



Fair begins!

By Karen Krien

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The 2007 Cheyenne County Fair has begun.

"Our fair is the best fair in the tri-state area," said Dick Bursch, fair board president.

"We have put together some of the best shows for all four nights of the fair," said Clay Zimbelman, fair board member.

The 4-H and open class displays, projects and livestock are already at the fairgrounds and most have been judged. The home-owned carnival is running and children can hardly wait to climb on the octopus or the airplanes.

Fair board members have spent several hot days getting the grounds ready for the fair. The members of the Amusement Authority have spent months getting equipment ready and painted, and stocking the prize booth. The carnival opens at 7 p.m. each evening and 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The key is, the carnival is run by volunteers.

The 4-H'ers, who have spent months preparing their livestock and other projects, can relax and enjoy the fair although, many will still be seen carrying water and

cleaning up the livestock areas and others will be working in the food booths found in the 4-H building. On Friday, starting at 6, they will bring in a little money when the Premium Sale begins in the small indoor arena.

The judging of 4-H Fashion Revue, Life-Skills and Clothing Construction and Fiber Arts was held Monday morning. The Fashion Revue for the public was held that evening at the Cheyenne Theater.

The 4-H Dog Show took place early Tuesday morning. That afternoon, in the courthouse, the 4-H foods judging was held and later, people were able to buy some delicious cookies, cakes, breads and other items at the food sale.

Wednesday morning found 4-H'ers participating in the horse show in front of the grandstand. Rabbits, poultry, vegetables, plants and flowers were judged along with woodwork, welding, small engines and bugs. That evening, the Kid's Rodeo was held starting at 6:30 in front of the grandstand. Later, at 8 p.m., the Adult Ranch Rodeo was held.

Thursday evening
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GETTING READY for the 4-H Style Revue on Monday were Lakyn Pettijohn, left, and Dallas Reed. Dallas was helping Lakyn by putting on just a touch of lipstick.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Carnival opens for 26th year of fun and games

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Amusement Authority is celebrating its 26th year of operating one of the best home-owned carnivals in the area. The carnival opens at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and closes each night at 11. On Saturday, the engines start up at 4 p.m. and don't shut down until midnight.

When the Authority began, they wanted to keep the prices "affordable" so everyone could enjoy the rides and play games. That

low price was 25 cents for children and 50 cents for adult rides and most of the games were 25 cents. That same low price stands today.

Where else can a kid have fun all evening on \$5 and go home with a toy from the prize stand?

The volunteers who run the carnival each year are the reason prices can stay the same. Some volunteers are there year after year, while other volunteers may be visiting relatives or are former residents who bring their family back for the fair. Some look at the

job as a responsibility while others thoroughly enjoy doing it.

Each year, the money raised is used for upkeep of the equipment, to purchase prizes for the next year's fair and to pay insurance.

Insurance costs around \$4,000 for the few days the carnival is operating. Prizes are the big expense ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,000. The extra money earned is put aside to cover a major expense or to buy another ride.

Prizes vary from fun water guns, jewelry and balls, to stuffed animals, just to name a

few. They can be purchased with tokens won at the game booths.

Carnival rides include: the Ferris-wheel, tubs, twister, scrambler and two octopuses. This year, there will be no "wet" octopus — last year, one ride featured water thrown at riders... while it was cool, the Authority members decided it wasn't appropriate. Kids rides include: the merry-go-round, kiddy cars, airplanes and swings.

Games often change from year to year but there is always the Duck Pond, Plinko, Pop Ring, Basketball Toss, Ric-a-Sha,

Bingo and the Quarter Dozer. Sometimes there are new games and then, there may be an old game brought back.

Members needed

The Amusement Authority is always looking for members. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact members: Greg and Susie Walz, Sam Miller, Bill Ehrman, Bill Wilger, Bill and Geri Lampe, Ken and DeEtta Knorr, Royce Gienger, Randy and Charlene Wieck and Ericka Wieck.

First fair board member to lead parade Saturday

By Karen Krien

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A 91-year-old St. Francis man will be the 2007 Cheyenne County Fair parade marshal. Tobe Zwegardt plans to lead the parade riding in a horse-drawn buggy, driven by his nephew, Eldon Zimbelman.

Mr. Zwegardt is now the only living member of the original Cheyenne County Fair Board. He said the first board meeting was held in front of Egans Drugstore with himself, Ernie Sherlock, Deb Sherlock and Stanley Matney.

The fairs had been held at the St. Francis airport and behind the courthouse. There were other counties around who had "real" fairs and the men decided that it was about time Cheyenne County did the same.

There were 10 men who went to the Cheyenne County State Bank and Howard Sawhill loaned them the money to purchase the land for the fairgrounds. All 10 had to sign the note.

By fair time in 1946, the land was bought and the fair was ready to take place. Jake Zwegardt had hand dug a well so there was drinking water. Even though there were no buildings, the events were still scheduled. Some of the members went to Greeley and rented bleachers to sit on. A carnival group pulled into town and the fair was in full force.

Mr. Zwegardt said many of those traveling carnivals were run by criminals and were crooked.



Tobe Zwegardt
Fair parade marshal

"They were a rough bunch." He watched a man lose \$50 to one of the game booths and one of the carnies cheated a kid out of \$5. The equipment they brought with them was well used and in poor condition. "People should be real thankful that we have the home-owned carnival today," he said.

In the late 40s, Hap Shull and Mr. Zwegardt took measurements of the grandstand in Oakley. By 1949, the grandstand had been built and was ready for the fair. Built by volunteer labor, it took about 120 days and cost around \$2,000.

Building this huge structure was quite an undertaking but it was done
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HORSE-DRAWN TRANSPORTATION — Larry Forsythe, driver, was taking people for rides in his newly acquired wagon Sunday afternoon. The horses have been at a trainer in Yoder. Mr. Forsythe may or may not be in the parade but people around have enjoyed seeing and riding behind the team. Accompanying him is Slim Baxter.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Fair parade starts at 10 a.m. Saturday

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The Cheyenne County Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday in St. Francis and will end with the performances by the St. Francis Pom Pon squad. The theme this year is

"Winds of Change."

Early in the morning, Main Street will be blocked off at Benton Street down to River Street. There are to be no vehicles parked in front of businesses in that four-block area. People can park in front of the court-

house and the park.

Entries will line up at the high school. Floats to be judged should be on the east side of College Street by 9 a.m.

The Once Again Band, made up of local residents, will be perform-

ing. Along with them will be the St. Francis Singers.

Parade marshal this year is Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis.

The parade is once again being organized by the St. Francis Area
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