

# St. Francis man is only original member left

By Karen Krien

Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis, is the only person left of the original Cheyenne County Fair Board. The first fairs were held at the airport and behind the courthouse. There were several people including Mr. Zwegardt who thought it was not fair to the kids to have such a poor place to display the livestock and there was no place to show their other items.

It was in the late 40s that Ernie Sherlock, Stanley Sherlock and Mr. Zwegardt happened to meet in front of Egan's Drug Store on St.

Francis' Main Street. When they left, they had made the decision that something needed to be done and they were going to see what they could do.

They needed money but when they went to see Howard Sawhill at the Cheyenne County State Bank, he said he didn't think he could just loan money on a fairgrounds. So, 10 men, including Mr. Zwegardt, signed on the dotted line and borrowed \$2,000. Mr. Zwegardt said he thought the loan was repaid in just a couple of years.

A fair board was formed with a

representative from each of the townships.

The land where the fairgrounds is now located was purchased in 1946. The fair was held at the new location that year but there was no grandstand. A group of men had gone to Greeley, Colo., and brought back portable grandstands to use.

There was entertainment in front of the grandstand. Tom Rudder and Raymond Van Horn were in charge of the rodeo. Mr. Zwegardt said a company brought in the rodeo stock and participants came from all over including the cowboys in the county. The horse races brought in the crowd. Mr. Zwegardt said a lot of the horses came from the farm but it was still exciting to watch.

There were also the traveling carnivals which came to St. Francis.

Mr. Zwegardt was in charge of raising the grandstand. He had never built a grandstand so he and Hap Shull went to Oakley to look at the grandstand there, then came home, figured out a plan and went to work.

"We had all volunteer labor," Mr. Zwegardt said.

He said one guy had volunteered about the time they were putting the tin on the roof.

"He got up there but, when he came down, he asked if there wasn't something else he could do like dig ditches — that was just too high."

The volunteers did dig. "We dug our own well so we would have water," Mr. Zwegardt said.

The old lumberyard building was moved to the fairgrounds and eventually Jenkins Hall was built.

The building of the grandstand was started in 1947. It took 127 days to get the grandstand built and it was ready for the fair in 1948. The old grandstand stood for over 50 years before the new sleek metal grandstand replaced it in 2000.

There were several events each year which filled the old wooden grandstand, thus, it was deemed unsafe.

The county fair and carnival is still operated with volunteer labor. Without the volunteers, there probably wouldn't be a fair.



STREETSIDESIDE BAND to perform Thursday evening in front of the grandstands.

## Thursday entertainment set

The Thursday evening entertainment in front of the grandstand at the Cheyenne County Fair is the vocal group, "Streetside." The show starts at 7 p.m.

The group primarily performs doo-wop music from the 1950s and 1960s. The group has expanded its repertoire over the years to include country, gospel

and more modern pop songs. Originally an capella quintet in high schools, the current four members (together since 1988)

performs a 50/50 mix of both a capella and keyboard-accompanied songs. Streetside performs over 100 shows a year, including private conventions, public concerts, county and state fairs and

local festivals throughout Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Colorado.

Fair board member John Finley has enjoyed the group's performance twice at the annual Farm Bureau Convention.

"They are really good and people will enjoy hearing them," he said.

## Local ranch rodeo to be held Friday

By Karen Krien

The Adult/Kid Ranch Rodeo will start at 7 p.m. on Friday in front of the grandstand. It will include events for both adults and kids, ages 8 to 15.

"People have started to enter but we need to know soon so we can make arrangements," said Shawna Blanka, one of the coordinators for the event.

"We still need kid's teams. It only costs \$5 for the younger teams so kids need to get together and enter."

There will be two divisions: Adult (ages 16 and up) and the kids division (ages 8-15). They must be 8 years old by the day of the Ranch Rodeo.

The adult division is a co-ed competition and there must be at least one female on the three-person team. The kids division is comprised of only two contestants.

