

Wrestling tourney has new dates

People and wrestling fans, looking at the school calendar, may wonder why there is no Northwest Kansas League Wrestling Tournament and why the state wrestling in Hays will be held on Thursday and Friday instead of Friday and Saturday.

Scott Carmichael, St. Francis schools principal, said the Northwest Kansas League has five schools, St. Francis, Oakley, Oberlin, Atwood and Hoxie, that have wrestling teams. So, they joined with the Mid-Continent League to form the Western Kansas Challenge tournament which, this year, will be held in Smith Center. Next year, Oberlin will host the tournament.

The Mid-Continent League will have wrestlers from Phillipsburg, Plainville, Smith Center, Norton, Hill City, Stockton, Ellis, Wa-Keeney and Osborne.

There will be 14 schools wrestling in the tournament, which will guarantee most brackets will be

filled and there will be some wrestlers with pigtail matches to get on the bracket.

The tournament will start at 9:30 a.m. and run straight through. There will be three mats throughout the tournament until the consolation and final matches, then there will be two mats. The consolation and final matches will start at approximately 6 p.m.

There should be lots of good wrestling! Mr. Carmichael said.

State wrestling

State wrestling was moved back to Thursday and Friday, Feb. 23 and 24, because Fort Hays State University was hosting the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) wrestling tournament. People need to mark their calendars with the change or they will miss the first day of the tournament.

Saintly wrestlers will travel to Lakin on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17 and 18 where the regional wrestling will be held.



JOHN LAMPE, area farmer, left, discussed putting grain storage south of town at the Equity meeting. He is talking to Alex Peterson, board member, and Steve Yost, president (right.)
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Thieves caught, charges pending

On Dec. 5, a tractor trailer semi with a load of corn was taken from a rural grain bin site near Bird City. The tractor trailer semi was also used in another grain theft in Cheyenne County.

After an investigation by the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, two men were arrested on Jan. 11 in connection with the thefts. Kurt Stapleton of Liber-

al, and Jimmy Ray Ketcherside of Plains, are being held in the Scott County Jail. The tractor trailer semi was recovered in rural Thomas County.

Charges are pending. Stapleton and Ketcherside are also being held for involvement in other thefts that have occurred in Cheyenne County, and other counties in the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Producers reminded of sign-up deadline

Dennis Mote, acting county executive director for the Farm Service Agency, reminds producers that enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election program will begin on Jan. 23, and continue through June 1.

The 2008 farm bill states that no advanced payments will be is-

sued for 2012. The entire Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payment will be issued after Oct. 1. New contracts are required annually and all signatures must be obtained by the June 1 deadline.

Contact the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency office and set up an appointment to begin the enrollment process.

Equity stockholders meeting held

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis Merchantile Equity Exchange annual stockholders meeting was held on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the St. Francis high school cafeteria. There were 45 voting members present compared to 35 voting members last year.

Karol Lohman, manager, reported it had been a successful year and that Mother Nature had played a big part.

Equipment and buildings had been upgraded and repairs made. Additional grain storage is planned for the Haigler plant, because of the location by the BNSF Railroad.

John Lampe asked why they were putting that much money in the grain storage in Haigler when storage is needed south of St. Francis. A lot of grain, he said, is going out of the county.

Steve Yost, president, said the board was trying to serve the most stockholders with the money they have, noting that the railroad being located in Haigler was the main reason they chose that location. It will give those producers north of town a free place to go with their grain and free up space for those south of town.

Mr. Yost said the plans are still

in the beginning stages. Mr. Lampe asked if, when the plans are set, if members can come to a meeting and vote on the Haigler addition? Mr. Yost said that the meetings are open and any member can attend. Your input is welcome, Mr. Yost said.

Donna Stevens suggested that they check out the new grain business in Benkelman. Mr. Yost said they had contact with the operators and there may be a chance that they will want the Equity to work with them.

Greg Daughhettee, auditor with Lindburg, Vogel, Peirce and Faris, reported the Equity had a very good year with a total net earnings of \$825,757 which was up \$190,000 from last year. Patronage dividends totaled \$628,368.

Board members up for election were Steve Yost and Spencer Schlepp. Mr. Yost had agreed to run another three-year term. Mr. Schlepp was retiring from the board after nine years. Tadd Neitzel agreed to run for that seat. There were no nominations from the floor and both Mr. Yost and Mr. Neitzel were elected.

Door prizes were drawn and the meeting was adjourned.


Patronage checks were distributed.



EQUITY MANAGER Karol Lohman speaks at the annual stockholder meeting in the high school cafeteria on Jan. 18.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien.



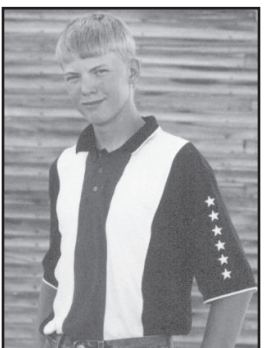
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Tim Burr
Advertising Manager
tburr@nwkansas.com

310 W. Washington PO Box 1050 St. Francis, KS 67756
sf.herald@nwkansas.com 785-332-3162 785-332-3001 (fax)

Natalie Knodel
Personal Trainer



122 W. Washington, St. Francis, KS 785-332-0191

Come & Go Wedding Reception for Rocky & Hannah (Sowers) Gomez



Saturday, Feb. 4
2 - 4 p.m.
at Living Water Fellowship Church, 306 N. Bird Ave. in Bird City, Ks. 67731

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