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Demo derby promises fun

By Karen Krien

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The demolition derby, held on Saturday, is slated to have more cars and competition than last year. Because of the large participation, people are urged to get to the grandstands early to get a seat. The action starts at 7 p.m.

"Last year, we had more cars competing than any other derby from here to Greeley," said Clay Zimbelman, Derby Committee chairman. "There should be even more this year."

New this year is the "point system" with St. Francis, Goodland and Colby all participating. Andy Blackhart with Woody's Motorsports, Colby, will be the judge for all three derbies. Points accumulated by the drivers will be added to find the results. The total purse will be \$1,000.

With Andy judging all of them, the rules will be consistent and, eventually, there will be a set of standardized rules, said Mr. Zimbelman. Derby Committees from other counties are showing interest in the point system, he said, so we can

spread out to other derbies.

The Cheyenne County derby will be the last of the three derbies where contestants can earn more points.

We may have some contestants who want to try for a couple more points by participating in our derby, Mr. Zimbelman said. The point winners will also be announced at the Cheyenne County derby.

Mr. Zimbelman said the committee is already expecting 30 cars and hoping for up to 40 cars at the derby.

"We have had good response," Mr. Zimbelman said.

This year, there will be only one class — the modified hobo.

"This levels the playing field," he said.

There are fewer and fewer 1960s and 1970s models which are stronger vehicles. This allows cars to change bumpers and other parts on the newer vehicles to enable them to better compete.

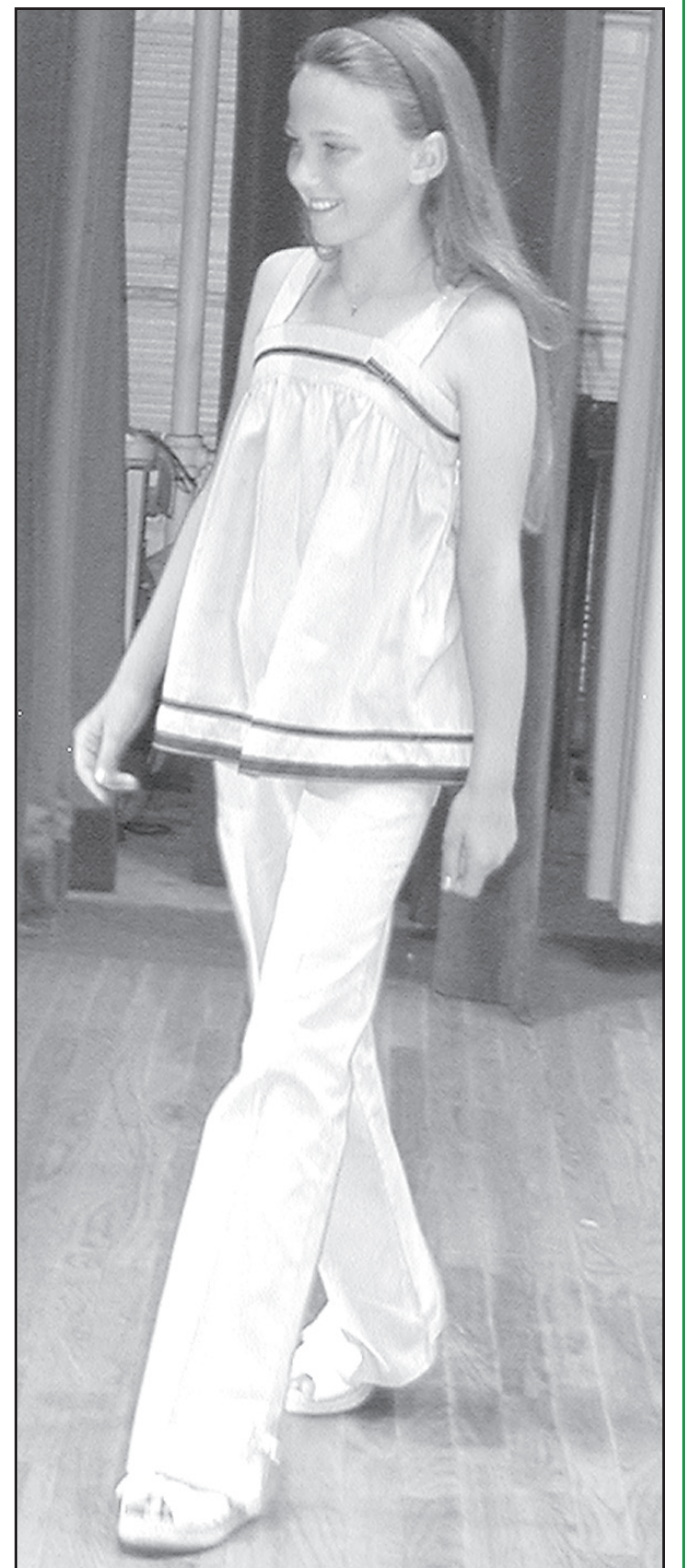
The rules are the same as Goodland's.

Guaranteed \$1,500 purse

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STYLE REVUE PARTICIPANTS Monday evening were Kyla Bandel, above, and Kailey Shay.



Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Illusionist performs Friday night at fair

A "Guinness world champion escapologist" will be performing at the Cheyenne County Fair at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Mario Manzini will be presenting a two and one-half hour show in front of the grandstand. As a preview on Thursday night, he will attempt his death-defying escape from a strait jacket while suspended 60-feet high, upside down, from a burning rope.

Manzini has performed this aerial stunt many times on television specials and over the Snake River Canyon in Idaho.

