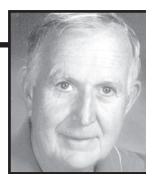




SHADRYON BLANKA placed third at the Western Kansas Classic wrestling tournament held in Hays. *Herald photo by Shawn Blanka*

Legislative News

By **Ward Cassidy**



120th State Representative

Last week, I listed the wrong times for the Republican Presidential Caucus. Saturday, March 10, voting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end promptly at 1:00 p.m. Be sure to bring a photo identification to be eligible to vote.

I have received many e-mails about House Bill 2437 (Safe and Fair Elections Act) this week. The House voted to amend this act, requiring all persons registering to vote for the first time in Kansas

— Student News — University of Oklahoma

Holly Keller was among the students from 47 states and the District of Columbia listed on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus honor roll for the fall 2011 semester.

In most colleges, students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale to be included on the honor roll. Students in the College of Architecture are recognized with a 3.3 or better, and students in the College of Engineering are recognized with a 3.0 or better.

Holly, a 2008 graduate of St. Francis Community High School, is the daughter of Perry and Paula Keller, St. Francis.

to provide proof of their U.S. citizenship. All current registered voters are exempt from providing proof of their citizenship. The original bill, passed during the 2011 session, had the provision go into effect on Jan. 1, 2013, and the new bill amends the effective date to June 15 of this year. The motivation behind this was the desire to properly vet the wave of expected voters who will register leading up to the presidential and state elections this fall. The bill passed by a vote of 81 to 43, and I voted for it.

Twenty-seven states have enacted broader voter identification requirements than those required by the federal Help America Vote Act. In those states, all voters must show identification before voting. Nine of those states require photo identification, and the remaining 18 accept additional forms of identification that do not necessarily include a photo.

An update on the concern about the home-owned carnivals in northwest Kansas: it appears now that the carnival boards will be required to send proof of insurance to the Department of Labor.

I believe we can live with that requirement. I have assured many people, in Topeka, that nowhere do people work harder to provide a safe, fun environment for our

kids.

The last time I renewed my commercial drivers license, I had to travel to Colby. Our county treasurers are more than willing to provide this service, but an upgrade in technology is required. Under current law, there is a \$3 surcharge on titling of vehicles and that money goes into a fund to provide this upgrade. I was told, in a meeting today, that it will not be until next February that the system is up and running.

The next two weeks, the session is going to heat up with major issues that have been bandied about in the press. I wish we could address the record gas prices we are experiencing. Although the pipeline through Kansas has already been completed, the pipeline to move Canadian oil to U.S. refineries has been stopped. Besides affecting our oil independence from a country we know and trust, it also affects the Kansas economy.

A reminder that my website www.wardcassidy.com has all of the articles I have written this year. I write one each week and post it.

Fair board members make few decisions at meeting

By **Karen Krien**
karen.k@nwkans.com

The Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting Thursday evening was short with few decisions made. There were enough members present for a quorum but the committees were short of representation.

Brian Hobrock reported on the team roping event planned for Wednesday night of the fair. Last year, there were fewer ropers so, in order to make the event pay for itself, they will allow ropers to enter six times instead of five.

He said they had visited with the cattle supplier but were not sure about prices. He did agree to bring the cattle and it was the committee's understanding that he would charge the same as last year.

Each year, the second team roping called the Open Memorial Team Roping honors a person who was either a roper or interested in rodeo. This year, they decided to honor Marvin Zwegardt.

Signs on fence

On the fence around the arena are business signs. Some are attached each year on the inside of the arena. Others are painted on the outside of the arena. Some of the signs are for businesses that are no longer open.

Several years ago (the board couldn't remember just how many years), those putting up signs paid \$300 for three years. They were sure that it had been more than three years since those agreements were made.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Hobrock agreed to inventory the signs. In the future, all signs must be removable — not painted on the fence.

Businesses will be contacted before May 1 and, if the business owner wants to continue having their sign up, they will need to pay \$100 rental. The board plans to have the fence painted so no signs painted on the fence will remain.

Business owners will be responsible for supplying their signs.

Memorial money

Money donated to the board from the Gage Roesener Memorial Gymkhana amounted to around \$1,800. The board had different opinions on how the donors had said to use the money. The matter

will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motor cross competition

At the February meeting, Rob Schiltz and Chris Bracelin were there to talk about motor cross and what it would take to bring motorcycle participants to entertain either Thursday or Friday night of the fair. However, there was a question about liability and insurance to cover it, especially since it involves young riders.

