



Fourth to end with a bang!

By Karen Krien

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After months of planning, one of the biggest Fourth of July celebrations will be held in St. Francis on Monday. Instead of the usual 25 to 30 minutes of fireworks, there will be 50 minutes and they will be accompanied by patriotic music.

The fireworks display will be paid for by donations.

The support from the entire community has been wonderful – from the youngest to the oldest, said Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators. Farmers, children, businesses, organizations and individuals have given to the fund. In fact, he said, the Methodist Thrift Store gave \$1,000.

Triathlon

To start the day, there will be a triathlon starting at the St. Francis swimming pool. Those participating have already started training. See article elsewhere for the details of the race.

Kids' parade

At 10 a.m., the red, white and blue kids' parade will take place around Sawhill Park. The parade will be for children sixth grade and under and includes decorated trikes, bikes, wagons and individuals. However, it should be noted that no motorized vehicles will be allowed.

Kids' games

From 10:15 to noon, there will be games for kids in the park. Prizes will be awarded.

Starting at 11 a.m., the All American Hog Dog meal will be served at Sawhill Park. This is sponsored by the St. Francis high school junior class as one of their money-making projects.

Happy Birthday Kansas

The activities do not end there. From 2 to 4 at the museum, there will be a "Happy 150th Kansas Birthday" celebration and cake, ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

Volleyball tourney

Also in the afternoon, from 1:30 to 5:30, there will be a volleyball tournament at the St. Francis swimming pool. People are urged to get their teams lined up.

Evening activities

Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, of the July Fourth celebra-

Schedule

- 6:30 a.m.-Triathlon registration.
- 7 a.m.-First race starts.
- 10 a.m.-Kids' parade, Sawhill Park.
- 10:15-noon-Games in Sawhill Park.
- 11 a.m.-All-American Hot-dog Feed, park.
- 1:30-5:30 p.m.-Volleyball Tourney, swimming pool.
- 2-4 p.m.-Happy Birthday Kansas, museum.
- 8 p.m.-Evening activities begin on U.S. 36.
- 8:30 p.m.-Karoke, Roger Neitzel parking lot.
- Dark-Fireworks begin.

tion, said many people are taking advantage of the supper hour to hold barbecues in their yards. There will also be food vendors at the Parkhill Restaurant and Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning parking lot north of Parkhill. Besides the Girl Scouts cookies and cupcakes, and the Shriner's Candy Wagon, the St. Francis Community Church will be selling slices of watermelon.

To add to the entertainment and excitement, Randy Smestad will start the music. At 8:30, in the Neitzel parking lot, Amy Reiger has organized a Karoke contest. There will be two microphones for individuals and groups to perform with. People can also bring their favorite song on a CD, I-Pod or I-Phone.

Then the fireworks will begin! People can bring their chairs or blankets to the area north of the Good Samaritan Village to watch the fireworks. (Don't forget the bug spray.) For the first 650 people, Brenda Johnson, Hometown Market, will be passing out favors.

Parking can be found on College and Francis streets as well as at the sale barn and other commercial lots.

The July Fourth celebration is being funded with donations. Money can be left at the Hilltop General Store, Parkhill, Majestic Service and Upton Market.

For more information contact Mr. Neitzel at 785-332-2277.



HELPING THE FIREWORKS fund was Shannon Semler, son of Randy and Sue Rethke. The Fireworks Committee met the \$4,000 mark for expenses and have a little put away for next year.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Race to include run, race, swim

The July Fourth triathlon competition will start with registration at 6:30 a.m. at the swimming pool and the sprint will begin at 7 a.m. All entries are due by today (Thursday) and can be e-mailed to polingma@yahoo.com or call Margaret Poling at 785-772-7374.

The Plains Tsunami Saintry Sharks are hosting a triathlon starting at the St. Francis Swimming Pool. The triathlon will consist of a swim, bike race and a run. Divisions include: a super sprint race, a junior kids of steel race, a kids of steel and seniors of steel race.

The super sprint, ages 15 and older, will be a 400-yard swim, 10K bike race and a 2.5K run.

The kids of steel (9 to 14) and seniors of steel (55-0) will consist of a 200-yard swim, 2K bike race and a 1K run.

The junior kids of steel (8 and under) will be a 100-yard swim, 1K bike race and a .5K run.

The super sprint (18-24) will begin at 7 a.m.

The seniors of steel will begin after the super sprint finishes in the pool area, followed by kids of steel, then junior kids of steel.

Helmets are required for all people participating in the bike part of the race.

The races can be individual or teams. Each contestant or team will have two different times. One time start to finish, the second time will be swim time plus transition one time, plus bike time, plus transition two time, plus run time.



KAITLIN FIGGINS was selected as Cheyenne County Young Miss for 2012 at Saturday night's program.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Board decides fate of sale barn

On Tuesday, June 21, the St. Francis Sale Barn sold to the St. Francis Equity for \$100,000, much below the assessed value. Seldom is a complete business bought at public auction.

At the Tuesday Equity board meeting, the members said that they had bid on highway frontage on the west side of St. Francis. Six months later, they still had no acceptance of the bid.

When the sale barn came up for auction, they agreed that, with 15 acres plus the building, equipment and pens, it was an opportunity to expand and/or establish a business.

We are keeping the community in mind as we decide how to use the property, said Steve Yost, president of the board. If it will employ even three people, it will be a good deal for the community.

The board agreed they would not run the facility as the St. Francis Equity Sale Barn but they might look at leasing the facility to someone who would want to run a sale barn.

The property is prime highway frontage, Karol Lohman, manager, pointed out. Ms. Lohman has already started researching some options which might work for the company.

The board said there were at least three different options they would look at before making a decision. Each of the options will probably take a great deal of additional money so they will investigate and plan carefully.

Board members include Mr. Yost, Dale Rath, Alex Petersen, Spencer Schlepp and Todd Neitzel

Demolition work begins



AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING, the roof on the Good Samaritan Village's burned section came off. A wall will be demolished and the middle section where there was severe fire damage will be made into three private rooms, three offices and a corridor. See Page 3 of this issue for the story and plans.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien