

## Riders enjoy great fall weather

By Karen Krien

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Eighty-five riders saddled up for the 17th annual Cheyenne County Trail Ride on Sunday. The temperature ranged close to 80 degrees and there was a slight breeze — Ideal weather for a trail ride, several of the riders were heard to say.

This was the fourth time the ride had been scheduled for the hills at the Kelly and Penny Gienger farm north of St. Francis. Last year, the ride was cancelled two times because of cold, wet weather. It was scheduled again for Oct. 12 but the day dawned wet, cold and windy.

Gary Cooper, one of the coordinators, said maybe it was a good thing that the ride was postponed for a week as the trees were just turning. The cottonwoods along a stream were golden and there was definitely a smell of fall in the air. Overhead, a gaggle of geese were heard as they headed south.

The Plum Creek 4-H'ers served supper consisting of barbecued beef, cooked by Doug Ross, beans, chips and brownies. Halfway through the ride, Margaret and Kurt Bucholtz and Rachel Huffman, representing the Cheyenne County Historical Society, provided water.

Riders came from the tri-state area. There were older riders as well as the very young. Nine-month-old Rollie Hansen from Atwood made the ride paopose style carried by Mike Sramek.

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OVER 80 HORSEMEN gathered for the annual trail ride held north of St. Francis on Sunday afternoon.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Commissioners accept bid for new ambulance

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners accepted a bid for a new ambulance when they met on Oct. 15.

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had reviewed the bids which had been submitted a month ago. She said she and the other technicians

had studied and compared them closely. The lowest bid was \$127,155 but did not meet the bid specifications. The second low bid was \$130,100 for a 2008 Road Rescue ambulance.

The bid was for a 2008 model but none were left so the bid increased to \$132,600 for the ambulance. She and the commissioners talked about the differences in the

ambulances and, in the end, agreed to accept the low bid of \$132,600 from Motor Vehicle Professionals. Rocky Mountain Emergency Vehicles had the next bid for \$138,877 for a Life Line ambulance.

The ambulance was purchased in part with a Community Development and Building grant for \$73,000. The county will pick up the remainder.

Mrs. Bowers had \$1,206 in ambulance write offs which the commissioners approved. The commissioners had heard the emergency manager and emergency medical service director would be able to move into the new St. Francis Emergency Building within the next week or two.

The commissioners had earlier talked

about a letter from the St. Francis city attorney asking that the county pick up 70 percent of the expenses of the emergency building. However, after thinking about it, they thought the city had not considered that the ambulances, while owned by the county, serve both St. Francis and the county. No decision was made.



NINE PEOPLE served on the public forum panel Thursday evening. Pictured (l to r) are Art Krueger, Kelly Frewen, John Guthmiller, Robin Petersen, Norman Morrow, Kenneth Roberson, Kody Krien, Perry Keller and Scott Carmichael. Pictured front left is Jeff Olofson.

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Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

## Public forum draws big crowd

On Thursday evening, the auditorium at the St. Francis high school was practically full for the public forum with the purpose of explaining the plans for a new gym. The informative meeting started with Rob Schiltz, superintendent, telling how the plans for the building came about. He, Glenn Strait, architect, and other people answered questions — many of which came from the audience. Other people in the audience, as well as those on the panel, also explained their reasons for supporting a new gym.

Jeff Olofson presented the floor plan and Rob Schiltz gave the figures — figures of what a \$2.5 million facility would cost individual taxpayers. Tyler Raile was the moderator. Panel members were: Art Krueger, Kelly Frewen, Norman Morrow, Robin Petersen, Kody Krien, Scott Carmichael, Perry Keller, Kenneth Roberson and John Guthmiller.

