

Board talks about ribbons, premiums for open class

By Karen Krien
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Changing ribbons and prize money for open class entries was discussed when the Cheyenne County Fair Board met on Thursday, Sept. 6.

Marty Fear, extension agent, said the exhibits in open class had seen a huge decrease of around 60 percent over the last few years. The superintendents, he said, were trying to figure out what to do to bring the numbers back up but, he continued, about the only way is to increase numbers to increase the premiums. There is no incentive for people to bring in produce, crafts or food.

There is also the cost of ribbons which are about 50-cents each. He said the photography judging uses stickers. There are a lot of the ribbons in the trash after people pick up their items. They don't seem to care if they have a ribbon.

Drew Flemming, board member, asked if they recycled ribbons because he had a box of them. Mr. Fear said there were people who gave their ribbons back and, yes, the ribbons could be used again.

Mr. Fear said Cheyenne County was one of the few counties in Kansas still giving state fair blue ribbons. He said there will be no state fair blue ribbons next year, only purple, blue, red and white along with the grand champion and reserve grand champion. The council will figure the payout for them.

He said he had been asked several times why all the livestock is released on Saturday afternoon when Saturday evening is the biggest night of the fair. People are looking for the animals and there only a few in the barn. There was no decision made.

Premium sale

Butch Ewing and Royce Rambat, auctioneers at the 4-H premium sale, were commended on the job they did. Several of the board members talked about the sale lasting longer than usual, however, others said it was about the same.

Mr. Hobrock wondered if each 4-H'er would sell one item instead of two, if that would cut down on the length of the sale? Mr. Fear said he was afraid if the board did that, 4-H'ers would only enter one animal in the fair instead of two, making less numbers entered in the fair.

They discussed the fact that a red-ribbon animal had brought more money than grand champions but agreed, while it might not be right, that it was an auction and that was the way it was. They also thought that it took weeks and months to get an animal ready for the fair and only an evening or an afternoon to bake a plate of cookies. Again, it was an auction and the people buying them could pay whatever they wanted, whether it was for a plate of cookies or a grand champion beef.

Besides, the goal of the auction was to be able to include all 4-H'ers and some 4-H'ers were not able to bring an animal to the fair. There are a lot of positive reasons for kids to join 4-H and the premium sale was the ultimate goal.

Amusement Authority

Bill Ehrman, Amusement Authority board member, wondered why the janitors didn't work on Sunday after the fair. He said there was still a lot of trash cans full of trash which the city crew had to roll the cans to the truck to empty them.

Dick Bursch, fair board president, said the janitors were paid through the fair. They worked 16 hours a day. He also pointed out that the carnival is still running when the rest of the fair has shut down.

Mr. Ehrman also asked about the weed control and if the county was responsible. Mr. Bursch said the fair board is responsible for weed control but the county crew has helped them out from time to time.

Plans

There were board members who were concerned about the demolition derby and tuff trucks events. The board said they had heard numerous complaints that they had come to see a demolition derby not a garden tractor pull. They agreed that they needed to have more safety rules concerning the tuff trucks and there needed to be more committee meetings during the year to make sure they had all the rules in place and everyone knew the plans.

There were several of the board members who were not happy about the fact that they did not know that there was going to be another food vendor at the fair until she was set up and already selling.

Mr. Bursch said that the vendor had approached him several days before the fair. They were not selling anything that would conflict with what was being sold in the 4-H booths so he didn't see any problem. Several board members said that it just didn't look good that they didn't know about it. Mr. Bursch apologized.

Brian Hobrock, board member, asked Mr. Fear how much the 4-H Council made in their booth this year? Mr. Fear said he didn't know but he could find out. It was pointed out that the 4-H Council had spent several months advertising for a manager for the booth and then it was hard to get parents and kids to work.

It was suggested that the booth be put out for bids but there would be a flat fee for the council to cover what was made during the fair. This is an extension council

decision and was just a discussion item during the board meeting. However, there appeared to be some parties who would be interested in running a food booth.

Mr. Bursch said he had been asked why the board didn't bring back the ranch rodeo? Mr. Flemming said there was another similar event called the "redneck olympics." There are three age divisions - children, teens and adults so it would include a wide variety of people. It sounded like it would add some excitement and would be entertaining. The two events will be discussed later on.

Restrooms

Mr. Bursch said the restrooms had been a problem during the fair, especially Saturday night and some on Friday night. The toilets kept plugging up and the lines of people were long.

He had talked to Ron Krien about putting up steel building about the size of the restroom at the ball diamond. It would have a cement floor, three toilets on the women's side and two toilets and urinal on men's side. Water would be needed but there would not need to be any heat as everything would be drained and winterized.

It was suggested that, instead of a restroom building that they rent 10 port-a-potties for Friday and Saturday night. It was noted that each port-a-potty costs \$200 a day. However, some of the members rationalized that \$2,000 to \$4,000 during the fair would cost less than a new building and the fixtures needed. No decision was made.

Weeds

Weeds, specifically stickers and sand burrs, are a problem again. The board was not sure how many events were planned for the 4-H building on the fairgrounds at the present time but knew that the 4-H banquet would be held on Oct. 28.

