

Hats off to the fair board members and volunteers

Sometimes people, especially those who volunteer, need a boost and a big "pat on the back!" This is true of those who serve on boards but especially true of those on the Cheyenne County Fair Board.

It was hot and humid Monday afternoon but many of the fair board members, dressed in their grubby clothes, were out at the fairgrounds cleaning up and mowing, getting ready for the fair next week. It was anything but a grand, glorious job! They weren't sitting in an air conditioned building deciding how to spend the taxpayers money — they were working! They were carrying big pieces of metal, clearing away "stuff" that had been piled in the buildings last year and not looked at since; they were sweeping up clouds of dust and dirt and mowing weeds, all of which left particles of dirt and itchy stuff imbedded in the sweaty skin. For weeks, they have been getting poles and lights up in the arena area and trying to get that part of the grounds ready but, their work was only beginning.

When the fair starts, they will be sharing duties with the extension office staff, trying to keep the four days and nights of the fair running smoothly. There is entertainment four nights in front of the grandstand and they are responsible for making arrangements, advertising, lining up volunteers to take tickets and supervise events. Like the Amusement Authority, they fill in when someone doesn't show up. They will be there to settle disagreements, soothe the feelings of a 4-H'er and find a lost child's parent. They will help to corral a steer or a horse and chase a lose pig. They arrive clean and fresh in the mornings and go home tired and dirty at night.

They take the complaints of those who didn't like the entertainment or the judges for different events, even though the board has tried to bring in the best they could afford. After all, when they were planning for the fair entertainment, no one stepped forward with suggestions or to help make arrangements.

After the fair is over and those four days of non-stop activity is a thing of the past, it is still hot but now the board members are tired and would like to do nothing more than go on a vacation to the cool mountains or maybe just sit at home with a glass of iced tea in front of the air conditioner.

However, the fair board members are back on the grounds, closing and winterizing the buildings, picking up and putting away and, within the month, they will be sitting down together at a regular fair board meeting, often with the extension council, to see what was wrong with this year's fair and what will make next year's fair even better.

Those who serve on most boards find it a thankless job but the fair board may be the worst. However, this board has one goal and that is to make the time spent at the Cheyenne County Fair a time to remember by 4-H'ers, kids and adults and all that planning has to go just right because they only have four days to pull it off. Next time you see a board member, whether it be Amusement Authority, school, hospital or county (any board) but, especially a fair board member, remember to say thanks for volunteering. Anyone who would like to be a fair board member should contact a board member, a commissioner or the county clerk's office and let them know. —Karen Krien

Councilman explains costs

About three years ago, the city of St. Francis, with the help of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation began reevaluating the recycling program. This endeavor was initiated in response to some of the citizen's request for a way to dispose of household waste in an environmentally responsible way.

The city council, with the help of the Development Corporation, decided to move forward by making the site more manageable and to aggressively seek new sources to accept the recyclables.

A grant was written by Susan Hobrock, Development Corporation Coordinator, for a building to be used exclusively for recycling and the grant for the new building was received, along with a grant for the purchase of a baler. The floor was paved with concrete purchased by the city and finished with donated labor by Nita Construction. The center is maintained by the city and managed by Ben Andrist.

This facility is now something the community can be very proud of. The recycling center is quickly receiving more and more products, is now more convenient to do so.

Now I would like to point out to the citizens of Cheyenne County, and especially to the citizens of St. Francis, the costs and benefits of the recycling program.

At the time of both grant writings, the city of St. Francis had to show "payment in kind" to demonstrate its willingness to help fund the recycling center. This was done with labor, materials and equipment to get the site ready for construction and then to provide electricity for the building.

A skid loader was purchased to be used for loading. This loader has since been found to be more valuable to the city streets crew so it is only occasionally used at the center.

A small forklift was purchased for \$2,750 to be used exclusively at the center. The manager at the center is paid \$480 per month and there is discussion to raise that amount due to the extra work involved with the new baler.

