

Fair board meets

During the December Fair Board meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3, Tracy Weeter of Bird City was welcomed as a new member and assigned to fair committees, Karol Lohman, filling in for Lacy Reed, gave the treasurer's report, Linda Elfers, representing the extension office, reported on several 4-H topics, and discussion began on the 2010 fair theme and show ideas.

2010 Fair theme

Once again the members tackled the job of coming up with a fair theme. Mrs. Lohman suggested asking the Cheyenne County 4-H Clubs to come up with a theme again. The theme has traditionally been used for parade ideas and the 4-H clubs in designing their fair booths.

Last year the Pleasant Hill 4-H Club won the contest with "Family Tradition" and a pizza party.

Members discussed many different ideas and, in the end, decided to contact the extension office to get the 4-H clubs involved.

Financial report

Mrs. Lohman reported the balance in the fair board account was \$5,016.57, and First National memorial fund at \$151.31. That brings the total to \$5,166.88 as total funds.

Bills are the St. Francis city bill listed \$122.53 and Midwest Energy bill has not been received, but is expected to be approximately \$200. She reported on various expenditures from the members and other businesses for supplies and works done, bringing the total to \$387.44. She added that it does not include the Midwest Energy bill.

Dick Bursch, president, said there is a \$1,000 refund due from John Deere. The refund was due to a billing mix-up. Motion carried to pay bills, except Midwest.

Extension office

Mrs. Elfers reported that the new Market Heifer Class will be added to the 2010 fair book.

She told the members that the new tables and chairs that were due before the fair had arrived. She said the furniture is at Owens True-Value waiting to be transported to the fairgrounds. John Finley, member, reported that the chairs are down at the fairgrounds and the tables are at True-Value.

Mrs. Elfers asked how the members were going to handle compiling the 2010 Fair Book. Mr. Bursch told her that the board would be appointing someone to begin the book soon and would get back to her as soon as possible.

Clay Zimbelman, member, asked for clarification on who owns the tables and chairs.

"They were anonymously donated and given to the fairground, which is basically the fair board," said Mr. Bursch.

Mr. Zimbelman suggested marking the tables and chairs with something to designate where they belong.

A serious topic of much discussion concerning the shortage of fair ground furniture and some of it ending up in someone's backyard.

Members discussed that rules about the furniture not being removed from the fairgrounds should be put into place.

Mrs. Lohman read from the June fair board meeting minutes that the tables and chairs were a donation

and the donators requested they were not to be removed from the fairgrounds. The members instructed Mr. Zimbelman to come up with the wording for the furniture.

Mrs. Elfers asked for the board to clarify who should inventory and insure the new furniture. Mr. Bursch answered that it will be the fair board's responsibility for both inventory and insurance.

Horse barn repairs

Mr. Zimbelman presented a bid from Troy Porter on removing and repairing the building. Mr. Porter quoted in the bid to give a discount if he could keep the materials that he removed from the building.

Mr. Bursch said there was one other bid from ABCD Roofing, Brewster. Members discussed wanting to keep business done locally.

Mr. Zimbelman asked about the allocation from the county. Mr. Bursch told the members the allocation comes in about Jan. 15; however, since the county is a little "shy," it may come in after the 20th. Motion carried to accept Mr. Porter's bid of \$5,399 with the understanding billing is after the end of January.

Stadium bleachers

Meg Downey, member, asked if the extra bleachers had been put away yet and her concern was weather damage. Mr. Bursch said that he believed Jared Douthit had made a deal with the St. Francis football team to help.

Mrs. Downey will check on the bleachers and contact the St. Francis high school coaches and make an appointment to get the bleachers put up, if needed.

Mr. Finley mentioned that it may not be so easy to get the school teams to help since sports and practices take up much of their time. Mr. Bursch added that if the coaches say "no," it is up to the board members to get it done. Mrs. Downey said that the job should take about 30 minutes.

Building damage

Mr. Bursch reported he had received three calls concerning the ladies rest rooms by the baseball park. He said concerned callers said the rest room was opened and there had been a party in the rest room.

He continued by saying that he asked Mr. Finley to inspect the rest room and, sure enough, it was a mess.

Mr. Bursch told the callers that the rest rooms had been cleaned and locked after the fair, and the board was unaware that they were open; however, ball games had continued until the end of summer. He also told the caller he was suspicious that the rest room had been left open after the games. Again, the members had to discuss the notion there were more keys out than originally assigned and unauthorized duplicated. Rod Ritchey, locksmith, told Mr. Bursch that he has not duplicated any keys.

Mr. Bursch said Mr. Finley cleaned and locked both rest rooms

New meeting hours

Motion carried to have the meetings at 7 p.m. during daylight standard time and 8 p.m. daylight savings time.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.



WINS FIRST PLACE - Hailey Robbins looks happy to be receiving her prize for winning the kindergarten division of the coloring contest from Santa.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Contest winners are announced

Earlier, grade school children drew pictures depicting what they thought about Christmas and some could have been used as Christmas cards. They were judged and, on Monday evening at the Chamber and Christmas On Us drawings, the winners were announced.

Prizes were awarded to the top three winners in each class. First place received a gift certificate from Pizza Hut; second, a movie pass with concessions; and third, a gift certificate from Video Kingdom.

Winners were:
Kindergarten - Hailey Robbins, first; Amanda Neitzel, second; Talya Hicks, third.

First grade - Colton Neitzel, first; Stephanie Meyer, second; Kattie Wurm, third.

Second grade - Alondra Gomez, first; Audrey Meyer, second; Cassie Cooks, third.

