

FAIR

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a board meeting on Thursday, Aug. 11.

It was also suggested that those sponsoring trophies pay for the trophies when they are ordered. Marty Fear, extension agent, said in one of the counties he had worked prior to coming to Cheyenne County, a list of needed trophies was sent out four months in advance of the fair. Sponsors checked the trophies they wanted to sponsor and sent it back to the office with the money to pay for them.

Extension agent's report

Agent Fear said he had brought two checks for trophy payments. He said Linda Elfers, agent assistant, had sent the rest of the checks for ribbons and goat premiums. Mr. Bursch said that there needs to be more sponsors for trophies. It was noted that belt buckles had been donated.

The 4-H Achievement banquet has been moved to the fairgrounds on Nov. 7 starting at 12:30 p.m. New at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 12 will be a 4-H Family Welcome night. It will be a fun night to welcome 4-H'ers and their families and let them know more about 4-H.

Agent Fear suggested changing the dress code for 4-H'ers during the fair. Instead of the shirts, T-shirts with the 4-H emblem and the name of St. Francis printed on it. He suggested that the same shirt design be used from year to year. The board asked him to get prices and the number of T-shirts needed.

Premium sale

The 4-H Premium Sale was discussed. The board members had heard complaints about the buyer's group (a group made up of individuals and businesses who had combined their money to get top dollar for championship livestock). Board members said they had talked to some of the people in the group. The consensus was the group had not meant to take the

opportunity from anyone wanting to buy the champion animal – only to get the 4-H'er the highest dollar possible. It was noted that champion premiums at the Cheyenne County Fair get less than some of the other fairs around.

Brian Hobrock, board member, said it (the buyer group) is different and people don't like change. He later noted that he thought it (issue) would work out.

It was also mentioned that the bidding could possibly have been more public – that people may have envisioned it as being underhanded.

Mr. Bursch suggested that board members continue talking to people about the premium sale.

In other business

In other business:

- Other officers were all re-elected: Dick Bursch, president; Nick Ketzner, vice president, and Gary Cooper, secretary.

- Bill Ehrman, representing the Amusement Authority, said he had no comments. Mr. Bursch said he wanted Mr. Ehrman to know that the fair board did not turn the Authority in for having the quarter dozer games.

- Mr. Bursch said the district conservation board would like to use the livestock building to store trees they are selling in the spring. They plan to have three times more trees than in year's past. Since it is a non-profit entity, there will be no charge for the building.

- Mr. Bursch said the freezer at the fairgrounds is not working right. The board will need to get another before the fair next year.

- The board rules state that members are not to miss three meetings in a row. Members discussed this ruling, noting that if members miss that many meetings, they lose out on what is happening.

Next meeting

The next board meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Nov. 7 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



DISCUSSING THE TRAIL RIDE on Sunday were Tom Sharp and Sharon Olofson, St. Francis. This was the 20th Cheyenne County Trail Ride and was held northeast of Wheeler. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Bird City man runs oldest business in city

By Norma Martinez
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One of Bird City's oldest and most colorfully decorated businesses is Mike Boyson's Hot Brush Signs. You can't miss it if you watch the signs along the highways in Kansas and Nebraska, or go down Brossler St. to the post office, or grocery store. Even his white truck draws attention with his artistic signs and detail work.

Mr. Boyson's gained his first painting experience when he was un-employed and went to Evelyn Creach, the editor of *Bird City Times* at that time to place an ad for work. Ms. Creach needed her house painted and hired him to do it.

At the time he was in the National Guard and had to stay in the area from 1970-76. He signed up for six years and at that time he said it was disheartening to him as he had to have short hair and everyone else at that time had long hair. Today his short blond hair helps him to stand out in his shop and gives him the distinguishing look to go along with his designs.

Mr. Boyson first became interested in artistic painting when his cousin Dave Duke came in 1974 from California to Bird City to help another cousin start a karate studio. The karate business failed, he, however, was able to give Mike some valuable advice on brush techniques that he needed to know for doing

custom-design painting. They even painted a few signs before Dave left him to go back to California.

In 1975, Mike moved into the old antique shop on Bird Ave. which was owned by Darwin Higgins at that time. As soon as the building at 204 W. Fourth Street became available he moved into it. He is still there today.

His first art project was done in 1974 for Bill Rambat when he repainted a horse on his barn. The farm is just west of town on Rd. 28. Ted Partch lives there now and the painting is still there.

Mr. Boyson painted a car for the Bird City shop in a demolition derby that went to the national events in Minneapolis, Minn., and won a trophy for the Best Appearing Car. He was honored to have Paul Gould; one of his customers from Sardinia, Ohio, win a grand champion trophy at the National Sun N Fun Fly-In in Lakeland, Fla.

Gould restored a 1946 Aeronca Chief 11-AC Airplane which Mike hand painted the dash restoring it to look like and match the original wood. Paul said one of the judges climbed up in the plane and said the dash looked just like the factory original.

Other awards were also won at other Oshkosh, Wisc., events. Gould said he was plugging his professional wood grain craftsmanship to everyone who wanted to restore



MIKE BOYSON talks about some of the signs he has painted through the years. Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez.

their instrument panel to original. Paul discourages clear coating as that doesn't represent original.

Another customer had a classic race car restored and brought it to Mike to paint the original letters back on. It was a semi-famous car driven by the Mighty Mouse Driver. He was so well known by this name that the name was etched on his tombstone when he died. This car won all sorts of awards and was displayed in a Las Vegas casino.

Cars and trucks are Boyson's specialty; however he also does a lot of car windows, window glass, highway signs, banners and pin striping. Lots of pride went into his custom-hand painting and lettering, but he says his best investment in the company was at the turn of the century, when he purchased a 24-inch vinyl

cutter plotter.

He is now able to cut his own vinyl letters and logos in his shop. In 2006 he bought a second plotter to make things even better.

A couple years ago he estimates he was able to do 50 trucks in two months time using this equipment.

Hand painting takes a great deal more time to do, but most customers prefer the computer cut designs because it is dry instantly, and they can leave with their car and new art work right away, or have it mailed to them, and apply it themselves.

Another must in this work is to be able to spell correctly, as there is no spell check and if he spells celebration with and "i" instead of an "e" it stands out on a large sign. He takes a great deal of pride in his work and business and artistic ability.

DRUMS

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will be presented on Monday, Oct. 18, at 8:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium.

Michael Fitzsimmons is a percussionist, an award winning composer, and a performance and recording artist with Dancing Man Music. His most recent recordings include *Skin on Skin* (2002), which garnered him a Nebraska Arts Council Fellowship Award;

he is a leader of drum circles at Universal College of Healing Arts and other venues, an artist with Very Special Arts, and cofounder of Who's Art Is It, Anyway? for art museums and galleries with storyteller Rita Paskowitz.

He is a percussionist with the Sacred Heart Freedom Choir under the direction of James Bogess, and the Christ the King Choir. Michael is a solo artist with the Nebraska Arts Council's Touring Program, performing in schools, communities, and corporate settings. As a master teaching artist with University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Arts Are Basic, and a resident teaching artist with Nebraska Arts Council, Fitzsimmons provides programs for music and story as a way of learning at many regional schools. Michael is a leader of full day music workshops with G.A.T.E. (Grief and the Arts Training Experience) for therapists, school teachers, hospi-



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