



LOOKS LIKE LOGAN MCCARTY found a nice soft lap to rest on during the Bird City Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday. In spite of the chilly weather, kids filled Van Doren Park to look for candy and eggs.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Board talks about high utility bills

By Linda Schneider
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With most of the events scheduled for the 2010 fair, the Cheyenne County Fair Board members spent most of the meeting discussing the high utility bills, constructing more restroom space, and 4-H trophies and awards.

Paying the bills

Lacy Reed, treasurer, reported on the monthly bills going to AT&T telephone for \$40.97, Owens True Value \$853.90, which Mrs. Reed added that the United Methodist Church was going to share the cost; city of St. Francis \$153.39, and Midwest Energy bill due within the week. She added that realistically, the total would be approximately \$725; depending on the True Value and energy bills.

Nick Ketzner, vice president, asked why there is a monthly phone bill, and Dick Bursch, president, answered that it was cheaper to have a phone year round than to have it hooked up for the week of the fair.

Mrs. Reed added that there are times when the building is rented, such as Prom Night, that a phone is needed.

"Theoretically, the students are locked in the building and parents need to be able to contact them," said Mrs. Reed.

Mr. Bursch added the tool company that annually rents the building needs to have phone service also. Mr. Ketzner began discussing compiling a two-year average utility bill report.

More discussion about the high utility cost of some events, how some renters do not shut off the heating system when finished with rental, and other neglected items that cost the board money.

Brian Hobrock added that since he has come on the fair board, more time has been spent discussing the high utilities and rental problems than any other topic.

It was mentioned by Gary Cooper, secretary, that there was talk about installing a thermostat to shut off automatically. Clay Zimbelman, member, said that the only thermostat he could find was a digital, and if renters couldn't turn off the light switch, how will they turn off the furnace.

Mrs. Reed told the members that compared to last year at the same time, the utilities were cheaper. Mr. Bursch said the rental of the exhibit building, as written by the commissioners, was to break even, not profit. Still, members agreed that a two-year report to see where the costs are was in order.

Extension office

Linda Elfers, representing the extension office, reported on the fair management meeting she attended in Hays. She presented some ideas that she had learned at the meeting.

She asked the board if there had been any decisions made about awards and trophies, and if there was any progress with the fair book. She also brought in a duffle bag for the members to look at and discuss. Mr. Ketzner told her that nothing had been decided at the moment.

He and Megan Downey presented more duffle bags and said that embroidery would be done for free by Deb George. In addition, the duffle bags would cost between \$17 and \$25, versus the average trophy costing approximately \$12, larger trophies more expensive.

The discussion turned to how many duffle bags were needed and to whom they would be given out to. It was estimated that 58 duffle bags would include livestock on grand champion and reserves; to total approximately \$1,400. Mrs. Elfers mentioned there may be a volume discount on the duffle bags. Motion carried to proceed with the duffle bags. Motion carried for Mrs. Elfers to get sponsors for trophies for small livestock and woodwork.

Mr. Ketzner went on to discuss the one-page fair book flyer, with events listed and sponsors listed on the back; at the estimated cost of 75 cents for premium paper and 65 cents less expensive per flyer. Motion carried to proceed with fair book flyer. Fair book with rules for exhibits will be made available for each 4-H Club family, judge, fair board members, and superintendents.

Restrooms

Mr. Bursch said there was need for adding more restrooms, but knew that it will not get done this year. He continued by saying it is a costly project and bids are difficult to get.

Mr. Bursch said that he talked to Billy Krien and got just an estimate on a 12- by 24-foot blocks only building, plus one partition was \$4,300, labor on the floor \$600, concrete floor for \$640. He is waiting on the plumbing bid from Lampe.

Discussion continued on where it could be located, types of materials used, how many stalls needed, and is there going to be any financial assistance. Mr. Zimbelman told the members he had talked to the Thrift Store and they were interested in helping, but could not finance 100 percent. Mr. Bursch asked the members to visit again with the Shriner's and local churches.

Mr. Hobrock said that he was hesitant to raise the money for a facility that will be used only one week out of the year. Mr. Bursch added that is the reason to be a little conservative on the stalls.

Derby

Mr. Zimbelman said that Colby ended up adopting the derby rules,

Goodland also and wants back in on points, Syracuse is still not involved and Benkelman, Neb. is not having a derby this year.

He continued by saying this year there may be a state championship derby in Salina area, and the only way a participant can compete is by placing in a sanctioned derby. Trying to move forward a state-wide set of rules and everyone liked the direction of the Cheyenne County rules.

Presently, there are 19 derbies that are a part of this with Cheyenne County being one.

"It costs \$200 dollars for us to be sanctioned and I have already received offers from people who would pay it for us," said Mr. Zimbelman.

It was agreed to allow Mr. Zimbelman to proceed with participating in a state-wide derby.

Adding some humor to the conversation, he asked what the board thought about awarding the prize money with a huge check; however, Mr. Zimbelman said the check costs \$50, Mrs. Reed said that we could use a big piece of cardboard.

Talent show

Mr. Cooper reported that he had spoken with Ruth Milliken of the Music Club about the talent show.

He reminded the members that he had originally offered to the Music Club a stage, a sound system, gate people to sell tickets, and splitting the ticket revenue.

However, it had been discussed to use the semi-trailer as the stage, but after speaking with Mrs. Milliken, there may be some dancing and concern was raised about the size being too small. In addition, obtaining the sound system was still in the works.

