

Cheyenne trail ride planned for Sunday

By Karen Krien
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The 17th Cheyenne County Trail Ride will lead off at 2 p.m. sharp Sunday from the Kelly and Penny Gienger farm, 10.2 miles north of St. Francis.

Those on the 2 1/2-hour ride will be able to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"Donations will be accepted for the kids who would like to saddle up but can't," added coordinator Sharon Olofson.

Gary Cooper, another coordinator, said this will be a ride with more rough terrain than some of those in the past.

"There will be very little flat land and one water crossing," he said.

The ride is planned each year on

the second weekend in October, they said, when it generally is a little cooler and trees are turning colors.

This year's ride is dedicated to Gary Grice, who was killed in an accident two weeks after last year's ride.

"Gary loved horses and was a participant on the rides," Cooper said. "Two different years, the Grice and Douthit families hosted the ride along the river bottom southwest of St. Francis."

"They always had the area mowed and hay bales were around for people to sit on."

Last year, the ride, held northeast of St. Francis, had fewer people, but Cooper said that was probably because of the cool, damp weather and the price of gasoline. He is hoping for more people, possibly anywhere

from 90 to 124 riders, this year.

To reach the starting point from St. Francis, turn north on Benton Street off U.S. 36 and travel three miles to a set of transformers, around the curve northeast, then north 7.2 miles to Road H (about 10 miles in all). Turn east for half a mile, then turn left and follow the lane to the parking area. Signs will be posted at various points.

During the ride, members of the Cheyenne County Historical Society will provide refreshments. Afterward, the 4-H Horse Club will be serving a barbecue with the meat prepared by Doug Ross.

For information, call Cooper, (785) 332-2904; Olofson, 332-2248; Gail Yonkey, 332-2488; or Joe Hoffman, 332-2154.

Firm entering wind-energy field

WIND, from Page 1

The large turbines will weigh 210,000 pounds each and have 160-foot-long blades. Rasure said the price of one large wind turbine is over \$3 million. Sunflower Wind plans to produce up to 1,000 turbines a year.

Rasure said production is set to begin between March and June after all needed equipment is secured and employees finish training.

Rasure, 25, has worked for Goodland-based Rasure Lumber Inc., a family firm owned by his parents, and is former director of client development for Bonnie Blue Public Relations, a business and consulting firm based in Washington, D.C.

His partners in Sunflower Wind include Mike Pompeo, a mechanical engineer with a law degree from Harvard; Cynthia Strnad, a former Sherman County commissioner; and Michael Schneider, vice president of McPherson College.

Rasure said he and his partners founded Sunflower Wind because they wanted to capture business that mainly goes to Europe today.

"Currently, the majority of wind-turbine manufacturing occurs overseas," he said. "We created Sunflower Wind to keep the revenues generated from wind resources in Kansas."

According to the American Wind Energy Association, the industry will install enough wind turbines in

2007 to provide power to nearly 3 million American homes. Currently wind accounts for less than 1 percent of the electricity generated in the U.S., the group says, but capacity is expanding at a rate of 25-30 percent per year. The U.S. Department of Energy has set a goal of obtaining 5 percent of U.S. electricity from wind by 2020.

Unlike coal-generated electricity, experts tout wind-generated electricity as clean, efficient and cost-effective. A wind turbine can produce energy for up to 20 years and does not produce any byproducts that contribute to global warming.

"I always felt it's not a matter of if we'll use wind as an energy source, but when," Rasure said.

Painting small details...



Shannon Garrett, instructor at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, painted a flower on the face of Allisa Wear, 9, at the Computer Graphics Technology Department booth at the Flatlander Fall Festival.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Concrete extensions planned for Eighth and Caldwell intersection

CITY, from Page 1

the storm sewer lines on 17th from Main to Cherry Ave. have been cleaned and inspected with a camera. He said the camera did find two small holes that need to be patched on the line that runs behind McB's. "Behind McB's?" Billinger said.

Neufeld said in addition to the large storm drain under 17th, there is a storm sewer that starts at Broadway and runs all the way to Cherry Avenue behind the curb and gutter and angles back behind Kear's Liquor and McB's.

