

# DREAM

Continued from Page 1A

into without knowing the right people.

"I was very fortunate that he helped me."

But, Keller didn't just walk into being on a pit crew.

He moved to North Carolina in January 2009 and went to a Pit Instruction and Training school for three months. He said it is an entry level school for aspiring NASCAR pit crew members.

His first pit crew job was being a jackman with a smaller team, 23 Gunbroker truck with driver Jason White, in the NASCAR truck series.

In 2010, he hired on with Kyle Busch Motorsports to be the jackman on the 18 NASCAR truck series team driven by Kyle Busch Motorsports.

The season was a good year, Keller said. They won eight races and a truck series with a championship.

In July 2011, he was hired on at Stewart-Hass Racing with #14, Tony Stewart.

He is the backup jackman. During races, he helps out with the pit crew, runs tires and fuel and helps set up everything before the race starts.

This year was exciting, Keller said. It was the closest championship battle in NASCAR history, he said. "It came down to the last race in Miami to decide the championship.

"We ended up winning the race and the championship with a season's best, winning five out of the last 10 races," he said. "That is unheard of these days since the sport has become so competitive.

When we won, and in the fashion that we did it in, it was unbelievable. It took a few days for it to sink in.

While winning is great, he also likes the people he works with.

"The Stewart Hass Racing #14 group of guys are some of the best and most talented that I have worked with in my short career in NASCAR," Keller said. "It is really a dream come true to be able to work with the best people in the top tier of motor sports in the world!"

The biggest disadvantage to the job is the length of the season. We travel 36 weeks out of the year, he said. The NASCAR season is the longest in professional sports.

However, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Keller said he has been able to see differ-

ent places that he would never have seen if he wasn't involved in NASCAR.

We race all over the country, he said, from northern California wine country, to the beaches of Miami, Fla. I have also met various professional athletes from all different realms of sports.

One of the highlights was going to Las Vegas for the NASCAR awards banquet as champions.

"It was something I will never forget," he said, adding that all are very neat once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Keller plans to be with Stewart Hass Racing next year doing the same thing for Tony.

When asked if he would someday like to be a driver, he said, "that ship has already passed me by!"

"Drivers are people who have been driving race cars since they were 6- to-10-years old. It is hard enough to get into the sport as a crew member but it is even harder to become a driver."

Keller has had a great year with a winning team. When you are up there (winning), he said, a lot of stuff runs through your mind, including everything that was sacrificed to get to that position. That includes my family and friends who all have supported me to help me live out my dreams. The whole experience was almost surreal!

Nick is the son of Perry and Paula Keller, St. Francis.



LIONS WERE HARD at work on Saturday making pancakes. Flipping the cakes is Joyce Russ. Carl Jenkins watches.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

# Fair board looks at combine derby

By Karen Krien  
karen.k@nwkansas.com

It may still be months before the fair but the Cheyenne County Fair Board on Thursday was planning the evening events during the fair.

Some of the evening night shows will be the same including the demolition derby on Saturday night and the roping on Wednesday night but there were two other nights to plan for. Last year, the Tuff Trucks event was well attended by both participants and the crowd in the grandstand.

It was the first year for Tuff Trucks and Adam Peter, board member and coordinator for the event had some ideas on making the track better and was wondering about where to put the water hole that hung up part of the trucks.

After considerable discussion, they decided to have the Tuff Trucks program on Friday night. The Music Club is taking a break from the local talent show.

That left Thursday night open. There were several suggestions including bringing the Ranch Rodeo back. Ashley Buffington, board member, suggested that the board consider having a combine derby.

Mrs. Buffington is from Ellis County where there is a lot of combine derbies. She said people had asked if there were any combine derbies in northwest Kansas. She thought that it would be good for Thursday night of the fair.

The board agreed to try the combine derby. Mrs. Buffington will be making a call to an organizer in Ellis County to see what will be involved and will be advertising to see if there is any interest. She hopes that those interested will call her at 785-772-5155 or Dick Bursch, 785-821-0492.

## Fair theme

# ELEVEN

Continued from Page 1A numbers on the Christmas On Us pages.

A total of \$400 in scrip will be given to Instant Winners and nine business prizes will be given away.

"Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while you are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials," Mr. Burr said.

Participating businesses in the Christmas On Us drawings are:

- Bella's Market
- Bier's Hometown Store
- Bumper To Bumper
- Hilltop General Store/Uptown Market
- Republican Valley Auto Supply
- Owens True Value
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Tire and Service
- The Saint Francis Herald
- United Methodist Thrift Store

Be sure to mark the calendar for Dec. 19 for the grand prize drawings held in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce's activities. The drawing starts at 5:30 p.m. at the grade school in St. Francis.

The theme for the 2012 Cheyenne County Fair will be "Carnival Lights and Country Nights." The other two ideas submitted by Lawn Ridge 4-H'ers were "The Bright Lights of the Cheyenne County Fair;" and "Meet Me At The Fair."

The fair parade marshal will be selected at a later date.

## New policy

The behavior/grievance policy for during the fair was on the agenda again. If there is a problem during the fair, the board has agreed that having a \$150 submission fee was a little high but \$25 was too low. The consensus appeared that \$50 would be a fair fee.

