

Beecher Island Reunion set

It's time once again to make plans to attend the 111th Beecher Island Reunion. This year's reunion will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19.

"There will be fun activities for the entire family," said Mark Mahlberg.

Earlier, a small tornado came through Beecher Island and tore the roof off the auditorium. Workers have come together and the roof and many of the improvements will be made before the reunion, Mr. Mahlberg said.

Award-winning performers, Jeanne and Jerome will present the "Call of the West" at 7 p.m. on Saturday evening. Special guest will be Jon Messenger, a World Music Awards nominated songwriter.

Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m., Loretta Thompson's western trio will perform. The song, "Arikaree" will be sung by Sara Drohan and John Hayden will present the history of Beecher Island.

Among the events planned will be races and games for all ages with cash prizes, a pedal tractor pull, black powder shooting and music.

There is plenty of room for campers from the smallest tent to the big RVs, Mr. Mahlberg said. Food and drinks will be available all weekend.

Look for a complete schedule in this issue of *The Herald*.

History of 1868 Indian raid

By Karen Krien
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The gruesome battle of Beecher Island was fought Sept. 17, 1868, when 50 scouts were surrounded on the island which had long sage grass growing on it. Early that morning, a small tribe of Kaw and Pawnee Indians attack, rushing down on the camp, shouting, beating Indian drums and rattling hides in an endeavor to stampede the horses. The scouts were prepared and the horses did not stampede.

By the time it was light, there were approximately 1,000 warriors. That did not count the women. The attacks were constant all day and, at the end of the day, one scout had been killed and there were others injured.

They could tell by the wailing that many Indians had been killed and injured.

That night, two scouts, walking backward with their feet bound in rags to resemble moccasins and wrapped in blankets to resemble an Indian, were able to escape to go for help over 100 miles away. Four other scouts were also able to escape and go for help

the next two days.

By the time help came six days later, most of the Indians had left.

Today, the site is a peaceful river bottom where the Beecher Island Reunion is held the third weekend in September. People gather to commemorate the battle and enjoy the weekend.

Beecher Island is 19 miles west of St. Francis into Colorado. Turn north on Road LL and follow it to a bridge. Just beyond the bridge is the large cottonwood trees, the Beecher Island Memorial, church and auditorium.

Reunion organized

In September of 1898, three men set off from Goodland. Headed northeast, their goal was to find the site of the Battle of Beecher Island. The men included Chalmer Smith and H.H. Tucker, two of the survivors of the fight; and J.J. Peate, the first to arrive with the rescue party nine days later.

On Sept. 17, 30 years to the day after the battle, they assembled a pile of stones and placed them on the island. Scratched into one of the stones was the inscription, "Battle of

Beecher Island, fought Sept. 17, 1868."

Leaving to go back to Goodland that day, these men never expected to return to the island.

Upon his return home to Beverly, Mr. Smith began to wonder about what had happened to the other scouts.

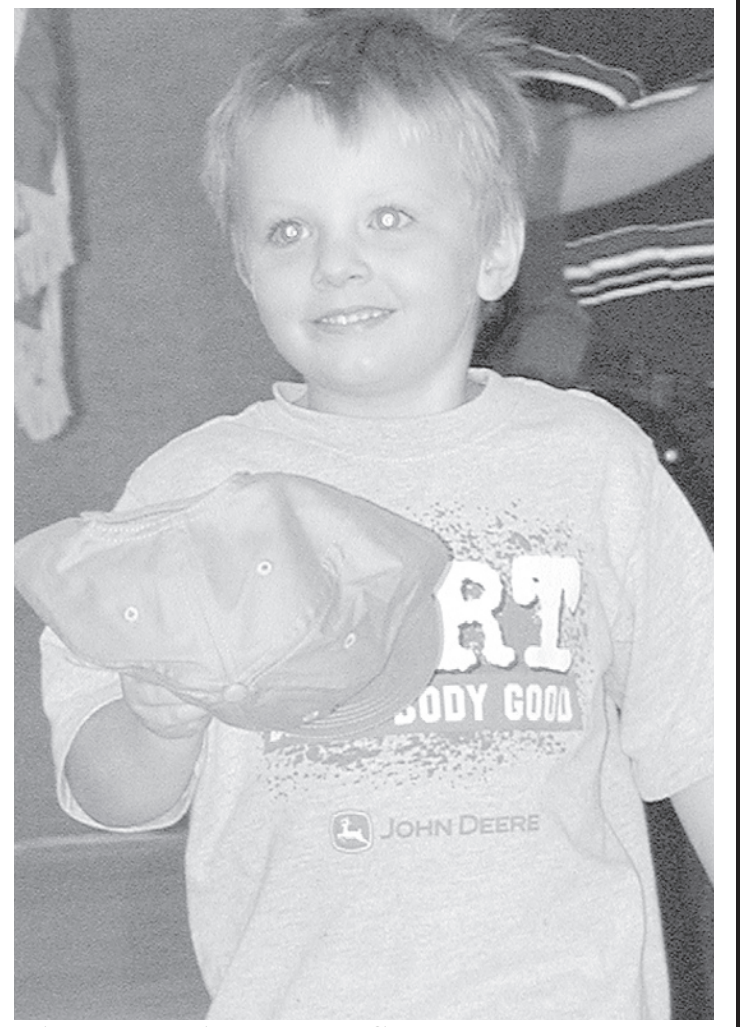
He set about contacting them and making plans for them to meet on the battleground the following September. This was the first reunion.

It was decided that such a reunion should be an annual event. After 110 years, the tradition of gathering at the battle site is still going strong.