Neufeld said the storm sewer

from 16th to 17th along Main has been cleaned out and with the camera examination, the city knows that is a good line. He said it is an old line, but is in good shape.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked why 60 feet of concrete in all directions around Eighth and Caldwell. Daniels said he did not see the advantage, and felt it would be better to save the money.

"We want to get a price," Neufeld said. "We don't want to spend money just to spend money. The plan is to have concrete for cars to stop on, and it would reduce the pressure on the asphalt around the intersection."

Neufeld said the plan is to offer the concrete work to Sporer since they will be here for Eighth Street. The commissioners agreed to go forward with the plans.

Daniels asked if the contract for the extended concrete is part of a change order the commission was considering. Neufeld said the change order was for APAC Shears for the asphalt work they did on Caldwell.

Daniels asked about an overrun of what appeared to be \$37,000.

"That is not dollars, that is water," Neufeld said. "The water for the project was free since it came from the city, but they charged the city to

spread it."

Dechant asked if the change was for an increase in cost of the asphalt. Neufeld said most of it was for excavation of extra dirt taken out for the driveways along Caldwell, including the two into the fairgrounds parking lot. He said little quantities on each line item added up to an increase of \$13,509.

The commissioners approved the order on a 4-0 vote.

Daniels said he was concerned about the overages on the contract, and wondered when the commission has the opportunity to say yes or no.

Neufeld tried to explain the pro-

cess and the difference between a lump sum contract and a unit measure contract similar to the one on Caldwell.

Neufeld said the changes were not major, and there are times when the project is underway and there is no time to wait for a commission meeting or the contract could be delayed and cost even more.

Neufeld said Sporer is planning to start on Eighth Street this month. Dechant said that would be the last of the city part of the joint road improvement program.

Neufeld said it will have taken about 15 months from design to construction for all the city projects.

In other business, the commission

- Approved a request to have Sherman County pay \$264,823 to APAC and Evans, Bierly from the bond issue being paid for by a special one-cent sale tax.

- Approved the engineering cost (\$2,233) and reimbursement (\$1,675) from the Kansas Department of Transportation for work done on the design of turning lanes at Business U.S. 24 and Cherry Ave.

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City approves design contract for street projects

STREETS, from Page 1

Billinger asked if the small asphalt projects need inspections. Neufeld said even if it is a small project, he has a person at the plant to make sure the mix is what you are paying for.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the engineering contract is a way to get the bid package together.

Neufeld said all of the engineering contracts are "not to exceed,"

and said he has been able to come in under the costs on some of the recent projects.

"These are for the worst case," Neufeld said, "and we get a contractor who does not perform as well as the ones we have had recently."

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he was not sure the Grand Avenue section in front of the hospital is as bad as some other streets in town. Billinger said he agreed and felt the section of Grand was a good road.

Erickson said he would suggest another street that is worse, on Walnut between Sixth and Seventh. Dechant said maybe the best would be to take this out of the list.

"We may want to change that if Phil thinks there are worse streets," Dechant said.

Neufeld said if the city switches roads, they might have to go back through the 30-day protest period on the changes.

He said if the city wants to replace

one or more of the projects, he would suggest the commissioners approve the engineering contract with the exception that the owner (the city) has the right to change the scope and the list of streets to be done.

With that addition, Dechant made the motion and Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded. The motion passed 4-0 with Dechant, Fairbanks, Daniels and Billinger voting in favor. Commissioner John Garcia was absent.

matters record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court:

March 14: Cathy L. Hudson was fined \$237 for speeding.

April 9: Melissa Galbavy was fined \$228 for speeding.

April 20: Jeffrey R. Lee was fined \$206 for being over weight limits on wheels and axles.

May 6: Sherri R. Johnson was fined \$201 for speeding.

May 8: Davin T. Fesmire was fined \$126 for speeding.

May 10: Juan M. Hernandez was fined \$126 for violating child passenger safety laws, restraining systems and seat belts, and \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.

May 11: Abdullah A. Mayo was fined \$138 for speeding.

May 13: Gary A. Miller was fined \$144 for speeding.

May 24: Megan M. Harvey was fined \$154 for speeding and \$126 for violating child passenger safety laws, restraining systems and seat belts.

May 31: Mandalyn Knapic was fined \$170 for speeding.

June 3: Eric J. Kichty was fined \$144 for speeding.

June 8: Jenny S. Laborde was fined \$126 for speeding.

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