They also discussed who was responsible for enforcing policies. Since Marty Fear, county agent, wasn't present at the meeting, the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

## No new projects

Dick Bursch, president, suggested that the board not take on any new projects until the ones started had been finished. Projects included finishing the crows nest in the arena and a new roof on the rest room building.

The board talked about the problem with stickers and weeds around the exhibit building. Mr. Bursch said they had finished the area behind the grandstand by removing the weeds and putting down rocks. Then the area is sprayed regularly.

Mark Mills, board member, said those bound to wheelchairs wouldn't be able to move well on the rocks. The board talked about by having a thin layer of rocks, it wouldn't hinder the wheelchair.

Mr. Bursch will check on prices of rocks.

## In other business

In other business: Mr. Bursch said Megan Douthit was resigning from the board. That leaves the board, he said, with three vacancies.

The board accepted a gift of bookcases from Scott and Carol Northrup.

No decision was made on the west door of Jenkins Hall.

Karol Lohman, board member and in charge of renting the exhibit building, and the board talked about those renting the building. One group wanting to rent the building is junior class parents. The board discussed that while they don't charge rent to 4-H and extension groups or schools, that the junior class parents were different. However, in the end, they decided it was still a school project and they wouldn't charge rent but would charge for the utilities used.

Drew Flemming, board member, said the same church groups that came last year to work on the fairgrounds, is coming again. The board needed to be thinking about projects that they can do while they are here.

## Next meeting

There will be no regular board meeting in January as board members and their spouses will meet at Big Ed's in Bird City for dinner.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

# Idalia News

By Chuck Wright



come and spend time in prayer.

## Idalia School news

Nov. 29-Dec. 15, the Idalia Youth In Community Service Club (IYCS) will be holding a toy drive for the Father's Woody's Christmas Dinner in Denver. There is a drop off box in Mr. McFadden's classroom if you would like to donate. Toys in high demand are stuffed animals, children's books, and children's clothing.

Dec. 19 - Jan. 3. Christmas Break. No school

The Idalia Vision Continuing Education Committee is looking for a sturdy, free-standing shelving unit. Please call the school if you have one to donate.

A reminder that the Idalia Scholarship Committee is selling Safeway and King Soopers gift cards to raise funds for student scholarships. You get full value for each card you purchase and five percent of your purchase is returned to the school for scholarships. Gift cards can be purchased at the school office or from Deb Crites.

These Idalia school athletes have received honors in fall sports: Volleyball: Chelsea Smith- All Conference; Jezi Earl-honorable mention; Football: Will Helling, Central Division All Division; Matt Seifert, Central Division All Division; Brenden Dutton, Central Division, honorable mention.

(The two articles below were submitted by the Idalia High School Publications class)

## Idalia FFA chapter

On Thursday, Nov. 17, the Idalia FFA chapter held its annual chapter public speaking. The categories were Creed speaking, prepared public speaking, and ex-

temporaneous public speaking.

Creed speaking is an event for freshman ag students. Caleb Creed placed first, earning a gold. Placing second was Tension Hoyda, earning a silver, and third was Chantz Smith, also earning a silver.

In extemporaneous public speaking, the students draw for a topic of which they have no prior knowledge. The topic is an issue in agriculture. The students then have 30 minutes to research, write and outline for their speech. The speech must be between 4 and 6 minutes, then 5 minutes of questions. Senior Dustyn Mergelman and junior Chelsea Carpenter were the two members who competed. They will both be representing the Idalia chapter at Districts.

The final event was prepared public speaking. The students pick their own topic and write a speech about it. The students must cite at least three sources in their speech. The speech must be between 6 and 8 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions. Receiving a gold and placing first was senior Kortnee Spelts. Receiving a silver and placing second was sophomore Makayla Shafer. These two girls will also be traveling to districts to represent the Idalia FFA chapter. Receiving bronze were the other three participants, juniors Chelsea Carpenter, Riley Shaffer and Taylor Merritt.

Judges for the events were the ag advisor, Jill Whomble, Kristy Minor, Kelli Kite and Linda Sacket.

# FFA receives prize money

By Chelsea Carpenter

On Sept. 29, the Idalia FFA chapter received a letter from Pfizer Animal Health informing that it had received an honorable mention in the Pfizer Animal Health FFA Marketing Contest, along with 22 other FFA chapters in the nation.

Pfizer gave a total of \$26,000 in prize money to these 23 chapters. Idalia FFA was awarded \$1,000.

The letter stated that "Our team was impressed by your chapter's entry and the student's enthusiasm for the project." It is a great honor for the chapter to receive this contribution, and the money will be put to great use in improving the FFA experience of all the chapters' members.

# Announcing

We are happy to announce that Rawlins clinic will be adding Thursday mornings to our outreach clinic in McDonald. Michael Dorsch PA, will start seeing patients in the McDonald clinic at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Thursday. This is in addition to Dana Jewell PA, seeing patients every Tuesday afternoon starting at 1:30. Call 785-626-3241 or 785-538-2559 to make an appointment.

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