

# Family reunion enjoyed

Easter weekend in St. Francis was chosen as the time and place to enjoy a Boyd get-together. Stimulating activities were planned to cover April 22, 23 and 24.

Forty out of 60 descendants responded to the invitation sent out by planners, Melissa Hunt and Brett Newmyer. Everyone was a relative of George Wesley and Josephine Boyd.

This pioneer couple were parents of nine siblings: Jesse, Otis, Hiram, Hazel, Rachel (died in fancy), Laura, Lillian, Leone and Elmer.

Early in the evening on Good Friday, the "Flock of Boyds" migrated to the Cheyenne County Museum, for registering, greeting by Boyd hostess and touring the museum. The activity was continued as the groups drove west of town to Riverside Recreation dining room. Tables filled with an array of snacks and beverages had been prepared by family members, for everyone's enjoyment. Name tags were handed out. A real feeling of togetherness had been established. Soon the group ended the evening and returned to their places of residence for the night.

Early Saturday morning, relatives came to the Senior Center, entering the front door where breakfast was ready to be served. Helpings of fresh-baked muffins, orange juice, bowls of mixed fruits and hot beverages were appreciated. Patrons sat in groups of four - at the tables around the room. A small vase of spring flowers centered each table.

After breakfast, activity was seen at a table where a large display that included bags of small gifts and brochures donated by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, souvenir booklets for each family that contained complete coverage of the planned weekend activities. There were detailed pages of names, addresses, telephone and e-mail numbers and names of each family's Boyd ancestor. One colorful page was a copy of the Boyd Coat of Arms which included the origin information. Also showing were T-shirts and shopping bags printed with the logo - "Flock of Boyds". The items were for sale and orders could be made with size and number wanted if they had not requested articles before the reunion. Note: T-shirts and bags were labeled by White Buffalo Designs, a business of Michael and Melissa Hunt, Loveland, Colo. Boyd crest pages were donated by Ron Ewing.

Clan members expressed their appreciation of all the materials that were available.

At 10 o'clock, Melissa presented some activities who were free to choose how they would like to spend the day.

Those choices were: a guided tour of the Arikaree Breaks north of town, or, a guided tour, by cars, to the St. Francis Cemetery, east of town. Many early day Boyd settlers and members of their families are buried at this location, or, a guided tour of the town, to view residential homes and schools where Boyd families had lived and attended school. This time in history would

cover years 1920s through 2011.

Cold, windy, cloudy weather caused cancellation of the Arikaree Breaks tour. However, carloads of interested people braved the elements and toured the cemetery and homes. Many pictures were taken on the tours. At noon, the whistle blew and the Christian Church caliope played religious music. This was a time for everyone to gather at the Senior Center for a barbecue buffet dinner, prepared and served by committee members, their spouses and volunteers. Good appetites were evident and food was relished.

After dinner groups assembled around the many photo albums brought by family members. Laughter, love, concerns, and some sadness could be heard in the conversations triggered by pictures and events.

Appearing at 3 o'clock was Talley Morrow, the local photographer, who organized the 40 clan members for the picture-taking activity. A game of musical chairs was a fun part of the scene. Talley then explained the process of person's viewing her proofs on the web and procedure and price for ordering the chosen photos.

Following the picture-taking project, requests were made by individuals present, for a demonstration of the Charleston dance. Barbara soon appeared in the red, 20's costume. She asked for volunteers who knew steps of the dance and seven members of the crowd joined her in a line. Then each person illustrated a pattern of the routine. Cheers and handclaps vibrated from the crowd. The dancers then formed a chorus line (Broadway style. By tape, a foxy tune pealed forth and knees twisted in and out and heels swung sharply outward. As soon as the music ended the troupe danced out of the room as onlooker's responded with "yeah's" and more clapping. It appeared that the exaggerated action was enjoyed.

Having had a full day of visiting and touring, everyone agreed to a dismissal. Melissa encouraged the folks to visit local businesses or other points of interest in town before retiring for the night. They were also reminded to gather on Sunday morning at Ye Olde Country Church, located west of the Cheyenne County Museum.

In spite of the chilly Easter Sunday morning, carloads of Boyd clan parked in front of the little "all faith" chapel. As a member of the group pulled the long rope that rang the tower bell, patrons entered the sanctuary where religious recordings were being played by Sara McFarland. Old wooden pews were filled with descendants whose ancestors had also sat on the same pews during the early 1900s. Seeing the admirable altar, built in 1914 by the First German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Church, brought soft voices among the congregation. Melissa extended a welcome to the group and services began with group singing of the song "The Old Rugged Cross."

The sermon was delivered by

layman pastor, Troy Helms (a descendant of Jesse and Leticia Boyd). He chose scripture that compared Bible families' struggles to similar trials and tribulations experienced by the Boyd pioneers and today's trials of the new generation. His words created a feeling of faith and connection among those present.

