

Parents argue board's booth policy

By Lezlie Hilt

Around eight parents of Lawn Ridge 4-H Club members met with the Cheyenne County Fair Board at the July 4 meeting. The club's food booth was the center of the discussion and following discussion, the board voted that the club could continue with their plans.

The parents wanted to know the fair board's position as to whether or not the club could have other groups help in their food

booth during the fair. Rex Murray, spokesman for the group, explain that in previous years several alumni members of the club had helped out at fair and the club members and parents did not see the difference in having the St. Francis Community High School junior class help as several of the junior's parents or the junior themselves are also alumni of the club.

The club members' plan is for the junior class to help run the food stand on Friday

night when 4-H'ers are busy with the premium sale. The Lawn Ridge Club will make a donation to the after-prom party.

President Dick Bursch said that he had several calls concerning the club's willingness to let other people and/or organizations help in the booth as a way of making money and that there was a class in Bird City that would also like to help as a money maker.

The club members' parents said that they may need the help next year and would be

willing to let other groups help if the club's membership did not increase and they needed the help. They said that, in the future, the groups would be responsible for coming to the club and expressing their interest in helping.

President Bursch felt like this was in violation of the lease which states that the club is to run the food booth and if they came to the point that they could no longer run the booth that board could then put the booth up

for lease to other groups. The club members said that they were still running the booth as they were still ordering and paying for the supplies and there would be Lawn Ridge members in the booth at all times, so wasn't like they were leasing it out — they were just having some others help, the same as the fair board members use volunteers.

The board then voted that the club could do as they had planned.

Harvest winds down

By Karen Krien

It took about two weeks and the wheat harvest in Cheyenne County is almost complete.

Rita Stephens, who lives south of St. Francis, remarked that it wasn't great compared to the bumper crops several years ago but it was sure better than last year's crop.

Tim Burr, manager of the St. Francis Equity, thought that many of the farmers were a little disappointed in the yields, noting that there were several problems this year.

"The heat hit at the wrong time and the rains came at the wrong times," he said. "We're still paying for the last two years of drought and there just isn't the sub-soil moisture."

Prices are not good. In fact, prices are under loan levels making Loan Deficiency Payments available to farmers.

However, this year's harvest, for the most part, was an "ok harvest" but just not the best.



LAST LOAD — Curtis Dobkins brought in a load of wheat at 11:15 a.m. on Monday. The wheat was cut at John Lampe's Fairview Farms south of St. Francis. As he left, he told Shirley Zwegardt, Equity employee, that this was the farm's last load for the season. Raymond Straub watches as the wheat is unloaded.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Man suffers injuries

By Karen Krien

There were lots of "oohs" and "awes" as the fireworks were displayed in Bird City at the Thresher grounds on Friday evening. The finale was a huge firework containing 24 separate displays but, instead of shooting upward, one of the displays went out the side and hit Randy Johnson, St. Francis, square in the face.

The ambulance was called and Mr. Johnson was transported to the Cheyenne County Hospital but because of the extent of the injury, Mr. Johnson was taken to the Hays Medical Center where he had around 40 stitches in and around the mouth area.

Friends reported on Monday that, while Mr. Johnson's face is swollen and there are burns where the ashes landed, the doctors said that he will be fine.

The fireworks display was a combined effort of Bird City PRIDE and the Association to Benefit Cheyenne County. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Association to Benefit Cheyenne County and he and others were helping Dan Bowers to set up the display.

Fair board agrees to open class dog show



By Lezlie Hilt

Casey Johnson, extension agent, and Stephanie Schafer, extension secretary, were present representing the Extension Council at the Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting on Thursday and asked if the open class dog show could be added to the fair. The board agreed to allow the addition.

Agent Johnson said that 4-H'ers need to attend a certain number of shows before they are able to compete at the state fair. The only added

cost would be the expense of the ribbons.

The board voted to allow the open class dog show.

Agent Johnson also asked if they could get a key for Robin Burr and Ms. Schafer during the fair as they would need excess to the office in the Fair Building. Board members agreed to give them two keys during fair.

Board members were informed that an open class photography superintendent would be needed at 10

a.m. on Thursday morning during the fair and the judging would start at noon. The board was given names to contact people who might be interested in helping.

Lions Club

Norman Morrow, representing the Lions Club, asked if it would be possible to set up a community calendar information table at the fair. The club will be selling the community calendars. The members voted

See **SHOW** on Page 7

Program receives honors

The Cheyenne County Junior Miss Program for 2003 has been selected as one of the top five finalists for Most Outstanding Local Program in the nation.

