



Residents vote 'yes' on Village tax

By Karen Krien

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A special election was held to decide if the taxpayers would allow the county commissioners to raise up to 6 mills to help subsidize the Good Samaritan Village. The voter turnout was poor with 696 of the 1,903 voters casting their ballot. When the final vote was counted, 439 voted "yes" and 257 voted "no."

Had the Oct. 19 fire at the Village never happened, the voters would not have been in the posi-

tion of voting.

Having a yes vote will give the commissioners control to make the best decisions for the county. The Good Samaritan Society has also indicated that, if the vote was yes, they would sell the nursing home and apartments to the county for \$1.

There have been two public meetings to help voters understand the matter and ask questions. Until the ballots were counted, there was a huge question as to how it would go.

Man arrested on two counts

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On June 23, charges were filed against St. Francis man, Blake Feikert, age 34. He was charged with two counts of intentionally causing a child under the age of 18 to be placed in a situation in which their life or health was injured or endangered.

On July 6, he was released on a supervised bond, agreeing not leave the state without permission from the court service officer. He was also to avoid contact with any of the victims including his wife, Stephanie, witnesses or family members and friends.

Feikert's first appearance was on July 6 and a preliminary hearing was sent for July 20. He was released on a \$50,000 cash bond.

Among the restrictions besides not leaving the state and having contact with those mentioned, he was not to consume alcohol or illegal drugs and he was to relinquish all firearms until the matter was resolved.

Under federal law, court order restrained him from harassing, stalking or threatening his partner or children.

On July 25, he violated his supervised bond and was arrested for being in Benkelman, Neb. He claimed he was hauling wheat to Benkelman. He had been issued a travel permit to do harvest and farm business.

However, he was at the Dundy County Fair in Benkelman on July 23. At that time, he talked to Jason See **ARRESTED** on Page 9

Queen's identity revealed

The new Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen, Vernetta Haack, said it was indeed an honor to be selected as Bird City's 2011 Thresher Queen.

Vernetta was born 87 years ago on Halloween in Falls Sanitarium in Beatrice, Neb. She was given the name Vernetta Jeneva Duitsman.

"Can you imagine that long name?" she said. "And I kept that long name until I married a young man by the name of Norman Haack. Haack surely is a lot shorter than Duitsman. It was the tradition to be named after one's grandma. My grandma's name was Etta. I had a cousin who already had been given the name Loretta so my mother came up with the name of Vernetta."

The first year of her life she lived with her grandma. She also had two uncles still living at home so she said she was spoiled. They later rented a farm nearby. Her parents worked in the fields so she always went along. Her dad had fashioned a box in which she sat on the back of the binder. She could watch the wheat being cut and bound or even take a nap in that little box.

When her parents shocked the wheat, she was put in the shade of a big stock. As she grew older there was none of that sitting in the shade, she had to help shock the wheat. At that time they farmed with horses. Later they had a Hart Par tractor and a Waterloo Boy tractor. Her dad and his brothers had a large threshing machine named Yellow Fellow. They went from one neighbor to



THRESHER QUEEN ANNOUNCED — Vernetta Haack was recognized as the queen on Thursday. Pictured (l to r) Phyllis Wright, Ron and Roger Haack.

Herald photo by Norma Martinez

another to thresh their wheat. From a very early age, she milked cows, the old fashioned way, she said, not the electric milking machine like today's dairy, and it was raw milk, not homogenized, pasteurized. "I liked squirting milk in the kitty's mouth," she said. "The kitties liked it, too." The not-so-fun part of milking was being knocked off her homemade milk stool, the kind you had to balance, nor did she like being swished by the cow's tail, or getting her bucket of milk knocked

over, even though she had put on the kickers. Then the milk was taken to the separator which they turned the handle by hand to separate the milk from the cream. With that, of course, came washing the separator. She said she really did not like that job. The skim milk went to the hogs and the cream that they did not personally use, went in a 10- or 20-gallon cream can and was taken to the creamery. "I still have one of those cans with my dad's name on it," she said. See **QUEEN** on Page 9

Welcome to the fair!



SAINTY HIGH SCHOOL athletes helped assemble rides at the carnival. Pictured, left to right, Greg Walz (back) Bill Wilger, Kaitlin Figgins, Cade Bracelin and Coach Nathan Smith.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Marshal to lead fair parade

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Leading the Cheyenne County Fair Parade on Saturday will be Dr. Judy Baxter. Several months ago, the fair board voted Dr. Baxter as the parade marshal.

Dr. Baxter, owner of Republican Valley Veterinarian Clinic, donates her time and supplies to helping 4-H'ers with their livestock as well as small animals and pets.

She grew up around livestock and she enjoys helping kids today. Some kids wouldn't do the right things but they want to, she said.

She vaccinates 4-H animals and teaches the 4-H'ers what to vaccinate for. I want them to raise healthy animals and I like showing them how to take care of them.

I think 4-H is good for kids and it helps teach them responsibility, she said.

Dr. Baxter checks in the livestock and donates the fly spray for the barns and food areas.

Dr. Baxter has two sons, Cody and Jesse, and both are enrolled in 4-H activities including the shooting sports. She had accompanied the boys to practice and saw Francis O'Leary, who is one of the instructors, was almost overwhelmed with everything that goes with being an instructor. So she offered to be the coordinator of the shooting sports. That was two years ago and she still has the job. Dr. Baxter came to Cheyenne County in 1991.



PARADE MARSHAL, Dr. Judy Baxter, helps her two sons, Jesse, back, and Cody, with their fair projects.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

She said she likes the friendly people and the fair is great.

I can't imagine living anywhere else, she said.