The reunion is family oriented. There are games and races for all ages and prizes are given. A black-powder shoot and a quilt show are also planned.

Keeping with the Beecher Island tradition, some of the best live music in the area will be heard.

There is plenty of room for camping and people are urged to come out and spend the entire weekend enjoying the great cottonwoods and lazy creek.



FARM BUREAU MEETING - Jake Rath handed out prizes at the Farm Bureau meeting.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Support group meeting planned

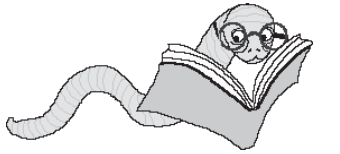
Monica Wacker will be the guest speaker at the Diabetes Support Group meeting to discuss Diabetes 101 management. She is the diabetes educator at the McCook Community Hospital in McCook, Neb.

The key to good diabetes control is blood sugar, or glucose, management. And the reality is that poor glucose control dramatically increases the risk for health complications related to heart and blood vessel disease: heart attacks, stroke, blindness and peripheral vascular disease, when blood flow to the limbs becomes impaired -- sometimes resulting in amputation. All of these problems can develop when a trio of fac-

tors...blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels...is not kept within recommended ranges. That's why the concept of "control" is such an important aspect of being diabetic.

The program on Diabetes 101 management will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 1:30 p.m. in the Cheyenne County Clinic basement conference room. This program is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information contact the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.



Airport Authority president reports

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwks.com

The president of the Airport Commission met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Tuesday, Aug. 31.

Dave Yost, president, updated the commissioners on what is going on with the airport. He said the grant for the runway extension became available several days before the expiration of the grant requirements. Mr. Yost had scanned and e-mailed it then filled out the originals and sent it FedEx. The grant design has been approved as well as the agreement with Olsson Associates, the engineering firm for the airport improvements. The runway, the commissioners said, is a commitment to the community. Once it is extended, the commissioners agreed that it would be a fantastic airport.

Once the airport runway is completed, it will be approximately a \$2 million project with the county paying only 5 percent or \$100,000.

The airport extension is being paid for with a 95/5 grant where the federal government pays for 95 percent and the county picks up the other 5 percent. Work is expected to start next year providing the necessary funds are available.

Mr. Yost said that when the airport is extended, it will change the approach end of the runway for the instrument approach. It could take 18 to 24 months to get activated after the extension is complete.

The commission had also received a 90/10 grant for filling cracks on the airport apron.

We are trying to get the runway extended, Mr. Yost said, and

we are also trying to maintain what we have.

The county's auditor said there were several matters that the airport commission needed to do to keep in compliance. Mr. Yost and Kari Gilliland, county attorney, had met with the county auditor and had worked out the details.

There were several matters dealing with the airport Commission that the auditor thought needed to be met. First of all, Commission meetings should

be quarterly and be announced to the public. They will meet at 7 p.m. at Yost Farm Supply on the first Tuesday of November, January, April and July.

The commission had met and elected officers. Richard Grace is the secretary/treasurer but checks are signed by Mr. Yost, Ron Loudon, Rodney Bracelin or Kody Krien.

Mr. Yost said he will continue to keep the commissioners informed on what is happening at the airport and the status of the grants.



Attention Bowlers:
League Bowling starts Sept. 13th
Mixed League - Mondays
Mens - Wednesdays
Ladies - Thursdays
Coffee- Wednesday afternoons
Call Cheyenne Bowl
to sign up your team!

The Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday, September 21, 2010** for training from the state. We apologize for any inconvenience this may impose on anyone!

GARDNER CONSTRUCTION
is doing small carpentry and repair projects.
Justin Gardner, 785-332-2843 or 785-332-7119 cell

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785-567-8113 - cell
Steve Freeland, St. Francis, field rep.
785-772-7072

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BEECHER ISLAND REUNION
Saturday, Sept. 18th
6:30 a.m. ♦ Breakfast available from the Idalia FCE Bicentennial Club
9 a.m. ♦ Black Powder Shoot
♦ Quilt show presented by Beecher Island Helping Hand Club
10 a.m. ♦ Pedal Tractor Pull
♦ Lunch with the Wray Lions Club.
Musical entertainment provided by the Swinging Seniors.
1 p.m. ♦ Games & races for all ages
Horse Shoe Pitching, prizes awarded in all categories; World Famous Dry Land Turtle Race.
7 p.m. ♦ In the Beecher Island Auditorium: Award Winning Performers, Jeanne & Jerome - Call of the West with special guest Jon Messenger, WMA Award Nominated Songwriter.

Diabetes Support Group meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010
1:30 p.m.
Cheyenne County Clinic Basement
Topic: Diabetes 101
Monica Wacker, Diabetic Educator from McCook, Nebraska will be the guest speaker
For more information contact:
Mila Bandel, RN
County Health Nurse at 785-332-2381

Fall Harvest is Coming!
Schedule oil changes for your grain and semi trucks. We also pack bearings on stock and flatbed trailers.
St. Francis Equity Station
785-332-2421
Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913

Sunday, Sept. 19th
6:30 a.m. ♦ Pancake Breakfast with the Idalia Lions Club
9:45 a.m. ♦ Flag raising ceremony by area Boy Scouts.
10 a.m. ♦ Sunday Service with Mel Berg.
Lunch with the Wray Lions Club.
1 p.m. ♦ Loretta Thompson's Western Trio
"Arikaree" sung by Sara Drohan
History Presentation: Joy Hayden
Drawing for Baskets and Quilt