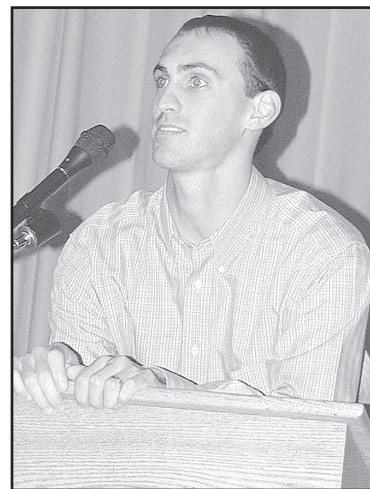
The plans for a new gym started over 10 years ago when Carl Werner was the superintendent. The plan for the first gym was over

\$2 million and board members thought they could maybe squeeze a new gym out of the capital outlay fund, a fund which is used specifically for building, remodeling, and replacing equipment including busses. The gym was scaled down but, as time went on, it was obvious that the construction costs were rising much faster than the capital outlay fund was accumulating. Besides, the board was reluctant to deplete the fund in case there was an emergency.

Last year, Dr. Mary Beth Miller was voted to the board. She had seen games played in the old gym and saw the risks for injuries. It was too small for the fast-moving games of today, she said.

The plans were brought back to the drawing board, the architect was contacted and he made adjustments. The board then decided to put it on the Nov. 4 general election ballot. "Let the taxpayers decide," was their decision.

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ROB SCHILTZ, superintendent, was on hand to answer questions at the forum. Above, Tyler Raile was the moderator.

community Builders were also on the scene and behind the scene, making plans for the forum. They planned fliers explaining the new gym, drawings and the costs; they laid the plans for the forum and advertising. (The fliers were made by Kim Church and Lacey Kibel in Brenda Day's Desktop Publishing class)

John Guthmiller, who is a part of Ross Manufacturing, said in the future, their business plans to employee even more people than

they do today. That will mean people with families will be living in St. Francis and their children will be going to school.

The gym project, he said, will be a great, impressive project that shows the community cares.

Norman Morrow pointed out that the community needs to continue to look to the future by upgrading.

He said the Wright brothers didn't need an airplane — they

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## Fall festival offers fun, games, food

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It is the fifth year for the St. Francis Community Church Fall Festival set for Halloween night, Oct. 31. With hay bales for seating and pumpkins for decoration, the fun will start at 6 p.m. at the church on 204 N. Quincy Street.

Everyone, said Marlin Queen, one of the organizers, is welcome to come enjoy the fun.

There will be a contest for the kids' non-scary costume and adults can enter the "best decorated" hat contest.

There is a chili cookoff and the winner will be awarded the Golden Ladle Award. There will be a brownie cook off and the winner will be presented the Golden Spatula Award.

Last year, Rodney Shay won the chili cookoff with his "prairie dog" chili. Kim Queen took home the golden spatula for her brownies plus



she also won the hat contest.

There will be a hot dogs will be grilled and there will be other treats.

Games will be played. They include gourd bowling, apple bobbing, musical haybales, a fishing booth and a sponge throw with the pastor and youth pastor as targets. There will be kid's crafts, face painting and ladder golf. Prizes will be awarded.

New this year will be "trick or treat so someone else can eat." The youth will be going door to door collecting can goods for the Food Pantry.

All children and adults are welcome to come to the Fall Festival but be prepared to have a fun and safe Halloween.

## Old, new vendors scheduled at show

By Karen Krien

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The 13th annual Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 1. The doors to the St. Francis Elementary School will open at 10 a.m. and the show will run until 3 p.m.

Coordinators Tammy Grice and Bonnie Zweygardt reports the response has been outstanding and there are many of the same vendors as well as new vendors.

"The gym will be full and there will be tables in the hall.

Some of the items include holiday and decorating crafts, herbs, paintings, metal, iron and wood crafts, baked goods as well as jellies and jams, scrapbooking and jewelry, just to name some. There are also a number of non-profit organizations selling dif-

ferent things to raise money.

Throughout the day, there will be door prizes drawn.

Lunch served

The St. Francis high school cheerleaders will be serving a soup lunch including chili and cheesy potato soup and cinnamon rolls. All proceeds will go to help send the cheerleaders to Florida where they will be performing during the pre-game activities at the Capital One Bowl football game.

Trade show

Also on Saturday, some of the small home businesses are holding a trade show in the cafeteria at the St. Francis high school. This show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Teri Richard, 785-332-2712.