Third grade - Teagan Landenberger, first; Cody Baxter, second; April Fernandez, third.

Fourth grade - McKinnley Bartels, first; Hanna Bracelin, second; Dalton Straub, third.

Fifth grade - Jenna Confer, first; Sophie White, second; Quinton Cravens, third.

Sixth grade - Hannah Wolff, first; Emily Elfers, second; Carol Lewis, third.

Club Clips

Kniffy Knitters

The Kniffy Knitters met on Monday the 30th after school at Meme's house. Cookies were served for snack. Three members were present. On the agenda, new projects were discussed.

The next meeting is on the 7th. We played with the kitties and they are growing up big.

The Kniffy Knitters met on

Monday the 7th after school at Meme's house. It was snowing out and we were catching snow with our tongues. There were only two members present. We got a lot of work done. I really like my project.

The next meeting will be Dec. 14.

Cassie Cooks, reporter

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Will be CLOSED



**Thursday, Dec. 24
Friday, Dec. 25
Thursday, Dec. 31
& Friday, Jan. 1**

The staff at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Members accept monetary gift

By Karen Krien

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On Thursday, the St. Francis Board of Education accepted a monetary gift for the schools.

The local Knights of Columbus organization through the Tootsie Roll drive had raised \$593 which they offered to the school. The money is designated for special education.

Rob Schiltz, superintendent, said he would talk to the special education teachers about equipment or materials that could be purchased with the money.

The board agreed that it was a nice gift and accepted the money.

New calendar

The new calendar for the 2010-2011 school year had been tentatively set so the board could review it. The first day of school next year will be Aug. 10 and the last day will be May 26. The calendar showed two weeks for Christmas vacation and a week for spring break. The calendar will go to the teachers for approval or changes.

Building improvements

There are still building improvements needed in both the junior-senior high and elementary schools. Money for improvements and major purchases come from the capital outlay fund which, by law, is not used for the general fund that pays salaries and other expenses.

Mr. Schiltz talked about improvements which would be energy saving improvements. Some of these improvements would include replacing the remainder of the windows in the high school, lowering the ceilings and replacing the lights with T5 bulbs in the high school cafeteria and library as well as in the elementary school hallway. At some point, the entry doors need to be replaced.



Mr. Schiltz said the new windows put in the high school last summer have had a huge impact. The west rooms where the new windows were installed, have not had the draft that was previously felt on cold days.

The St. Francis school buildings, Mr. Schiltz said, are old but are structurally sound and worth putting money into.

Other improvements which need to be made are refinishing the high school gym floor, purchasing security cameras, especially at the front entrances of the schools, and remodeling classrooms. He suggested remodeling one or two classrooms per building each year.

Other business

In other business:

- The Kansas Department of Education requested that all schools in the state sign a memorandum of understanding for participation in the federal Race to the Top grant program. Mr. Schiltz said the department officials believe Kansas is a prime candidate to receive a portion of the grant money.

If Kansas is a recipient of the grant, he said, only the schools which have signed the memorandum will be eligible to receive grant money.

- Appointments were made for two committees. Serving on the Meet-and-Confer Committee are John Knodel and Derrick Tice; on the Scholarship Committee are Ed Marin and Bonnie Zweygard.

- Sherry Weeks, board member, said she had heard favorable reports about the mass-communication system which contacts parents by phone, letting them know of schedule changes and/or updates. The system was used when school was canceled on Dec. 8 and, then on Dec. 9, when school started 2-hours later.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the school board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 11, in the board room at the high school.

Surprise party for



*Kale Dank and wife to be Heidi.
Welcome chat and dance
Riverside Saturday, Dec. 26*

Haigler Country Cafe

Haigler, Neb.

Will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve through Christmas Day. We will close at 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will be closed on New Year's Day.

We would like to wish all our patrons a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year's

In Loving memory
Bob Hankins
Dec. 13, 1948 - Dec. 17, 2005

We miss you, We love you, We wish you were here, but your love is always here with us. We carry it in our hearts.
Happy Birthday & Merry Christmas in Heaven
Love from - Dot, David, Angie & Zoey

What's In Your Tire — Jug Contest

Total amount was 1549

First Place — Ralph Lebow with a guess of 1576 (TomTom GPS)

Second Place — Hoagie Carmichael with a guess of 1,600 (\$100 Gift Certificate)

Third Place — Dale Weeks with a guess of 1487 (Goodyear Racing Jacket)

Our kids drawing winners are: Isaiah Lee, Ben Busse, Colton Raile.

Stop by the St. Francis Tire & Service to collect your prize.

St. Francis Tire and Service

Highway 36, St. Francis 785-332-3366

Christmas in the Country

"Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht"

at Salem Lutheran Church (8 miles NW of St. Francis)

Saturday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m. CT

(music begins at 4:30 p.m.)

Carols in German and English

Refreshments following in church basement.

Free-Will Offering

Call 785-332-3002 or 785-332-3634.)

What better way to say *Merry Christmas*

than a St. Francis Equity Give away

\$75 Gift Certificate winner is Stephen Douthit

Prizes

1 - \$100 Gift Certificate on Dec. 22nd
Watch for your name in the next week's ad.

Equity Christmas Open House, Thursday, Dec. 17
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Enjoy Snacks at the Main Office

Sign-up at these location:

Office, 123 N. River Street - 785-332-2113

Service Station, 105 S. River Street - 785-3322421

Feed/Fertilizer Store, 321 W. Jackson Sreet - 785-332-2129

Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913