Some of the board talked about spraying but other board members said it was too late and would do no good. They needed to be spraying in October and again in the spring. Mowing would just spread the seed.

They decided that if they needed to, they would have the grounds mowed.

Executive session

Mr. Flemming called an executive session to discuss personnel. No decision was made on personnel coming out of the meeting.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse. All members are encouraged to attend as it will be the election of officers. Also, at this time, committees will be formed.

O'LOUGHLIN

Continued from Page 1A

so teaching experience.

This year, Mr. O'Loughlin's students can expect to learn how to lift in the weight room with correct form.

The first two weeks, he said, they were not allowed to lift heavy weight until their form is perfect. I use a progression with squat to where they start with a small med ball and work their way up using heavier dumb bells. Once they master the goblet squat he will then allow them to begin front and back squats.

This technique, he said, helps lengthen and balance out all the muscles involved in their hips.

"I believe if you can not squat your own body weight correctly then you should not be squatting heavy weight," he said.

A big part of his classes is the warm ups which are developed around athletic, core and speed drills. Mr. O'Loughlin ran track for five years in college so teaching the techniques to running and speed progression drills is one of his biggest strength and will be incorporated into warm ups each day.

Mr. O'Loughlin was born in Salina and raised in Hugoton. After graduating from high school, he attended Bethany College where he graduated with a degree in health and physical education, and a minor in exercise science coaching concentration.

As well as teaching, Mr. O'Loughlin will be coaching junior high football with Ted Busse, assistant high school boys' basketball coach and will be the head track coach.

"I grew up around the school atmosphere and I really look forward to making it a lifestyle," he said.

SWIHART

Continued from Page 1A

years," he said. "The kid's excitement and enthusiasm was fun to watch and I wanted to be a part of their learning."

Focusing that toward academia, he said was a challenging reward.

This is Mr. Swihart's second year of teaching. He taught sixth grade at McCandless Elementary in Hutchinson before coming to St. Francis. He has 17 fifth graders in his class.

"I will be focusing on science with all three grade levels as I pull in all aspects of education," he

said. "I engage students through technology and humor. Students seem to enjoy the combination as they focus their abilities towards achievement."

By the end of the year, his goal is to have all of his students understand the importance of learning and achieving to the utmost of their own ability.

Following graduating from high school, Mr. Swihart went to Sterling College where he earned a bachelor of science in elementary education.

HUNT

Continued from Page 1

Maps for St. Francis and Bird City vendors are available free of charge. There are also statewide maps showing vendors in the different towns down U.S. 36 available at the extension office but there is a charge for the state maps. They will be available at the Extension office in the basement of the courthouse.

Mrs. Elfers said that it is too late for vendors to be added to the map. However, she suggested people check out those vendors on the map and see if they can bring their items to that location.

People are also urged to go to the website at www.ushwy36.com for maps and items that will be sold during the three-day event. As of Tuesday, there had been 3,363 hits on the website and, Monday alone, there were 465 hits.

Each year, the Treasure Hunt grows in the number of people traveling U.S. 36 for the many sales and bargains. The number of those having booths and sales has also grown. Last year, in Cheyenne County, there were 10 to 15 more garage sales and there could be more who decide at the last minute to put out their ware.

KINEN

Continued from Page 1

students interacting and engaged in their own learning.

"I am looking forward to getting familiar with the first grade curriculum," she said. "I am going to be trying out new programs this year which are new to Saint Francis which will be using manipulatives to teach."

Mrs. Kinen was born and raised in Conifer, Colo., 30 miles west of Denver in the foothills. Her parents are Barry and Sally Priest and they live on a farm north of St. Francis. Meghan has two sisters, Stacy Kaup and Erin Priest. Her sister Erin, died this past November.

She married Tanner Kinen in June 2010. Tanner and his dad, Pete, are farmers.

"I enjoy having my family and Tanner's family so close," she said.

Meghan graduated from Conifer High School in 2003, then went on to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley where she graduated with an elementary education degree and a minor in English.

RIEGER

Continued from Page 1

anxious to learn. And, she said, I am also very happy and excited for the year to begin.

"I love to see them explore their world and learn along the way," she said.

This year, there are 20 kindergartners. They will begin to read and, Mrs. Rieger said, reading is a highlight of the year.

This year, the classroom has a brand new interactive white board. We are very fortunate to have it, she said. We will be using it with many lessons in all subject areas.

Mrs. Rieger was born and raised in St. Francis. After graduating from St. Francis Community High School, she went on to Fort Hays State University where she earned a degree in elementary education. She married her high school sweetheart, Cale.

They were able to return home to St. Francis when Cale started working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. They have a son, Mason, who is a year old.

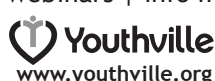
Mrs. Rieger is the daughter of Joyce Faulkender and Roger Faulkender, both of St. Francis.

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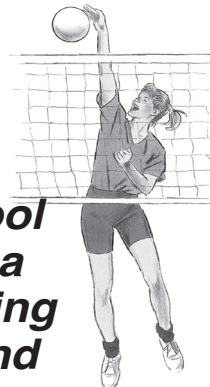


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