On Sunday, Vicki Cress, Cheyenne County program chairman, was informed by Jane Raney, the Kansas state chairman, that the county's 2003 Junior Miss Program which was actually held in June 2002, was named as a finalist at the America's Junior Miss Program held in Mobile, Ala., on June 26.

Earlier, the Cheyenne County 2003 program was selected as the Outstanding Local Program for Kansas. Mrs. Cress was then required to send a video of the program along with numerous forms, news articles and pictures, a program book as well as a list of activities for the week, names of all committee members and the contestants.

Mrs. Cress says the national recognition is quite an honor for Cheyenne County and is one of the best programs offered to the



JUNIOR MISS COMMITTEE met to go over photos and plans following the announcement of being selected in the top five national finalists. Pictured are (l to r) Aimee Northrup, Vicki Cress, Kristi Guthmiller, Tina Elliott and Carol Ross.

county's junior girls.

"This program takes the effort of a lot of volunteers as well as the support of individuals and businesses of Cheyenne County," she said.

Mrs. Cress has chaired the county's Junior Miss Program for

seven years and plans to be with the program for several more years.

"I like being a part of the program and I hope that more girls will take advantage of this scholarship program."



75-YEAR-OLD BARN was taken down during the wind storm on Thursday evening. The barn is on the farm of Darrel and Jacque Zwegardt north of St. Francis. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

84 mile-per-hour gusts brings down old barn

By Karen Krien

It was hot all day Thursday and it appeared that there might be a break in the weather when the clouds rolled in but, with the cooler temperatures, came wind — large forceful gusts of wind.

Richard Grace at Grace Flying Service, reported the top wind gust to be at 84 miles per hour. Around town, branches were broken off trees including those along Main Street, a bin was blown off its base at Mill and Seed and north of St. Francis, most of a barn belonging to Darrel and Jacque Zwegardt was downed. Gus Zwegardt, former owner of the farm, reported that the barn was built in 1928 or 1929 but he moved it to its present location in the late 1950s to use as a cow shed. The Zwegardts used the barn for calves and it also housed some of the

electrical work for the water tanks. Mrs. Zwegardt said they will probably rebuilt something on the site.

On Sunday, Cheyenne County and neighboring counties were under a tornado warning and weather spotters were called out to keep an eye on the threatening weather conditions.

Chelly Moore, who lives northwest of St. Francis, snapped a tornado with her digital camera. Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said he had not spotted any tornados but one of the weather spotters south of town had seen a tornado drop out of a wall cloud.

Manager Rogers urges people to call in and report any damage to him when a storm comes through. This damage is reported to the state and could be beneficial to the state if there was a major disaster.

Temperatures ranged around 100 degrees most of the holiday weekend but dropped to the 90s on Monday. However, they were up to the 100s again on Tuesday and the weather forecasters were predicting possible severe storms again.

The hot, windy temperatures have helped the wheat harvest to a quick end but the occasional showers like the one of Thursday made the wheat a little tough to cut until the next day.

Friday had typical July Fourth weather which is almost always hot and the average is in the high 90s. The dry weather was good for the wheat harvest but the pastures are drying rapidly as there is little sub-soil moisture because of the last two years of drought conditions. To save those pastures and the dryland corn and other dryland crops, more rain is

SHOW

Continued from Page 1
to approve the Lion's table.

Barbecue

Ernie Ketzner had talked to Fred Mosley about cooking the meat prior to last month's meeting and Mr. Mosley had told him that he wasn't going to quote a price for the service — that the members could give him what they thought would be fair. The members voted to give him \$250.

But, when Mr. Ketzner contacted Mr. Mosley, he said that \$250 was not enough. At the meeting the members discussed the matter and the board asked Mr. Ketzner to contact Mr. Mosley and find out what it would cost them. During the meeting, Mr. Mosley was called and his price was \$1,000.

The members felt that it was a little high so Jared Douthit made a call to an individual that may be interested in cooking the meat and Jared will contact the person to see if they can work something out.

Mr. Ketzner asked Mr. Douthit about the corn on the cob and Mr. Douthit said to go ahead and order the corn from Super Foods and then his Hunting Lodge would stand the cost.

Mr. Ketzner has already got the bids for the meat and the board had approved for him to order the meat from Super Foods if the Hereford Association was not going to furnish the meat. Mr. Douthit reported that the association would not be donating the meat so Mr. Ketzner will get the meat ordered.

In other business

In other business:

- McClain Rodero called and everything is set for the Ranch Rodeo activities Wednesday night at the fair.

- The Antique Tractor Pull is set for Thursday night. The members discussed that all tractors have to be weighed before checking in and entries must bring scale ticket as to what the tractor weighs.

- Baxter Black will be flying into McCook as there is no flights into Goodland on Thursday and will rent a car in McCook.

- The Colby radio station called about running 52 30-second ads for \$300 which is about the same as a Goodland radio station. The board felt the ads should run a little sooner than they did last year so it was suggested to start the ad on the Colby station before the ads are heard on the Goodland station so that the ads are staggered.

- Lacy Reed, board member, asked if the board wanted Coors to make posters again this year. She was given the go ahead to give them the fair schedule.

- Open class cow/calf pair class has a pre-entry deadline of July 23 — same as the 4-H livestock.

- Members talked about there being booth space available in Jenkins Hall and running an ad in the local newspaper to let people know that, if they are interested in renting a space, they need to contact one of the fair board members.

- Agent Johnson, when asked, reported that the summer help which the

board had previously agreed to pay if he/she agreed to help them, did not take the job. The members were told they probably needed to be looking for someone to help.

- It was noted that the grandstand payment needed paid. The member voted to okay the payment.

- There will be a tractor safety course, put on by the extension office, which will be held at the fairgrounds.

- Ms. Schafer presented a bill for the trophies and ribbons ordered and the members voted to pay the bill.

- There is still some wiring that needs to be done on the arena lights before the fair.

- There was discussion about the tin that is in the sale arena. The tin needs to be moved before the fair but mem-

bers did not know what to do with it. It was suggested they talk to Wade Krien, board member, and see if the board can use his trailer and store it in a building until the fair is over.

- Mrs. Reed asked for permission for Iva Krien and her to make another banner to be hung up in the sale ring.

- Royce Rambat and Rodney Shay will again be doing the auctioneering at the premium sale this year.

- Angela Knodel will not be taking pictures for the premium sale this year and the board was asked to find someone who could.

Next meeting

There may be a special meeting before the fair but at the time of this writing, plans were not made.

Sign-up for new program announced

United States Department of Agriculture has released the first sign-up for the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) starting June 30. The 2002 Farm Bill amended the Food Security Act of 1985 to include authorization for this program.

"Grasslands provide critical ecological benefits and play a key role in environmental quality, as well as contributing to the economies of many rural areas," said Harold L. Klaege, state conservationist. "This voluntary program helps protect valuable grasslands from conversion to other land uses, thus helping to ensure this national resource is available to future generations."

Grasslands make up the largest land cover on America's private lands. Privately-owned grasslands and shrublands cover more than 525 million acres in the United States. For the first time, the Department of Agriculture will direct financial resources and technical expertise to help landowners protect and restore these lands.

In Kansas

"Grassland Reserve Program will help landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands and provides assistance for rehabilitating grasslands," Conservationist Klaege said.

"The program will conserve vulnerable grasslands from conversion to cropland or other uses and conserve valuable grasslands by helping maintain viable ranching operations."

Grassland Reserve Program offers producers several enrollment options: permanent easements, 30-year easements, rental agreements (10, 15, 20 or 30-year duration) and restoration agreements. For permanent easements, the Department of Agriculture makes a payment based on the fair market value of the property less the grazing value. For 30-year easements, United States De-

partment of Agriculture pays 30 percent of what would be paid for a permanent easement. For rental agreements, United States Department of Agriculture pays 75 percent of the grazing value in annual payments for the length of the agreement.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Forest Service are coordinating the implementation of Grassland Reserve Program. Once funding has been exhausted, eligible applicants will remain on file until additional funding becomes available. Approximately \$49.9 million in fiscal year 2003 funds are available to implement the program.

Apply at office

Agricultural producers interested in participating in Grassland Reserve Program can apply at any time at their local Natural Resource Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency office. Landowners may apply by filling out an application form and providing an aerial photograph with boundaries delineated for the land offered.

To participate in Grassland Reserve Program, offers must be private land that includes at least 40 contiguous acres. Additional eligibility criteria are described in the "Notice of Availability of Program Funds for the Grassland Reserve Program" that was published in the Federal Register on June 13, 2003, and is available on the Natural Resource Conservation Service Website listed below. This notice applies only to fiscal year 2003 funds and will be used for the initial sign-up.

