

Cherry Creek Massacre recognized in magazine

The Cherry Creek Massacre site, located northwest of St. Francis, was recently recognized in the *Watonga Republican*, an Indian publication, Colony, Okla. The writer, John Sipes, was especially impressed with the newly erected plaque which listed the families affected by the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre and the events which followed. The Cherry Creek site, constructed by Tobe Zwegardt, local Cheyenne County historian, and others includes iron silhouettes of a buffalo, prairie dog and on the hill overlooking the valley is an Indian on horseback. There is also a teepee which children can crawl into.

Mr. Sipes said in the spring, 2006, Cheyenne chiefs, headmen, warrior society members and ceremonial people of the descendants of the Sand Creek Massacre will go to Cherry Creek and traditionally bless the plaque.

Since 1990, Mr. Sipes and his friend Mr. Zwegardt, St. Francis, have located numerous Cheyenne camps and other sites of the Cheyenne from oral histories and the George Brent Letters in Cheyenne County.

Mr. Sipes plans to do a documentary of the Dog Soldier country and areas where Sand Creek descendants went after the massacre. The route of Black Kettle and the other band chiefs has been located, consisting of five camps and locations before the attack on Sand Creek.

He thinks the full history of Sand Creek needs to be expanded to the northwest Kansas area to include the full impact of the disgrace to American history that the massacre created.

More about the Indian survivors

Mr. Sipes in the article, told that after the Nov. 29, 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in southeast Colorado, the survivors fled to a large camp of Dog Soldiers. This camp was located at Big Timbers on the headwaters of the Bunch of Trees River (Smoky Hill River).

A few days later they moved to a large Sioux camp on the Solomon.

From here, the camp moved to Cherry Creek, a tributary flowing into the South Fork of the Republican.

These camps consisted of Spotted Tail's and Pawnee Killer's Sioux. Some of the Northern Arapaho were also camped at Cherry Creek.

The war pipe had been sent out to the Sioux camp before the Sand Creek survivors left the Big Timbers camps. The Sioux, Dog Soldiers and Northern Arapaho accepted the war pipe, agreeing to go to war for what happened at Sand Creek.

All who smoked the war pipe gathered at Cherry Creek and the encampment included about 1,000 lodges. On Jan. 1, 1865, the chiefs decided to attack Julesburg, Colo., located on the South Platte River in the extreme northeast corner of Colorado. Around 1,000 strong moved from Cherry Creek to Julesburg, taking along women with extra horses to help carry the plunder back to Cherry Creek.

Cherry Creek is where the plains war between the Cheyennes and white began. The war lasted 12 years and included the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana (1876).

On Sept. 8, 1990, following the erection of Mr. Zwegardt's metal sculptures, a dedication ceremony in honor of the Cheyenne survivors of Sand Creek, was held. Descendants of those survivors, Mr. Sipes and his family, participated. Mr. Sipes' mother, the late Cleo Wilson Sipes, cried as she looked on the site and remembered the suffering of her and other Cheyenne families what were killed, wounded and never located after Sand Creek. She remembered the stories of the massacre passed down to her from Measure Woman Standing Bird and other family elders. Mr. Zwegardt worked for many years to preserve the history of the Cheyennes in Cheyenne County, Mr. Sipes said.

Mr. Zwegardt recently told Mr. Sipes that over 9,000 people have stopped at the site and signed the



guest book. People signing the book were from Germany, Sweden, South American, Australia, Tibet, Canada, England and other countries including many from the United States.

Several years ago, Mr. Zwegardt had mentioned to Mr. Sipes that he was planning to erect a plaque at the site with the families names who had died and suffered at Sand Creek.

Several months ago, Mr. Zwegardt, Milton Lampe and Rachel Huffman finished the plaque and had it erected. The information for the plaque was provided from the Sipes and Berthrong Cheyenne Collections.

Plans are to erect similar plaques at the Sappa Creek, Washita Massacre, Sand Hill Fight, Ft. Robinson breakout and Fort Marion POW sites and for the eight Cheyenne warriors who fought Custer at the Washita Massacre and later traveled to the Little Bighorn Battle in 1876 to fight Custer again for what he did on this Washita.



BUG APPRECIATION AWARD— The county collected insects for three months and, in appreciation to Tye Faulkender, Extension director, for his time, state entomologist specialist, Bob Bauernfeind sent him some strange looking bugs! Admiring the plaques were: (l to r) Jeannie Falk, Cindy Burr, Marcia Hickert and Dara Carmichael. *Herald staff photos by Karen Krien*

Members elect officers at annual Extension meeting

By Karen Krien

The annual Cheyenne County Extension meeting was held Thursday at Captain Hook's Fine Dining, Wheeler.

Cindy Burr, chairperson, opened the meeting and introduced the guests.

Tye Faulkender, county Extension director, told about the many programs that had been put on through the Extension office.

Jeanne Falk, multi-county agronomist, talked about wheat and sunflower crops in the northwest Kansas area.

Dan O'Brien, Northwest Kansas Area Director, was suffering from laryngitis, gave a brief talk and instructed the group of the election of the executive board. Those elected were: Cindy Burr, chairman; Randy Rueb, vice chair; Marcia Hickert, secretary; and Dara Carmichael, treasurer. New members on the board are: Noel Rath, Agriculture; Dara Carmichael, Penny Gienger, Deb Lindsten, Family and Consumer Sciences; and Tammy Grice, 4-H.

Terry Miller, county clerk, administered the oath of office to the elected officers.

The current Extension Council bond is \$75,000. It was agreed to keep the bond at the same amount.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Jan. 5 in the Extension office in the courthouse.

The meeting was followed by lunch.



WHEAT AND SUNFLOWERS — Jeanne Falk, multi-county agronomist, talked about crops at the Cheyenne County Extension Board meeting held Thursday.

Closing date for program told

Bill R. Fuller, state director for the Kansas Farm Service Agency, reminds producers that Dec. 1 is the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Crops eligible for this program benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Dec. 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for all grasses including Native Pasture, Alfalfa, Clover, Lespedeza, honey, Mixed Forage, Oats and Vetch. The administrative service fee is \$100 per crop per administrative county

not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county and a \$900 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471, Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

This coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

In the unfortunate event that a producer does suffer a loss on their particular crop, a form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, must be filed with Farm Service Agency within 15 calendar days after the disaster oc-

currence, or the date the loss becomes apparent to the producer.

Producers are limited to \$100,000 in benefits per person per crop year, they must certify crop acres by applicable deadlines, maintain production evidence for three years, not exceed the \$2 million gross revenue provisions, and must comply with conservation compliance provisions in order to be eligible.

Interested producers shall contact their local Farm Service Agency at the US Department of Agriculture Service Center prior to the Dec. 1 application closing date to obtain Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage.

The Country Advocate is the 900-pound Gorilla of Northwest Kansas. The Advocate, with its circulation now 18,200 strong, is delivered to homes from Oberlin to Cheyenne Wells and Burlington out in Colorado, and from St. Francis down to rural Hoxie and Oakley. The Advocate goes nearly everywhere in this area, sells just about everything. Face it, nobody argues with an 900-pound Gorilla.

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