### Catch-It Pig contest

In between one of the races, there will be a Catch-It Pig contest. Darrell and Tammy Pettijohn are donating six pigs for the contest.

Participants must be 4-H members. There will be two age divisions: 7-9 years; and 10-13 years. Each contest will have three pigs.

Mr. Pettijohn said the contest will be held in front of the grandstand and there is no entry fee.

### Events

Events for the adult division are: Hangman Race, Ribbon Race and the Trailer Race. In the kids division, the events are: Ribbon Race, Surprise Event and Golf Cart Event.

### Ribbon Race

Horses are used in the ribbon race for both age groups. Each person holds the end of a ribbon. They have to ride down to the end of the arena, cross around a barrel and not break the ribbon. Each participant on the adult teams will have to take part.

### Hangman Race

The Hangman Race (adults only)

finds a tire hanging from a boom truck. A team member stands on a barrel. The horseman with a rider on the back goes to the tire where the passenger grabs the tire and hangs there. The horseman then goes to the barrel and exchanges places with the team member, then picks up the rider hanging from the tire and rides back to the finish line. Sometimes there is a little bucking as the team member jumps on the back of the horse and sometimes, they just don't make it. The object of the race is the fastest time to complete the pattern.

### Trailer Race

The Trailer Race (adults only) is a wild race. The trailers with a horse inside are all pulled into the arena with a pickup. Team members, at the sign of the start, get out of the trailer, get the horse out, saddle and bridle it, ride two laps around the arena, unsaddle and unbridle the horse, load it into the trailer and get inside the pickup. Again, time is the name of the game.

### Surprise Event

The surprise event in the kids division will be done with horses but that is all the information the committee is revealing at this time.

"We felt the hangman may not be good for the younger age," Mrs. Blanka said.

### Golf Cart Race

The Golf Cart Race will find the team in a cart but one will be blindfolded. The team member not blindfolded will direct his friend down the arena.

### Prizes

Prizes of a T-shirt for each team member will be awarded to the champions in each division.

### Sign up

Team members need to be turned into Megan Douthit, Shawna Blanka or Cheryl Williams. There is also a small entry fee.

## Singers and poets perform on Aug. 4

By Karen Krien

The date for the St. Francis Tumbleweed Round-up will be Saturday instead of Wednesday like it has been in year's past.

Phil Crawford is coordinating the fourth St. Francis' Tumbleweed Round-Up, which will feature cowboy and cowgirl poets and musicians along with "just plain story tellers." The production will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at the Cheyenne Theater on Main Street, St. Francis.

Mr. Crawford has a number of people lined up to entertain the audience and the admission is free.

"There may be others there for either or both performances," Mr. Crawford said. "Whatever, we will have good, homespun entertainment and it is free."

People are welcome to come for all or part of the performances.

"We have a "swinging door policy" where people can come and go at their leisure," Mr. Crawford said.

## Hair donations taken at Walk

alopecia areata, for which there is no known cause of cure. Others suffered from severe burns or endured radiation treatment to the brain stem, in addition to many other dermatological conditions that result in permanent hair loss. Every year, approximately 2,200 children under the age of 20 are diagnosed with brain tumors. Radiation treatment to the brain stem as a treatment for cancer can cause permanent hair loss.

The children who receive these hairpieces have lost more than their hair; they suffer from a loss of self. Providing a hairpiece can help restore some of the normalcy to their everyday lives that most of us take for granted. It is Locks of Love's goal to help provide a foundation on which these children can begin to rebuild their self-esteem.

## Ag incorporated in the classroom

Gwen Spade, 4-H Youth Development agent with Kansas State Research and Extension, Dickinson County, recently learned how to integrate agriculture into her program. She completed a course, sponsored by the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, designed to provide teachers with a broad understanding of the state's number one industry. Kansas State University hosted the summer class from July 11 to July 16.

"With one in five of our students going into a career related to agriculture, the Foundation believes it is important to expose them to the possibilities by helping teachers discover agriculture

and its exciting outreach," said Barbara Oplinger, Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom administrator.