For more information about Grassland Reserve Program and other conservation programs, contact your local Department of Agriculture Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or online at "http://offices.usda.gov" Information, including Federal Register notices and rules.



BROTHERS WYNAND AND GERT traveled from native South Africa to help a local farmer with the mighty task of harvest. The young men are impressed with American machinery.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Men from South Africa harvest wheat in area

By Casey McCormick

The harvest crew finished cutting at 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of July 4. Fourth Working on Independence Day probably didn't mean as much to these six men as it would to most Americans since they come from another country very far away.

That is not to say the South Africans were not ready to blow off some steam, after seven days of grueling work and long hours spent on a farm north of McDonald. They were also anxious to see how the locals would celebrate their country's birthday.

One thing the six men share is their curiosity about this strange land. Although they had never set foot, except for one, on American soil, they have visited this place before. Be it through CNN, Hollywood fiction or word of mouth, each arrived here with giant expectations.

They ranged in age from 18 to 26 and spoke good English but with a very distinct accent. Gert Opperman and younger brother Wynand, Hein Van Der Neut and Eeloff Erasmus came from around the large city of Pretoria. The other two were Pieter Neethling and Vicky Muller of Riviersonderend, South Africa. Each had a unique story to tell.

The Opperman brothers come from a hard working family who operates a peach and avocado farm as well as a plumbing business back home. Gert, in his early 20s, has been coming here to work for Golden Triangle out of Lawton, Okla. for three years. He has spent eight to ten months each season moving from Oklahoma to Kansas to Colorado to the Dakotas and Montana helping farmers to bring in whatever crop is ready to harvest.

"I've got to see the whole of America," Gert said. But after three years he is ready to stay home and help his father with the family businesses.

That is why he brought his 18-year-old brother, Wynand, this year. "I'm really impressed with my brother. I wish my dad could see him, he would really be proud," Gert said. Wynand has worked just like the rest of the crew, traveling great distances and doing whatever it takes to operate huge combines, seed trucks and tractors. The hours are long and often difficult but the men are motivated by good wages.

"The exchange rate of the American dollar to the South African rand is seven to one," Wynand said. Without much free time to spend their hard earned pay the cutters return home with what seems like a fortune. "Every car waves to you here," Wynand said, referring to the friendly people he has met in Kansas. "In South Africa maybe one in 20 might do that."

He would love to live here but that would put him too far from his family.

Pieter Neethling is comfortable in the fields as well. He has a college degree in agriculture.

"I must say, being away is difficult. I miss my family and farm. I've been so busy I've only been able to call them twice."

Pieter said of the two months since he arrived. He likes the people here saying, "(they) are very much like us—country folk, friendly and hard working." Pieter used a little spare time to visit a Wal-Mart to purchase a digital camera, which would have cost much more back home, to take

pictures of his adventure.

Another cutter who likes to use a little free time to drive to the nearest department store was Vicky Muller. After spending a full day running a John Deere 9750 STS combine, worth about \$1,850,000, he and Pieter took a pickup to drive to Goodland to shop.

The other 18-year-old of the group is Pretorian Eeloff Erasmus who can operate every type of equipment.

Gert, the crew chief, said, "Eeloff is very helpful, he's a smaller guy who is able to do jobs the larger men can't." He had a trucking license which also made him very useful.

The last member was Hein Van Der Neut. As oldest worker, he probably had the hardest separation, since he is married with two children, but he had to come here to follow a dream. As he looked at a local kid he said, "Ever since I was his age I wanted to see America."

And "What do you think?" he was asked.

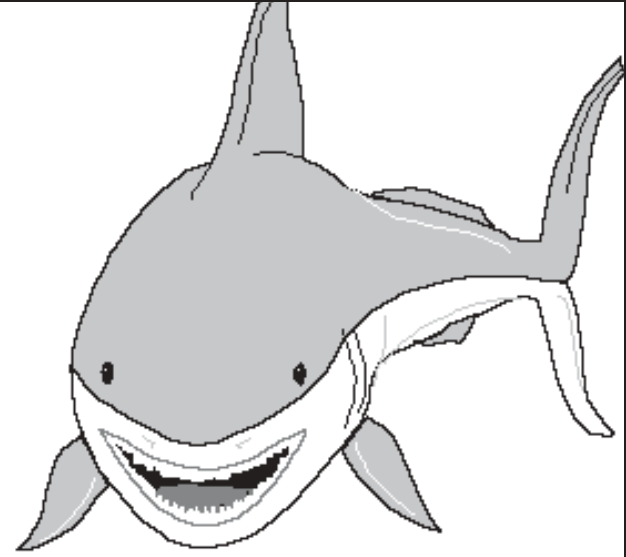
"It is beyond what I expected. Your technology is amazing," he said.