Mr. Cooper said that during the discussion, prizes were also discussed and he brought up the need for judges. He suggested that the music club hire the judges and award prizes, and the cost would be taken off the top of the gate money and then the money would be split.

The idea of pulling two trailers together was discussed and prize awards would be a good incentive for participants to sign up.

"But, we have committed to provide the stage," said Mr. Cooper.

Miscellaneous items

The board briefly discussed:

- That Skip Petersen will be the auctioneer at the sale this year.

- Gravel will be delivered.

- Wall soap dispensers will be installed to keep people from taking them or throwing them away.

- That new tables and chairs will be marked.

Next meeting

Next fair board meeting is scheduled for May 6.

Account may lose \$4.8 million

By Karen Krien

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The Kansas Legislature is talking about taking away \$4.8 million from the Modernization Account. Dolores Jenik, Cheyenne County Treasurer, at the March 31 county commissioners' meeting, said this money had been collected on all license renewals with the intent of implementing a new system for driver's license renewals and motor vehicle title systems.

The system would tie the counties together allowing for better information in the motor vehicle and driver's license departments. She said the office was in the designing process and planned to go live in July 2011.

The present system in the county office is 20 years old and doesn't

work well.

The taxpayers, she said, have already paid in for the new design, program and implementation of equipment. The county could be required to buy the new equipment and they would end up paying again.

There are new regulations coming in to the office concerning the Federal Identification Act for which the office will need this equipment. Offices all over the state will be penalized. They have been working on getting this process implemented since 2005 and it was about ready to go.

What is sad, she said, is the amount of money the state government is taking away from these programs is an insignificant amount and will not help the gov-

ernment much but will make a major impact on the people.

The people have already paid for the system and they deserve to have it, she said.

It doesn't seem ethically or morally right, said Dale Patton, commissioner. It's like working for somebody who gives you a check and you take it to the bank and it's no good!

Mrs. Jenik is urging everyone to contact their legislators. She has suggested form letters and e-mail addresses of all legislators. People can also go to www.kslegislature.org/legsrsv-house/searchHouse.do. Those wanting to send an e-mail can put the addresses in their computers and all will be contacted.

For more information, contact Mrs. Jenik at 785-332-8810.

Cheylin track wins first place

Cheylin high school tracksters were joined by track athletes from Bethune, Sharon Springs and Triplains on Friday, April 26.

Cheylin won the boys events with a point total of 97 which was 24 points over the 73 scored by Sharon Springs for second place.

Bethune won the girls events with a total of 53 points while Cheylin earned 47 points for third place.

First place winners for the Lady Cougars were Forrest Burr in the shot put, Teryn Carmichael in the triple jump, and Stephanie Busse in the 800-meter run.

Pacing the Cougars with first place finishes were Ethan Young in the shot put, Dalton Magnani in the triple jump and the discus, Chris Walden in the 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles, Health Antholz in the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash; Vance Churchwell in the 3200-meter run, Caleb Keltz in the javelin and Adrian

Garcia in the 800-meter run. The 4x100-meter relay team also placed first.

Lady Cougar results

Team standings: Bethune 53, Sharon Springs 49, Cheylin 47, Triplains 38.

Shot put: (1) Burr, 31-2.

Triple jump: (1) Carmichael, 28-3.5.

100-meter dash: (2) Cassie Rucker, 15.6.

400-meter run: (3) Rucker, 86.56; Iliana Reynosa, 91.97.

200-meter dash: (3) Burr, 40.28.

Discus: (2) Burr, 81.10.

Long jump: (5) Reynosa, 9-8.

3200-meter run: (2) Carmichael, 15.17; (3) Reynosa, 18.53.

4x400-meter relay: (3) Cheylin, 5:50.

Javelin: (4) Carmichael, 63.2.

800-meter run: (1) Busse, 3:04.

Cougar results

Team standings: Cheylin 97, Sharon Springs 73, Bethune 34, Triplains 29.

Shot put: (1) Young, 39-5; (5) Garcia, 35-9.5.

Triple jump: (1) Magnani, 36-0; (2) Grant Shader, 33-5; (3) Churchwell, 33-0.5.

110 hurdles: (1) Walden, 18.69.

100-meter dash: (1) Antholz, 11.59; (3) Jared Cahoj, 11.94.

200-meter dash: (1) Antholz, 24.5.

Discus: (1) Magnani, 124-8.5; (2) Young, 119-1.

Long jump: (3) Austin Manners, 16-1; (4) Shrader, 15-1.

3200-meter run: V. Churchwell, 11:49.3; (5) Heath Churchwell, 13:12.7.0.

1600-meter run: (2) V. Churchwell, 5:42. (3) Austin Cobb, 5:48.

300-meter hurdles: (1) Walden, 47.47. (4) Young, 61.38, Keltz, 68.75.

4x400 relay: (2) Cheylin 4:18.

Javelin: (1) Keltz, 131-4.

High jump: (5) Walden, 5-0.

3200-meter relay: (2) Cheylin, 10:24.

4x100-meter relay: (1) Cheylin, 49.53.

800-meter run: (1) Garcia, 2:32; (2) Keltz, 2:40.



CHEYLIN SOPHOMORE ETHAN YOUNG gave the shot put a good heave during the March 26 track meet.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider