

Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1528

The Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1528 met on April 19 at the Cheyenne Manor. There were seven present: Connie Rooney, Marlys Poulignot, Hattie Terry, Ruth Moore, Carol Connett, Annette Erskin and Wanda Dowdy. President Rooney called the meeting to order and had the opening ceremonies. Marlys led in the opening prayer.

Reports were given. The treasurer's report showed the balance on hand at \$1,402 as of March 31.

Connie read from the communications from the April mailer. She read a lot about the upcoming convention and elections that will take place. There was quite a bit of information about Americanism and Patriotism.

There are many days of observance in the months ahead such as: May 1: Loyalty Day, when members should reaffirm loyalty to the United States; May 15: Armed Forces Day, the third Sat-

urday in May, is simply a day to salute all of the men and women in all branches of service who protect our country; May 31: Memorial Day, a day to remember all U.S. Military Personnel who died in wars or other military actions. Flying the U.S. Flag is one of the simplest ways to show support for the country and its founding principles and to pay respect to those lives lost. The flag is to be flown at half-staff until noon and then raised to full staff; June 14: Flag Day, a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for the American flag, which is a representative of the country's independence and unity as a nation: July 4: Independence Day.

Ruth reported for the Poppy Committee. Since the ladies who usually sell poppies for the American Legion are unable to do so this year, it was reported that the members will have to wrap the poppies and then sell them this year. She made a motion that members wrap

these poppies at the next meeting and then sell them on Saturday, May 22, beginning at 9 a.m. Dot and Ruth will plan on selling poppies at the post office and Carol and Hattie will sell at the grocery store.

The Memorial Day program was discussed. Marlys made a motion to have Ron Hill organize the program again this year. Ruth seconded the motion and the motion carried. Carol brought a poem from a really old newspaper that had been read at a Memorial Day service years ago. It was called "I'm Still The Same Old Flag."

Connie read an e-mail that she had received from the VFW Auxiliary. President Obama had proclaimed April 19 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance for Victims and Survivors of the Oklahoma City Bombing 19 years ago. Americans may pause to remember victims of terrorism at home and abroad, and honor the heroes who have supported them, and redouble efforts to build the kind of world that is worthy of their legacy.

Members decided that BreAna Zweygardt would receive the VFW scholarship for this year. The VFW will make the first payment and then the Auxiliary will make the second payment.

Ruth made a motion that the donations for the next quarter...April through June...should be given to cancer.

At the beginning of the meeting, members decorated two baskets for the volunteer fire department and filled them both with crackers, handmade cookies, candy and mints. After the meeting Connie and Wanda took them to the station and placed them there. This was in appreciation for all that these volunteers do for St. Francis and Cheyenne County. Members know people who have been touched by these special people and the work that they do, whenever they are called upon to serve.

As there was no more business, Marlys led members in prayer. Connie gave the closing remarks. The next meeting will be on May 17 at Ruth Moore's house. Roll call will be "Any May Remembrance."

VISITS

Continued from Page 1

and commercial real estate agent in Salina.

The Mann Plan, he said, is what we need to get our country and Congress back on track.

He said he wants to stop runaway spending in Washington and pay down the national debt. He noted that the founding fathers did not intend for people to become career politicians but, to serve by representing their constituency, then return to their farms or businesses.

"Many members of Congress have lost touch with the rest of the country," he said. "They are more concerned with winning the next election than doing what is right for America."

He suggests the voters elect people with experience in business and agriculture; make sure that legislators abide by the same rules as other government employees in regards to benefits and that includes the healthcare plan they passed; pass term limits and

no longer allow projects paid for with federal funds named after elected officials.

As far as the health care, he feels that the present system needs to be reformed but said the healthcare reform legislation passed by Congress (Obamacare) is a disaster.

Cost and coverage, he said, are the two main problems in health care. The largest issue, he said, is increasing costs which hurt businesses and make it difficult for people to afford coverage but the president does not address this.

He is opposed to tax increases, wants to abolish the death tax and cut tax rates to create jobs.

If elected, he said he has been told he will be on the Agriculture Committee. "I want to defend Kansas agriculture, be an advocate to the livestock industry and promote family farms.

He said he is also concerned and wants to protect Medicare and Social Security.

"I want to keep America strong, safe and secure," he said.

Monitoring range grass is important to the land

By Roger W. Tacha
Resource Conservation
Natural Resources Conservation
Service, Colby

- How much range grass is growing?
- How much growth has already occurred?
- How much further growth can be expected?
- How much production have the livestock already removed?
- Can I predict whether there will be enough forage for the rest of the grazing season?

These are not really hypothetical questions, and you CAN formulate pretty accurate answers by using two simple tools:

- Grass Growth Curves
- Grazing Exclusion Cages

Western Kansas is comprised of short-grass prairie, mixed-grass prairie and sand prairie. Short grass is considered buffalo grass and blue grama, with lesser amounts of mid-grasses like sideoats grama and little bluestem. The mixed-grass is considered species like sideoats grama and little bluestem with lesser amounts of buffalo grass and blue grama. Sand prairie is comprised of mid grasses like sand dropseed, lovegrasses, and sideoats grama, with lesser amounts of sandreed, sand bluestem, etc.

A very important thing to note here is that these grasses are nearly all "warm-season" grass-

es, meaning that most of the growth occurs May-September.

So, all this now known, if we can determine exactly when and how much these plants are growing, we should be able to calculate how much growth has occurred and how much could still occur.

Grass Growth Curves (or tables) can give us that very information! It is broken down by range site (soil) and by geographic area. In general, though, the percent growth per month for western Kansas is this:

- May 20 percent
 - June 35 percent
 - July 25 percent
 - Aug 10 percent
 - Sept 10 percent
- (as an example, at the end of July, 80 percent of the grass growth has typically already happened—20 percent +35 percent +25 percent)

All this should help us get a handle on monitoring grass growth throughout the growing season. But what about monitoring grass grazed?

Grazing exclusion cages

This tool is just what it says ... the grass inside is protected from livestock. Cages can easily be made by bending a 16-foot welded-wire livestock panel into a cylinder shape, and staking down with three T-posts. They should be located on the most prevalent soil types and on any particularly fragile sites in the

pasture. The grass species within the cage could be the most abundant grazed grass in the pasture or a species you may be directing your management toward ... these species would often not be one-in-the-same.

One more thing on exclusion cage use ... they should be moved every year just before grazing time. This will help ensure valid, representative readings or data. Usually just moving them 100 feet is enough, providing they are still on the proper soil type and grass species.

Exclusion cages pretty much tell the tale of total grass production (inside cage), compared to amount being grazed (outside cage).

A sound grass management plan usually uses the old axiom of "take half and leave half" by the end of the grazing period. Regular visits to the exclusion cages along with using the percent grass growth per month figures should make meeting this objective and calculating available grazing more-than-a-guess.

For more information about grasses, please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or conservation district office located at your local county Department of Agriculture Service Center. To learn more about Natural Resources Conservation Service, visit the Kansas NRCS Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.



MARIBEL PINON helps Taylor McCarty hit the pinata at the second Cinco de Mayo celebration held in Bird City on Sunday.
Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Many enjoy Cinco de Mayo celebration in Bird City

By Linda Schneider
dublinlms@gmail.com

On Sunday, local and residents from Bird City and the surrounding area attended the Cinco de Mayo held in Bird City.

This was the second year for the celebration and nearly 240 adults and children sat down in the American Legion Hall to an authentic Mexican dinner of tamales, frijoles charros, arroz, and tostadas de guacamole.

Food preparation began several days before the event with Leticia Estrada and Maribel Pinon of Bird City. Many of their friends and family assisted in making 300 tamales to feed the crowd, there

were not many tamales left over.

"I am not a tamale fan, but I did try one," said Stacy Hazuka. "My family and I had fun going to the dinner."

The Bird City Go-Getters 4-H Club painted faces with art that included butterflies, Mexico's national flag, and many other creative ideas. Face painters were Savannah Isely, Catline Isely, Brianna Cross, and Go-Getters' leader, Nina Isely.

"It was a fun time for the Go-Getters and a great opportunity for our new members to do something together," said Nina.

It was the second time attending the Cinco de Mayo dinner for

Anita Burton and her husband, Martin, and she said the it was a good crowd this year and the food was great again.

Following the dinner, the kids got the chance to whack the big piñatas. Little and big kids lined up to get their chance with the stick at hitting the piñatas, and in the end every child walked away with a bag of candy.

For Tina Sager she said that there was great food, nice crowd and she plans on attending the third Cinco de Mayo next year.

And finally, the cleanup of the American Legion Hall was led by Mike McCarty, Bird City Dairy, and his crew.

Make Cheyenne County a Destination as you enjoy your Travels along U.S. 36



Don't Miss This Upcoming Special Section Promoting U.S. 36!

From the Kansas-Missouri border to the end of the line at Estes Park, Colo. Casey McCormick, ad manager, will be contacting area businesses in this grand opportunity to promote St. Francis, Bird City & U.S. 36.

If interested in purchasing advertising space in this section, give us a call at The Saint Francis Herald!

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

The Saint Francis Herald

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —

Bird City Times

May is BEEF MONTH

