

Fair organization meets, discusses rest room facilities

By Karen Krien

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Building a new rest room facility at the fairgrounds was discussed when the Cheyenne County Fair Board met Thursday evening. Money is needed before it can be built and even if the money can be raised, it will not be built until before the 2011 fair.

After last year's fair, the board had been informed that another facility for rest rooms was needed. The board is looking at a 24- by 30-foot metal building to be erected with a metal division down the middle.

The cost would depend on how many stalls/toilets were put in. But, if they wanted to put more toilets in, the plumbing would need to be taken care of before the cement floor is poured.

They realized they needed an approximate cost before they could start asking organizations and the commissioners for money. They finally decided that a \$20,000 estimate to start with could provide eight toilets, some sinks and extra plumbing.

Bill Ehrman, representing the Amusement Authority, said he had taken the board's request for a donation to the rest rooms and the members said they were not interested in donating until they could see a real need and that other organizations were interested in donating. He said members really didn't see the need of an additional facility and suggested using porta-potties.

Dick Bursch, board president, said that the Amusement Authority work falls heavily on the fair board. Mr. Ehrman said the organization will still help with the costs of the janitor to keep the rest rooms clean.

It's hard for the board to know where to they stand with building a rest room facility when people are saying they will give when they know what others are giving.

It was pointed out that, if the building is not going to be heated or insulated and only used during the fair, then it was probably a lot of money to spend.

Mr. Bursch will talk to the commissioners about the project.

If the commissioners would give some money, it would be a start but, the longer it is put off, the more expensive it will be to build. Even if the money can be raised, the board agreed that it will not be built until the 2011 fair.

Extension report

Linda Elfers gave the Extension office report. Upcoming events, she said, included the Cheyenne County Livestock Show on May 29; 4-H Horse Show, June 20; and the Horse Fun Day, Sept. 5.

She asked if the board would consider having the livestock scales balanced. She had talked to a person involved with balancing the scales in Goodland. She said the cost to have the scales balanced and certified is very expensive and, several years ago, a person who knew about certified and balancing, said the county's scales were almost beyond balancing.

One thing about it, even if they are not exactly correct, all livestock being weighed on the scales would be off the same amount.

Lacy Reed, member, pointed out that when the 4-H animals are shipped out, it is hard to know exactly how much every individual's animal's weighs.

Karol Lohman, member, suggested that the elevator scales will be balanced before harvest. Maybe while these people are in the county, arrangements can be made to have them balance the fairground scales.

Deb George with Deb's Embroidery and More, will be donating embroidery work on the duffel bags given for prizes. She wanted to know where the bags were, colors and designs that would be used. Nick Ketzner and Megan Douthitt-Downey, members, were not at the meeting but they have the needed information for Mrs. George.

Mrs. Elfers gave a list of judges at the fair and how much they had received for judging last year. The board gave her permission to pay the same amounts this year. Payment for judges, mileage and lodging will run around \$2,100.

Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, said he would fill in the holes near the

hog barn.

The board applauded Mrs. Elfers on the great job she is doing.

In other business

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- Gordon Ross, Ross Manufacturing, said he has some equipment that he would be willing to let the fair board use and the equipment would come with someone to operate it.

- Mr. Bursch said gate helpers are needed at the evening shows.

- Butch Ewing asked if he could pasture his horses on the grass at the north end of the fairgrounds. It was agreed that he could if he did not pasture south of the horse barns and that he be off the property by July 1.

- Mr. Bursch said an insurance agent had talked to him about buying insurance in case a show is rained out but the expenses would still be there. He will look into the insurance and bring back more information at the next meeting.

- Drew Flemming, member, said before the livestock show at the end of May, there needs to be a cleanup day. Members were to be contacted to help.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Brenda Mosqueda, Tulare, Calif.; Darren Dale, Bird City; Clyde Gleason, Plainville; Dale Peters, Westminster, Colo.; Jim Davis, Colorado Springs, Colo.; David Zumbahlen, Bassett, Neb.; Stanley Lamb, St. Francis; Wanda Dowdy, Bird City; Gary Banks, Arvada, Colo.; George Fishel, Layton, Utah; Regional Prevention Center, Colby; Willard Moore, Bird City; Marlene Kramer, Bird City; Lyle Hitchcock, Aquanga, Calif.; Marlin Brethower, Yamhill, Ore.; Gene Young, Bird City; Lynn Busse, Bird City; Kim Underwood, Bird City; Wally Underwood, Bird City; Sally Hudson, Benkelman, Neb.; Dean Knapp, Bird City; Vernetta Haack, Bird City; Otis Dewey, McDonald; Chauncey Dewey, Brewster; Terry Glasco, Bird City.



LADIESTAKE TO the hard wood to raise funds for the Bird City 125th celebration. Court Night was recently held in the Cheylin gym.

Photo courtesy of Darci Schields

Library becomes automated

Friday, April 25, was a red-letter day at the Bird City Public Library. The library switched from the old out-dated card catalogue and written check-out cards to the new computerized automatic check-out system.

The automation process started March 1, 2009. The librarian and volunteers started weeding the book collection. Books outdated, unchecked, and in bad condition were pulled from the shelves. Following the weeding process, bar codes were attached to the books and data on the book added to the Verso System data base. The majority of the libraries in the

Northwest Kansas Library System are affiliated with Verso.

The entire collection, adult fiction and nonfiction, junior fiction and nonfiction, audio books, and the video collection are on the computer and not the card catalogue.

The audio and video collection had not been available for interlibrary loan. To update them, new spine labels were attached and they were given new labels. The only things that are not checked out with the computer are the paperbacks and magazines.

This conversion was done with volunteer labor. Over 1,000

hours were put in by dedicated volunteers. The Northwest Kansas Library System also provided four staff members, six different times for work days.

Financially this was made possible by matching grants from the state library system and from the Dilsaver Trust monies the local library received in 2008.

Stop by the library and pick up your new library card. Darla will be glad to show how the new system works. The library may be automated but they still have the old-fashioned down-home service they have always provided.

Insurance is topic for council

The Bird City City Council agreed to pay full health insurance premiums for city employees when they met on Monday, May 3, at city hall.

City clerk, DeAnza Ambrosier presented information about the Kansas State Employee Group Health Care Plan. She said she had researched the cost and benefit of the plan compared to the current plan.

The monthly premiums, she said, will increase by over \$200 effective May 1. Should the city enroll in the State Plan, the city would not be required to pay over their \$500 per employee premium cap and the employees will not have to pay out-of-pocket.

The only draw back, she said, is that the city would be required to sign a 3-year contract with the state and would be locked in with any rate increase over that 3-year period.

Mrs. Ambrosier further explained that the state plan would not be effective until Aug. 1 but the new rates for the current policy are effective May 1 which means the monthly premium will be \$636 a month per employee.

She requested that the council temporarily remove the \$500 premium cap and pay the actual premium until another; less

expensive plan can be agreed upon.

Mayor Burr and several members expressed concerns about having to agree to a 3-year contract. Mrs. Ambrosier was instructed to contact other insurance providers for price quotes for group as well as individual rates.

The council agreed to pay the entire premium of \$636.18 per month until another plan is chosen.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved May 3 city council minutes.

Group holds April meeting

For the program at the American Legion Auxiliary meeting, Hulda Dorsch brought a DVD, entitled "Code Red for America."

"Code Red for America" is a shocking new exposé of mounting threats to faith, freedom and the nation's future-threats that come in many forms from the American government!

Many Christian leaders speak out on how free speech and religious liberty are at risk. Others discuss how globalism jeopardizes America's sovereignty, how the ever-swelling national debt puts America on the road to economic ruin, the erosion of the First Amendment rights, the nation's

swift move toward socialism and more.

The program's sweeping look at the domestic threat environment sends a warning that America must heed if she is to remain free. "Code Red for America" is a siren call to awaken the land to what lies ahead unless the citizens return to the God and the wisdom of His Word.

This was very thought-provoking as seen on the news continually all the things that are going on in this country - especially in Washington D.C. and how many rights are being taken away daily.

After the program, members enjoyed delicious refreshments prepared by Meta Dankenbring and Carol Peters. Everyone had a good time of fellowship.

'2010 The Year of the Cardinal Bird City Rural High School' Annual Alumni Banquet
 May 29, 6 p.m.
 American Legion Hall, Bird City
 Tickets - \$15, can be purchased by contacting First National Bank 785-734-2100 or in person in Bird City

The new Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, will have four 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent and two single family 3-bedroom homes for rent to own. Applicants must income qualify for this property. Please contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 for more information and application, or see Century II in Bird City for applications.

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The Bird City Quasquicentennial Committee is trying to finalize plans for the celebration on June 11th, 12th and 13th. A full weekend of activities is being planned. The committee is seeking monetary donations to help cover the cost. We estimate that we are approximately \$10,000 short of our goal. All contributions up to \$20,000 are being matched by Bird City Century II Development Foundation. The Bird City 125th committee would appreciate any support you can provide. Financial donations can be made payable to "Bird City 125th Celebration" and mailed to Sherry Carmichael, P.O. Box 190, Bird City, Ks. 67731.

Events being planned are a Cajun Boil dinner, and street dance with Beer Garden on Friday evening. A triathlon, a grand parade, an antique car show, craft and food vendors on main street, kid's events all day, historical play, rodeo clown, races and other games as well as a free barbecue and dance at the park with Beer Garden on Saturday. Also a community church service and pot luck dinner on Sunday.

Please check out <http://www.birdcityhistory.com> for a full schedule and more information. You can also go to the website to register the number of adults and children in your family for the free barbecue on June 12th, or call Wanda Dowdy at 785-734-2383.

WANTED
Part-time Office Help
 Applicants will need computer and office skills. Will be required to answer phones, wait on customers, proof read, type, take photos and make pages.

The Saint Francis Herald
 To apply or for more information, contact Karen Krien at the Saint Francis Herald, 785-332-3162 or stop by the office at 310 W. Washington, St. Francis.