

Sponsors get opportunity to select 4-H trophies

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 Zimbelman, 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. Brusch 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 rest room 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

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- 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. Zimbelman 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.

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know the needs and capabilities of the hospital as well as the relationship between the county and Great Plains Health Alliance.

My expectation of a board member, he said, is to improve the hospital. I know that the board doesn't have direct supervision but it is important to retain a good staff.

Mr. Murray said he left the hospital to advance his career but felt that he could communicate with the employees.

Jerry White

Jerry White said he has been traveling for the last 10 to 20 years and places where he has been have had bad and good medical facilities. We need good medical facilities and, if we lose our hospital, we are in trouble! With modern transportation, the hospital can med vac out, he said, but the patient needs to be stabilized here.

Mr. White said he served on several different boards of international organizations dealing with 12 to 14 countries. He realizes that a board is to make sure everything is in place and has the tools for the facility to run. It is also important there is good communication.

"I would be a solid voice (on the board)," he said. "We need to figure out what it takes to make the hospital sustainable."

Employees need to be happy and the patients want to go to the facility. We need to make sure that the hospital can supply the services. If there is a good facility, outpatient doctors will come and the people will come.

He said he would be able to attend the meetings and training.

"When I make a commitment, I will stick to it," he concluded.

Randy Wieck

Randy Wieck said he had always had an interest in the hospital board but didn't think he could serve as his wife was an employee. For the last 30 years, he has been going to school and he is now working on a masters in management information in disease control.

His computer expertise has

led him to the Goodland hospital where he is the computer tech. He has been a dispatcher and has emergency medical service experience. I have a wide base of things I have done and I am doing. He is current on information on government mandates for rural emergency medical service as well as volunteer fire departments.

He feels that being on the board will help him as he continues his education and it will also give him the opportunity to give something back to the community.

Jared Douthit

Jared Douthit started the interview by asking if having his wife, Candi, working at the hospital would be a conflict of interest. If there is a conflict, there there is no sense going on with the interview, he said.

The commissioners said the bills do not forbid hospital board members from serving if their spouse is a hospital employee.

I have no axes to grind and I know the board makes no staffing decisions, he said. I am more concerned with the financial part of the county. I feel that landowners need a voice on the board. Mr. Douthit is a farmer/rancher.

The hospital knows what equipment is needed. However, he said, there needs to be some accountability for the purchases.

People don't appreciate how viable and good the hospital is to the county. There are tons of grants out there but they are terribly time consuming to write and, then there is the follow up after the grant money is received.

He recognized that the obstetrics department is growing but it needs support. We need to market this department better, support our providers and do whatever we can to help them.

He talked about the county's emergency medical service and that it should be showing a profit. Mr. Patton said it does.

"I want to keep the hospital moving forward," he said. "Being younger, we are going to be the ones representing the community in the future. If these people are not on the boards, they won't have a clue on what to do or where to go. I want to learn more about the hospital, its functions with the community and state, and learn the actual financial facts and know the accountability, which I know is a complicated issue."

He referred to the fire at the Good Samaritan Village and the stress it had caused. The same thing, he said, could happen to the hospital. No, he said, it may not be a fire, but we could lose the hospital at a slower rate and we don't want to lose our hospital!



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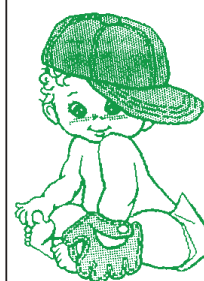
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Happy Birthday to the 2010 First Baby, Alexis Faith and congratulations to her parents Clay and Erika Zimbelman!

THE FIRST BABY OF 2010 was Alexis Faith, daughter of Clay and Erika Zimbelman.

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(Log on to see pictures of the babies)



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