Following the sermon, Coral Boyd Woodworth sang a heartfelt solo entitled "He's Been Faithful To Me."

Services ended with prayer and singing of the Doxology. Contributions were made to Ye Olde Country Church.

Patron's then drove back to the Senior Center where a bountiful Easter dinner had been prepared by Reunion Committee members, spouses and volunteers. Baked ham, potatoes, vegetables and trimmings were served.

After the meal, Jacque Ewing Hayes presented Melissa Hunt (her daughter) with a well-earned "thank you" gift for her organization of the successful Boyd reunion. Many compliments were extended to Melissa.

Meanwhile, tables in the east room were filled with "White Elephant" treasures donated by members who had come to the reunion. A silent auction was held and after people had written their bids, a committee announced the names of the highest bidders. Winners picked up their prizes and payed the bill. Proceeds were used to cover basic costs of the event.

Celebrating continued while hostesses created a 1920s scene for a pre-birthday open house for Barbara Ewing's 90th birthday. (Her real birthday is Sept. 15.) She joined in the fun by performing the Charleston again for newcomers. A timely theme "Remembering the Roaring 20s" was carried out in decorations, foods and an orchid corsage for Barbara. Near the front door, an Easter basket for cards, a guest book for signatures and a vase of spring flowers appeared on a "Welcome Friends" table. Guests were then escorted to a table topped with a three-tiered server loaded with tiny, colorful cake truffles, candy bars and pink lemonade.

The server tiers were each covered with gingham cloth and edged with ribbons, made by JoAnn Newmyer, Melissa Hunt and Sara McCumber.

Next to the exit door, a table was set with containers filled with 1920s reproduction candies. There were Pixie Sticks, orange slices, chocolate-covered peanuts, Dum Dums, Charleston chews and Mary James. Guests were encouraged to fill the little bags near by with candies. They were gifts, by the hostesses, to those attending the party.

Every celebration has an ending and the Boyd clan agreed the time for farewells had been reached. Good byes were filled with hugs, tears of happiness and wishes for everyone to reach home safely.

Plans were already being made for another reunion in the future.



JOIN HANDS adults, Rachel Huffman and Paula Keller, were helping paint at the Cheyenne County Hospital. Randee Grover and Shelby Cassaw, below, painted the handicapped sign.

Herald photos by Elmer Kellner

## Youths, adults work together

Young and not-so-young individuals met Wednesday and Thursday to work together in completing community projects.

Join Hands is a program designed to bring youth and other adults together to make the community a better place, said Elmer Kellner, organizer.

This year, 26 youth and 13 adults painted lines and handicapped signs at the hospital and also pulled weeds around the facility. At the Good Samaritan Village, they washed windows. At a private home, they mowed and cleaned the yard.

The work was topped off with a barbecue at the Riverwalk. Thrivent Financial provided the meal.

Mr. Kellner said it was a successful work program with both the young and old enjoying each other's company and work efforts.



## Swimming pool guards come to council meeting

By Karen Krien

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The swimming pool staff met with the St. Francis City Council at the Monday, May 23, meeting.

Bruce Swihart, councilman and member of the Pool Committee, reported that this was a great bunch of kids and he was looking forward to a good summer. Those attending the meeting were Logan Whitmore, Christina Schoenrogge, Christina Hilt, Shayla Hilt, Matt Whitmore, Aly Marin and Brett Lampe. Also present was the pool manager, Mikaela Grace. Not present was Jennifer Fritz, who is the water safety instructor and a guard.

The council talked about the pool improvement account which has been open to collect money to help build a new pool. The present pool was built in the 1950s and the "bowl" life is limited, Mr. Swihart said.

Mr. Swihart said the class for cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) has been set for June 10. The class, taught by Meredith Knodel, will cost a total of \$40 per person. The council approved paying the cost.

Mr. Swihart reported a meeting with the pool staff had been held and the rules, public image and responsibilities had been discussed.

### Cleanup

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### Police chief report

Shane Guggenmos, police chief, reported he and the officers have been busy. He was questioned on what the fine was for rolling through a stop sign. He reported that there are different charges including those for the city and the county. There was no answer.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for: Chris Bracelin, a fence; Harvey Forsythe, run cement by a step and 4-foot of curb; Melvin Schlepp, wheelchair ramp; Travis

The letters have gone out to people living in St. Francis who need to clean up their property.

At a previous meeting, the St. Francis City Council had asked Mike Day, city attorney, to send out letters to those people having property that needed to be cleaned up, whether it be painting and repairing; mowing yards, trimming trees or hauling off trash. Not only is the council making an effort to encourage people to clean up but they are trying to eliminate conditions on certain properties that pose a health or safety issue.

There were several properties that had been identified as needing work but either J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, or members of the council were going to talk to the property owners. It was noted that some of the properties on the list had already seen improvements.