Mr. Bracelin took a set of rules used at Nebraska motor cross competitions but, after reviewing, the county attorney requested a set of Kansas rules. It was noted that motorcycles are geared for different ages and, if a motorcycle is to be used by a fifth grader, that will be the age of the kid riding it.

The motorcycle competition, along with the Tuff Trucks and demolition derby events all require dirt work to be done in the arena. The board briefly discussed the evenings which would be best for getting the arena ready. No decision was made.

In other business

In other business:

- A few bids had been received on the fairgrounds mowing but no decision was made.

- The rock for the fairgrounds was expected to be delivered the following day.

- Nick Ketzner and Drew Flemming will pick up the book shelves given to the fair board by Scott and Carol Northrup.

- The south side of Jenkins Hall has a crack which is continuing to open. Ron Wieck had an idea how to fix it. He was given the OK to continue.

- Salina Scale Company will certify the livestock scale by April 24.

- First National Bank employees will oversee the fair parade.

- The board voted to have Curtis Duncan emcee the demolition derby.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the board will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Estate planning meeting to be held

Without Congressional action, the current estate tax law will undergo a major adjustment on Jan. 1. That's not good news for rural Kansas.

The equivalent current estate tax exemption is \$5,125,000 with a top tax rate of 35 percent. Unless Congress acts, the 2013 equivalent exemption will fall to \$1,000,000 and the top tax rate jumps to 55 percent.

With the recent run up of land prices, the new numbers could devastate Kansas farm families and land owners, taking away funds that might otherwise benefit local families and rural communities. A combined value of a few hundred acres, a saving account and retirement fund could easily exceed \$1,000,000. Planning ahead is the key to limiting estate taxes.

Thomas County Extension and the Thomas County Community Foundation will be hosting an Estate Planning meeting, called

"How to Survive the Death Tax" on Thursday, March 15, to aid citizens in planning for this possible change in estate tax law and recognizing essential elements to an Estate Plan.

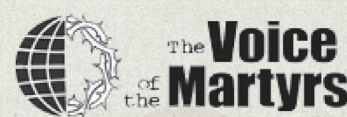
Make arrangements to attend this informative meeting designed for everyone regardless of your net worth. The program will be at the Thomas County 4-H Building and will start at 5 p.m. with a meal. Everyone young and old can benefit from attending.

Addressing the ever changing estate tax laws and essential elements of an estate tax plan will be Attorney at law, Ken Wasserman. Reservations are requested by March 9 by calling the Thomas County Extension office at 785-460-4582.

If you have questions or need more information feel free to call or email Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension Agent at milliman@k-state.edu.

Notice

The City of St. Francis is seeking Bids for purchase and planting of trees. Contact Eric Fiala at 785-332-3031 or 785-332-3142



PRESENTS

LOVE COSTS EVERYTHING
SIMULCAST

PERSECUTION IS A REALITY FOR NEARLY 200 MILLION CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD

FEATURING:



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Congressman Trent Franks



Ajai Lall

JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT WORLDWIDE SIMULCAST EVENT!

First Christian Church Sanctuary

March 11th

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

(Refreshments will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.)

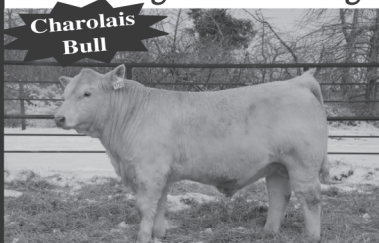
Nearly two hundred million Christians around the world daily risk their lives simply because they believe in Jesus. Love Costs Everything will tell real-life stories of Christians standing firm in the face of death. Don't miss the true stories of God's people risking it all in the name of love.

Raile Charolais/Red Angus

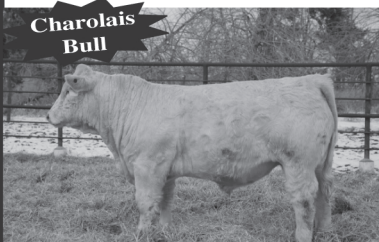
23rd Annual Production Sale

Monday, March 19, 2012 • 1:00 p.m. CST

St. Francis Auction Market • St. Francis, KS
Tri-State areas original source (42 years) of Docile, Top Quality, High Performing Charolais and Red Angus breeding stock!



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0.6, 29, 54, 4, 677 / 103, 1322 / 103



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Selling 78 Bulls:

54 Charolais
17 Red Angus
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Also Selling 45 Yearling Females,
25 TOP END Purebred Charolais (Deep and Broody)
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Y107 RAILE 6675 V153 X RAILE RUTH V034
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