Electricity is about \$95 per month at the center. Transportation costs to take the recyclables to Colby are about \$300 per month. There are extra man-hours involving the city crew at the center but these vary and are usually for loading of the truck. It should be mentioned that for the past few years they have had to put in more hours than was expected but this should taper back considerably as the center is now fairly well com-

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pleted. Insurance on the building and equipment is on the city's blanket insurance policy and an exact amount was not able to be determined but was estimated at under \$100 a month. A reasonable cost of monthly operation would be \$1,000-\$1,200 per month. This is money that is paid out solely by the city of St. Francis. The \$3,165 the county gives to Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization does not come back to the city for any operating expenses that money is for maintaining the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization.

The county commissioners voted last year to give the city of St. Francis \$10 per ton rebate on recyclables kept out of the solid waste site. This has a \$1,000 maximum and last year we collected the full amount by hauling 105 tons of recyclables to Colby. The city hauls about 1,010 tons of garbage to the dump each year. This amount includes 15 to 20 tons taken during the fall and spring clean-up campaigns. The county charges the city \$30 per ton to dump at the landfill. This amount includes a \$5 per ton increase the city received last year. With man-hours, equipment and dumping fees, refuse costs the city roughly \$100,000 a year.

The county has informed the city that as of October 2003, they will no longer be able to accept yard waste. This is an effort to keep in line with government regulations and to keep our landfill open and in compliance. I believe the commissioners' thinking is that the yard waste comes from the residential areas and should therefore be managed by the city. I would, though reluctantly, have to agree with this.

This is an issue that will be addressed by your city council in the coming months.

As these figures show, managing refuse for the city is expensive as is the recycling program. Operating a landfill site and meeting

the government's regulations is also expensive. Extending the life of our solid waste site should be of concern to all of us. I believe that the recycling program and a possible composting operation is a vital part of the solution and will benefit all the citizens of Cheyenne County.

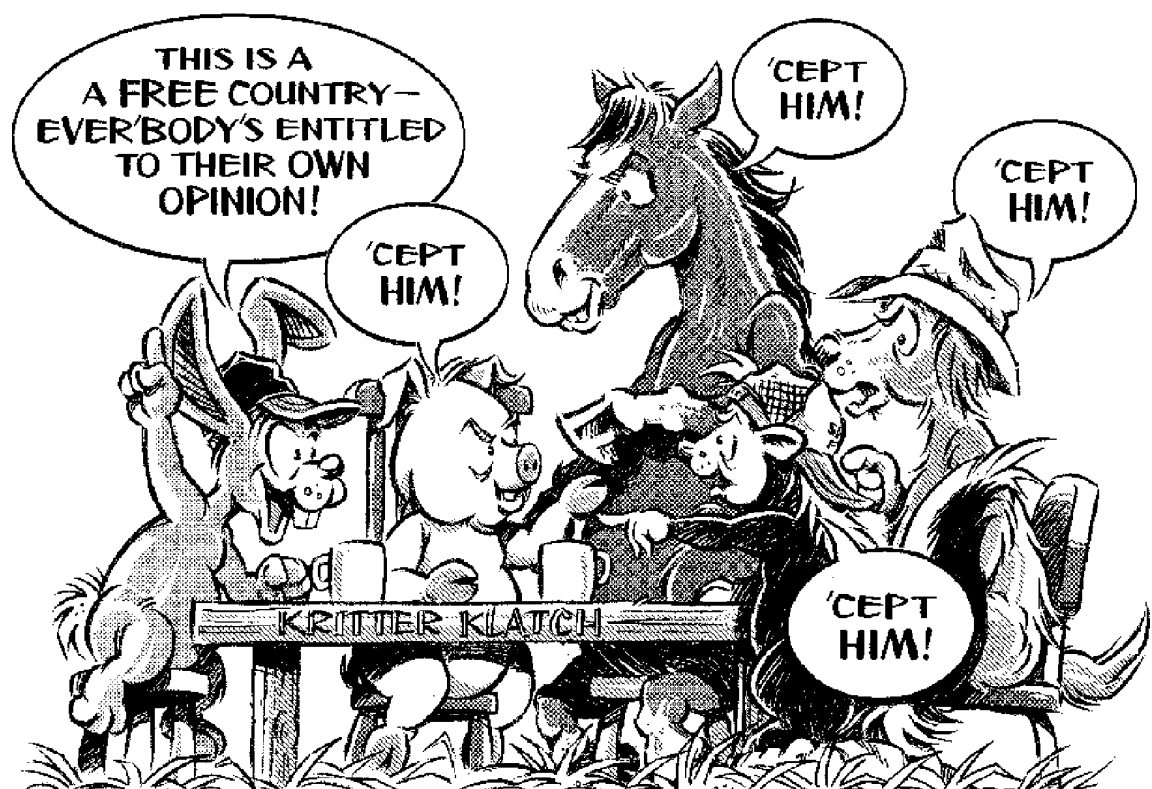
It is a fact that a landfill will have a longer life if there is effective recycling program in that community. Kansas Department of Health and Environment looks so much more favorably on a community that recycles. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment also is the department that manages the grant money for projects such as the one we have benefited from. They are truly impressed with what northwest Kansas is doing to confront the problem of solid waste management and recycling.

