Friday, July 16, 2004



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A better place"



week-long Norton County Fair each year.

The Norton County Extension Council and the Fair Board are two of the groups that do the behind-the-scenes work that make the fair possible.

Working with the Extension Service and 4-H council, the Fair Board plans and organizes the whole event.

One of its major tasks is to lineup entertainment.

Included in this year's entertainment will be a gospel concert, porkburger special, jackpot team roping, mutton bustin' and the car races.

The board has 27 members elected to threeyear terms by the incumbent board members. The board also elects a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Becky Delimont, fair board president, said while the board initiates and organizes projects, it needs assistance from other volunteers and other groups.

"We work with a lot of volunteers from a lot of different boards," she said. "It's a community effort."

Mrs. Delimont said the board was always open to suggestions on entertainment or any other aspect of the board's work.

The board meets six times during the year county appropriates for it."

It takes a lot of volunteer hours to put on the on the first Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Mrs. Delimont said anyone with suggestions or anyone who is interested in helping the board is invited to the meetings.

The Extension Council handles the business end of the Norton County Extension service. It pays the bills, does the paper work and hires the Extension Agent.

Carol Riemann, council president, said ideally the Extension would have two agents, one for home economics and one for agriculture. However, the board can only afford one. In addition to its business responsibilities, the council is an advisory group to the Extension service.

The council has 24 publicly-elected members, nine of whom serve on the executive board. They meet once a month.

Mrs. Riemann said the Extension, which does everything from helping farmers to advising people on how to kill bugs and treat ailing trees, is an important service for the community.

"Extension is a very important thing," she said. "You may not always deal with it every day, but we're here. We have a wealth of information. It's well worth all the money the

ongtime leader is missed

The Norton County Fair lost a fine leader when Sharon Smith, 51, died earlier this year.

Mrs. Smith had given long-term leadership to Norton County 4-H. A fact that was recognized in 1998 when she and her husband, Bob, were awarded the Friend of 4-H Award.

She and her husband served on the Denver Trip Benefit committee for many years and conducted horse classes and coordinated the local showmanship clinic with Kansas State University horse students.

She also acted as County Coordinator and Superintendent of the County Fair Horse Show.

Mrs. Smith served as a foods, horse and clothing leader.

She was the mother of three, Travis, Troylin and Tresadi, all involved with 4-H volunteer work.

At the time of her death on May 11, a memorial fund was established in her name.