A neighbor, Bill Farland, had shown interest in the Smith property on East Emerson Street. Scott Schultz, mayor, had talked to Mr. Farland, who said he was not interested in the property if there were a lot of restrictions. However, until the council was able to make some decisions, he was willing to keep the property mowed.

### Attorney's report

Attorney Mike Day had Ordinance 577 for the council to approve. The ordinance concerns the storage units which are being used in town. The ordinance states that to install a storage unit, there needs to be a building permit and it needs to be tied down or skirted. See ordinance printed in this issue.

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Milne, playground and driveway; Ken Allard, built a retaining wall on property, fence and wooden shed; Scott Houtman, built a fence; and Ione Ketter, have a fence built.

### Superintendent's report

Superintendent Landenberger was not at the meeting but had left information including the need for remote-read water meters. It was also noted that Krutsinger Construction and Redi Mix, Benkelman, would be in town and Mr. Landenberger said it was important that he talk to him about the two blocks of curb and gutter needed on Main Street.

The council talked about how they were going to pay for curb and gutter as well as the remote-read water meters. He had noted that he wanted to hire two people so one of the city guys could be used to help install the meters.

The curb and gutter is expected to cost around \$12,000 a block; \$50,000 is needed for the water meters. The council will discuss the matter at the next meeting.

### Vets

Councilman Dale Weeks talked about a Resource Conservation and Development meeting, noting that the organization had lost its state money. However, the plans are to continue operating. He said that the organization is helping with the honor flights which flies veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War to Washington, D.C. The effort is to see that all living veterans get to Washington. The organization is taking donations to send the vets. For more information, contact Mr. Weeks.

### In other business

The payment for a Cheyenne County Development bill was held until the clerk gathers more information.

A tree trimming license for Dallas Staples was approved.

The taxes for the Cheyenne Manor apartments were waived.

Shawna Heath discussed "Options" with the council. Options was formally titled as the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence organization.

## Bonny Corner

**Bonny Corner**  
By Vickie Schlepp  
Bonny Lake State Park  
GOCO Interpreter

Welcome summer! It has been a busy start of the summer season at Bonny Lake State Park! Campgrounds were full for the Memorial Day weekend with lots of boats and fishermen on the lake.

There have been a lot of questions about the park for this season. Currently, the plan for 2011 is to operate the lake like last year with trailer-launched boating available until Labor Day. Wagon Wheel and part of Foster Grove campground will again be available for camping. The off highway vehicles area in North Cove with its several miles of trails is also open. Upper management is currently discussing turning the park into a state wildlife area after the summer, due to the anticipated lowering of the lake in the fall.

Activities this summer will include the fourth Dutch Oven and Chile Cook-off on June 18. Entries are still open. Anyone who enjoys cooking with dutch ovens is welcome to enter and have fun that day with fellow dutch oven enthusiasts. There are no entry fees (other than a park pass) and first, second and third prizes will be awarded. For more information call the park office at 970-354-7306.

• Current park conditions: The

visitor center is now open 7 days a week, generally 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and later on weekends. Self service permits are available at all entrances and the ranger on duty can be contacted for annual passes and boating/off highway vehicles registrations. Passports can be stamped by accessing a box underneath the satellite dish west of the visitor center.

• Water level and boat ramp: Lake elevation is 3655 or 14,500 ac/ft and slowly rising. About a foot and a half higher than last year at this time. Anticipating levels to stay up until Labor Day. At the boat ramp the current depth is 4 to 5 feet and all boats are able to launch. A part-time ANS inspection station will start operating in late-May.

• Fishing: Fishing for all species is good. Water temp is around 62 degrees during the day. A good number of decent size white bass have been taken off the face of the dam with crankbaits, shrimp and jigs. A good number of walleyes are being taken on nightcrawlers and crankbaits. A few catfish have been caught on typical baits. Division of Wildlife has approved the emergency fishing regulations.

There is no daily bag, possession or size limits on any game fish. Any taking over the bag or possession limit requires a form to be filled out when leaving the lake. Forms are available at the

visitor center, Foster Grove and the northeast corner of the dam on self-serve signs.

• Boating: The lake is open for the summer to boating. Due to staffing reductions, boats cannot be launched or operated at night on weekday nights (Sunday-Thursday). Current plan is to operate the park and the lake the same as last year with trailer launched boating available until Labor Day. After Labor Day, it is expected the lake will be lowered below the boat ramp to help come into Compact Compliance with Kansas.

• Off highway vehicles area: The off highway vehicle area has re-opened for the summer,

## Check for brown ticks

It's springtime and that means dog owners should be on the lookout for ticks, according to a Kansas State University entomologist.

"We've received several samples of female brown dog tick nymphs since the beginning of May," said K-State entomologist Holly Davis, who oversees the university's Insect Diagnostic Lab. "These small (1/16th inch long) ticks are being found crawling around on dogs and people."

The brown dog tick has four life stages, the egg, larva, nymph and adult and will feed between each stage. The nymphs are commonly picked up in tall grasses