through the 9th," Mr. Bursch said. "Baxter Black's people were able to keep the 7th or 8th open for us. Which night shall we use?"

After discussion, it was the board consensus to have the roping on Wednesday night of the fair, Baxter Black on Thursday, Tuff Trucks on Friday, and the demo derby on Saturday.

Marty Fear, extension agent, had a short recap of the fair from the Extension perspective. He also presented the board with bills for the fair which had been received. The board approved payment of the bills.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.



County road crews spread millings on Keller Pond road outside of St. Francis

Times photo by Tim Burr

New bridge replacement set for Road 7

The county road and bridge department has been busy and will continue to be as they begin a new project on Aug. 26 which will close a county road for the duration.

Besides spreading millings on several roads including, the road by the new Prairie Land Electric building, they have spread millings on the street by

the county shop in St. Francis, as well as the River Street road north over the bridge by the River Walk.

The department's next project will be replacing the bridge by the Tom Hnizdel farm. Road 7 will be closed while the department removes a 54-foot long wooden structure that was built in 1945 with a 24-foot

roadway.

Reece Construction Company, Scandia, will be installing a triple 10- by 8- by 48-foot reinforced concrete bridge with a 26-foot roadway at a cost of \$98,606. The county road and bridge department will be removing the old bridge, excavating the earthwork and seeding the project by force account at a

price of \$28,135.

Dave Flemming, public works supervisor, reported that the bridge is a federal aid project and Cheyenne County will be paying 20 percent of both bid projects. This bridge, he said, is over a tributary to the South Fork Republican River that is located 7 miles west and 5 miles south of St. Francis.

The Gardener By Kay Melia

I have a great-grandson who is just nuts about blueberries! Yeah, blueberries! While it might be a bit more understandable if a little kid wanted a banana, or a couple of strawberries, or even an orange, this boy seems to prefer the fruit that very few of us know anything about.

When I was his age, I knew my way around a handful of sandhill plums that grew wild out in the pasture. Jelly beans were my true favorite, especially the black ones, and I had probably never laid eyes on a blueberry.

It's not like the kid tries to grab a box of blueberries off the top shelf of the produce counter when he's wheeled by in the shopping cart. He's only 2 years old and couldn't reach them if he tried. But at home, every time he walks by the fridge he's got his hand out.

You must understand here that Aiden comes by his food preferences naturally. His mom is a registered dietician and understands what kids should be eating.

Jelly beans? The kid has probably never seen one. Blueberries? Absolutely, and Mom plucks a box of these

delicious berries off the shelf and then quickly hides them under the other groceries so that Aiden can't eat them all before the shopping cart arrives at the check-out counter.

Let's face it...blueberries are probably a major mystery to most of us. Experienced gardeners may plant a few bushes and then wait 5 or 6 years for them to produce fruit. But generally if we crave berries, we'll plant raspberries or blackberries, and certainly strawberries. But the beautiful blueberry bush is absent in most High Plains backyards.

But you know? There's a good reason for its absence. Gardeners around here probably shouldn't even think about planting them because our soils just aren't right for blueberries. High Plains soils are mostly alkaline soils, as opposed to acidic soils. Blueberries thrive only in acidic soil which have PH values of 4 to 5 on the sometimes complicated PH scale, while High Plains alkaline soils sometimes reach 7.5 or even 8 on the scale that considers 7 as neutral. To lower the PH, you must add sulphur to the soil. To raise acidic soils

PH, you would add lime. It's all a little difficult to understand, but the bottom line is that blueberries are not easy to grow in these parts.

And so, those of us who relish blueberries must pay about \$3.00 for a pint of the vitamin packed fruit, and if we only knew, they're worth every cent! Blueberries are described

by those in the know as "the worlds most healthful food, rich in vitamins C, E, and K...loaded with manganese and fiber, and the highest level of antioxidants of any other food! Eating them regularly can make a noticeable difference in our overall health."

I'm glad Aiden likes blueberries and not jelly beans. Smart kid!

Fun Facts

- Johann Sebastian Bach was not just considered "the greatest genius of baroque music," he was also a father to 20 children, several of whom became musicians.
- In French universities, freshmen are sometimes called bec jaune, or yellow beak, for their similarity to fledgling birds.
- When a lapwing's nest is threatened, the bird will limp and pretend to be hurt to lure its enemies away.
- Experts on Elizabethan cuisine contend the "funeral baked meals" Hamlet makes so much of were meat-pies.
- Most experienced beekeepers

handle bees and honeycombs with their bare hands. Gloves are clumsy and would soon become covered with sticky honey.

- The world's best fishing grounds lie along the edge of the Arctic, particularly off the coasts of Greenland and Iceland.
- The ancient Greeks named the Arctic region for a constellation that they called Arktos (the bear).
- When a sea elephant gets angry, his nose fills with air, swells like a balloon and forms a snout up to 20-inches long.
- The gentoo penguin can swim at speeds up to 17 miles per hour.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Cheyenne County will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on **Saturday, Aug. 24, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the Cheyenne County Landfill.

Materials accepted include paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries and used oil. Automobile lead acid batteries will be accepted. Please have the materials in sturdy boxes for easy and quick unloading. Have your used oil in disposable containers. Farm chemicals, appliances, tires, yard waste, explosives, school lab chemicals, medical waste, radioactive waste, ammo, compressed gas cylinders (propane), asbestos, dioxins or silvex will not be accepted. Program organizers reserve the right to reject delivery of materials.

Participants are asked to leave all materials in their original containers. If the container is leaking, pack the container "as is" in another larger container and label it clearly. If another container is used, be sure it is clearly labeled. Do not mix contents of different containers. Securely package materials before transporting. Do not carry open containers of liquids with strong odors or spill potential in a closed automobile. Pack the containers so they won't tip, break or spill during travel. Waste oil should not contain gasoline, solvents, degreasers, paint or antifreeze. Keep all household hazardous waste away from children and animals.

Due to KDHE regulations these are items that can't be picked up during the City-Wide Cleanup later in the month. You do not need to call prior to bringing items to the Landfill. If you have questions, please call the Landfill at 785-332-8842, Tuesday through Saturday.

No Household Hazardous Waste items accepted early or after the clean up date.