Think for a moment about this future scenario: The landfill is full. There are two options; one is to build a new cell and cover the old site to the specifications of the government. (Right now, Thomas county is looking at spending \$750,000 to open a new cell and \$1,200,000 to cover and monitor the old one). The second option would be to set up a collection site, sort the garbage, and then haul it to various other destinations that have a place for our garbage. Whether funded by city or county, I think the cost and logistics of this would be staggering.

So, you see, it is imperative that we do all we can to extend the life of our landfill. The money and effort expended now on recycling may be a bargain when we look back in 20 years.

As a city councilman and as a citizen of St. Francis and Cheyenne County, I want to thank all who support the recycling program here and encourage everyone to take advantage of our fine facility. Recycling is our future.

Roger Jensen
St. Francis



ZERO TOLERANCE ON INTOLERANCE ...

Echoes of the Southwind

By Dorothy Mast

Correction: During the time that Marsha Magley and I were compiling the information for the book "Early Bird City," we received a letter from John D. Heavey that contained his researched article about his great-grandfather Dennis W. Cave to submit to the "Early Bird City" publication in 1985 which we did so and at the time we placed a copy of the article in the Cheyenne County Historical files as it is so noted in the book on Page 28.

Inadvertently, a paragraph from my article for the paper was omitted creating a misunderstanding by

some parties. The omitted paragraph gave credit to John D. Heavey for his article. The paragraph read as follows: "Rather than presenting

some of my own research, I have the privilege of sharing a letter received in 1985 from John D. Heavey—a great-grandson to Dennis W. Cave.

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Worship Warms the Heart

<p>Wesleyan Church Hwy 36 • 734-2727 Pastor Scott Baker Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Grace Assembly of God 332-2925, Pars. 332-2899 208 E. 2nd Rev. Rob Meyer Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.</p>	<p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Peace Lutheran Church 202 N. College 332-2928 Pars. 332-2308 Pastor David Rossbach Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Christian Church 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Pastor Richard Garcia Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m. Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Arlin Cochran Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Beryl Gibson Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>	<p>Living Water Fellowship Ministry Pastors: Terry & Tiffany Glasco Box 310; Bird City 785-734-2363 Sunday: Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship & Word 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Last Friday of Month: Healing Service 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>United Methodist Church Office 332-2292, Church 332-2254, Pars. 332-3170 512 S. Scott Pastor Nel Holmes Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 2nd & Scott • 332-3921 J.W. Gildewell, Pastor Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m., Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m. Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Clough Valley Baptist Church Pastor Al Davis D. Min. 12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF 332-2506 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT Worship 10:00 a.m. CT</p>
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GOD SAYS

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 8:17