His show will consist of feats of magic and illusions, fire eating and breathing; and his tribute to Elvis show. He has been rated No. 3 top Elvis tribute artist in the midwest, but will feature these thrilling escapes which is his main show.

Manzini has appeared on the David Letterman show, the Tonight show and many major television shows and specials. He has performed at Caesars casino in Atlantic City and Las Vegas.

Manzini will be inviting members from the audience to come up on stage to strap him into a strait jacket, tie him to a chair

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Mario Manzini escapes from chains.

Runway construction begins

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Airport runway, St. Francis, will close on Monday, Aug. 17, for construction. It will tentatively reopen the middle to the last of October.

During that time, the airport will remain open and all three sod runways will be usable, said Robert Grace, airport manager. However, the Flight For Life aircraft and other large aircraft will likely not use the sod.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said he had relayed information to staff, providers, emergency medical service and EagleMed

regarding the planned closure of the runway construction.

The hospital and emergency medical service personnel, he said, are communicating to streamline the ground portion of this process. While there is a possibility of helicopter transfers, the most likely situation will involve a ground transport to the airport at Goodland until the runway is reopened.

"The key issue for the hospital is the best way to get patients where they need to go when air transport is needed, Mr. Lacy said. "Most of these same kinds of cases would be flown out of other area hospitals."

The contractors will begin tearing out

the old asphalt on the runway immediately on Aug. 17, then concrete will be poured. The end product will find the runway wider. There will also be new runway lights installed. The construction is to take 60 working days. This allows for some bad weather. However, if the weather doesn't cause any or few delays, the project could be completed sooner.

The project is part of a Federal Aviation Administration 95/5 grant. The widening of the runway needs to be completed before 75 feet can be added to the length of the runway. The addition will also be part of the grant program.

Jewelry store celebrates 60th

By Karen Krien

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Stuart's Jewelry at 111 East Washington, St. Francis, is one of the oldest businesses in town. It will be celebrating 60 years by having a float in the parade and giving away two watches at the end of the month with an in-store drawing.

Construction on the building started in 1949. At the time of its construction, it was the fourth in that block during the postwar period and was just west of Nolan Motor Company.

Bud and Margaret Stuart officially opened the business on Aug. 20, 1949. Working with them was Lois Leibbrandt. A grand opening was held and nearly 3,000 people registered and prizes were given away.

Mrs. Haddon Leibbrandt was awarded the capital prize of \$50 in merchandise. Mrs. Norman Hefner, \$10 in merchandise, and Arthur Schorzman received an automatic needle threader. Leslie Hook, who works at the store, said there are still a few of the needle threaders in the back.

The store carried Elgin, Bulova, Hamilton and Garland watches, Keepsake diamonds, all brands of clocks, Cambridge and Tiffin crystal, meeker wallets, Schaeffer pen and pencil sets, electric shavers, baby goods, Wallace and Lunt sterling, 1847 Rogers silver, Edwards silver and small appliances.



Margaret and Bud Stuart

On Dec. 28, 1960, Stuart's Jewelry was one of four businesses robbed. Other businesses robbed were Cheyenne Cleaners, Roelfs Electric and Modern Beauty Shop. The jewelry store was the hardest hit with an estimated loss of \$10,000. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation was brought in and, after nearly a year, the Denver-based robbery ring of five men was apprehended. The men had netted over \$150,000 in jewelry and merchandise throughout a four-state area. The leader, Rufus Suggs, 49, was held in the St. Francis jail and later sentenced to Lansing prison for 20 years.

In an article which appeared in the Cheyenne County History Book, Bud said he had seen several changes come about in watch and clock repair. Batteries, he said, have replaced the mechanical works.

The average bridal set which includes engagement and wed-

ding rings sold for about \$100 in 1950 when gold was only \$50 an ounce. Today, that same set will sell for around \$1,500 to \$1,800. Bonnie Stuart, one of the owners, said in the late 70s, early 80s, gold sold for \$800 an ounce. Now, an ounce of gold sells for \$925 to \$940.

Today, the store carries Pulsar and Timex watches, 14 karat white and yellow gold, diamond rings, pendants and earrings, gold-filled and sterling-silver jewelry, assorted charms, Onah crystal, mens and womens leather goods, baby gifts, anniversary gifts, Seth Thomas, and Senco wall and desk clocks. They are the bridal registry for Noritake and Oneida.

There is also in-store engraving, minor jewelry, watch and clock repair as well as having a supply of watch batteries.

The jewelry repair business

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NEW VET, Dr. Nathan Boyer with his wife, Kimberly, and daughter, Hannah.

Veterinarian joins clinic

By Karen Krien

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A new veterinarian has joined Dr. Judy Baxter and the staff at the Republican Valley Veterinary Clinic, St. Francis.

Dr. Nathan Boyer, his wife, Kimberly, and daughter, Hannah, 16 months, moved to St. Francis the end of June. Within weeks, they will have a new baby joining

the family.

"I'm so glad to have the help," Dr. Baxter said. "Dr. Boyer has already been doing an awesome job."

Dr. Boyer and Dr. Baxter will be alternating calls at nights and on weekends. People with emergencies should call the clinic, 785-332-2262, and the call will be automatically transferred to the

doctor on call.

Dr. Boyer didn't always plan to be a vet even though his dad was a veterinarian in northeast Ohio. Dad, he said, tried to steer him toward being a physician but after two years of school, he realized he was supposed to be a vet and changed his major.

Growing up with a veterinarian, See **VET** on Page 9A