Using a hands-on approach to agriculture, the teachers experience what some have never imagined. Agricultural professionals gave them the opportunity to experience agriculture first hand.

M. Spade received a tuition scholarship provided by Dickinson County Conservation District, Cheyenne County Farm Bureau and Kansas Farm Bureau, Dan Yunk.

The foundation is an organization for the advancement of instruction of the role of agriculture in one's daily lives.

## Book Review

Digital Fortress

By Dan Brown

When the NSA's invincible code-breaking machine encounters a mysterious code it cannot break, the agency calls its head cryptographer, Susan Fletcher, a brilliant and beautiful mathematician. What she uncovers sends shock waves through the corridors of power. The NSA is being held hostage...not by guns or

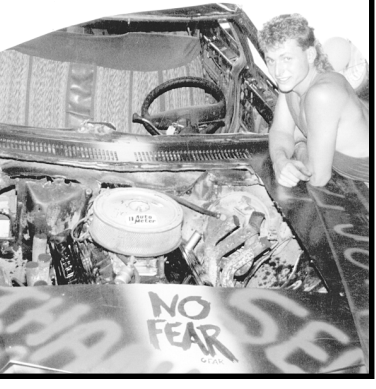
bombs, but by a code so ingeniously complex that if released it would cripple U.S. intelligence. Caught in an accelerating tempest of secrecy and lies, Susan Fletcher battles to save the agency she believes in.

Betrayed on all sides, she finds herself fighting not only for her country but also for her life, and in the end, for the life of the man she loves.

## 2005 "BONZAI BOB" Crowd Pleaser Award



1999-Chris Zuege  
2000-Shawn Blanka  
2001-Larry Steinbeck  
2002-Darren Workman  
2003-Blake Krien  
2004 - Brett Poling



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Members of the St. Francis Lions Club are calling door-to-door and those who have not been contact may call any Lions member including Elmer Kellner - 785-332-2950, Milton Lampe - 785-332-3119; Rueben Schultz, 785-332-2939; Norman Morrow - 785-332-3424 or any other Lion's Club member. **DEADLINE IS AUG. 15th.**

**Tumbleweed Round-up**  
4th Annual  
No Admission Charge  
Cowboy - Cowgirl Poets & Musicians & Just Plain Story Tellers

Sat., Aug. 6 ~ 2-4 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.  
at the Cheyenne Theater

For more info. or to participate call 785-332-2357  
Web Page: StFrancisKs.com

**High School Physicals**  
Thurs., Aug. 11 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
@ the St. Francis High School  
In the High School Wrestling Room and Adjoining Rooms for Privacy

Provided FREE of charge to our students!  
KSHSAA Physical Forms will be provided  
By:  
Pat Stuart, Brett Poling & Ryan Unger

**Happy 25th Anniversary**  
August 2nd  
Bud & Jessi

Cards of Best Wishes may be sent to:  
Dan & Jessi Stang  
400 E. Sandhill Road  
Derby, KS 67037

**Good Samaritan Home Health Advisory Board Member**  
Art Krueger

Art Krueger is the president of the newly formed Good Samaritan Home Health Advisory Board. As a board member, he will be working with Bonnie Burr and Helen Peters. They will be bringing back comments from the community concerning the home health services and helping lead the service in the future.

Mr. Krueger moved from Denver to St. Francis in 1971. He closed the doors to his business, Krueger's Mens Wear and has been "retired" ever since.

Mr. Krueger grew up on a farm near Hellrose, Colo., so he knew what living in a small town would be like. He likes living in St. Francis because he doesn't have to worry about the rush of living in the big city but still has the advantages of many activities.

He is the treasurer of the Senior Center in St. Francis and enjoys the fellowship of seeing other seniors.

"I like all school sports and enjoy playing golf," he said.

Mr. Krueger also likes singing in the church choir.

He would like to see an increase in population in the county with the possibility of jobs to keep younger people around. He promotes economic development whenever possible.

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