Not to say that he does not appreciate his native land but he sees the divide between South Africa and how this country has developed everyday conveniences that many Americans take for granted and foreigners view with amazement.

"I look at vehicles sitting abandoned by gas stations. Those are the kind of cars we drive at home," said Hein.

Each visitor was impressed with the experience to travel the great expanse of the United States but all six made it clear that home is anxiously waiting in the south of Africa.

Sainty Sharks Swim Tear



2003 SWIM TEAM - front row, left to right: Brianna Cooks, Jacy Hilt, Zach Gienger, Katie McDanel; second row: Aly Marin, Shayla Hilt, Christina Hilt, Christina Schoenrogge, Gavin Smull; third row: Sidnee Crabtree, Alex Jordon, Taylor Spike, Jami Pevler, Joni Pevler, Sam Marin, Elizabeth Kienger, Sarah Trembly, Sawyer White, Maddie Knodel, Emily Walz; back row: Gabe Smull, Corbin Sherlock, Hailey Crabtree, Christi Milne. Not pictured: Amber Smull, Jeri Rae Merchant, Dara Loyd, Janessa Jordon, Janae Glidewell, CJ Douthit, January Fiedler, Thomas Douthit, Katie Marin.

Congratulations Sainty Sharks!

All Pro Auto Parts
Randy & Denise Andrist
Bankwest-Of Kansas
Bartlett Grain Co. L.P.
Becky's Bierocks
Bier's Hometown Store
Brice's Auto Repair
Bud & Eunice Burnham
Burr Retail Liquor
Craig & Nadja Button
Captain Hook's Fine Dining
Scott "Hoagie" Carmichael
Cheyenne Bowl/Dairy King
Cheyenne Co. Clinic/Hospital
Cheyenne Co. Feedyard
Cheyenne Pharmacy Plus
Crabtree Well Service

Pat & Vicki Cress
Theron & Carolyn Culwell
Patrick & Brenda Delano
Danckenbring Auto Body
Diamond R Bar & Grill
Dr. Melvin & Barb Dunn
Farm Bureau Insurance
Bruce & Sharon Feikert
First National Bank
Frewen Insurance Agency
Fromholtz Body Shop
Larry & Beth Gabel
Leach Agency -
Gary Leach, Agent
Good Samaritan Village
Goodell Greenhouse
& Floral

Lezlie Hilt
Homesteader Motel
& Trailer Park
Jackson St. Mercantile
Jaqua Abstract Co.
Jenik Oil Co.
K-Store
Perry & Paula Keller
One More Year Ranch -
Pete & Alice Kinen
Knodel Funeral Home
Don & Twila Kramer
Krien Masonry Service
Krien Pharmacy
Krien Steel Buildings
Lampe Hardware

L & W Andrist Ins. Agency LLC -
Linda & Walt Linthacum
Daryl & Keely Loyd
NAPA Auto Parts
Neitzel Insurance Service
James M. Milliken, Chartered
Mill & Seed Co.
Owens True Value
Park Hill Restaurant
& Lounge
Pizza Hut
Tim & Robyn Raile
Ranch Food Direct
Republican Valley Vet Clinic
Bud & Marla Rice
Tim & Teri Richard
Ross Manufacturing

Terry & Dr. Mary Beth Miller
Marlin & Anabelle Rueb
Randy & Rikki Rueb
Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring
St. Francis Equity
St. Francis Herald
St. Francis Sand & Redi Mix
St. Francis Tire & Service
Sainty Super Foods
Schultz's
Shay Realty, Inc.
Silver Crest Farms
Sublette Truck Sales, Inc.
Stuart's Jewelry
Dr. Pat & Bonnie Stuart
Sunshine Travel
Town & Country Clothing

T.R. Services Inc. -
Tom & Kathy Roelfs
Tri-State Lumber & Tubing
& Paints Plus
Unger Chiropractic
Van Allen Inc.
Video Connection
Video Kingdom
Gale & Mary Walz
Wiese Angus Farm -
Kip & Deone Wiese
Carl Werner
Western Sprinklers
Wheeler Equity
Betty Jean Winston