



Fair board needs money, members

By **Lezlie McCormick**

The Cheyenne County Fair Board agreed at the Thursday meeting that more board members were needed and the board needed more money.

The commissioners had given the fair board a \$2,000 allotment increase this year but the natural gas bill has already used up that money. The board received their insurance premium which, last year was around \$1,600. The new premium, now \$4,430, had more than doubled.

Tye Faulkender, county Extension director, reported that when he was at the fair building setting up for a meeting, the furnace was not shutting off after switching the marked breakers.

Since it was still running, he called Jared Douthit, fair board member. He turn off all the breakers and the furnace was still running. They unplugged the electricity from the furnace and a couple of messages were left on electrician Sam

Miller's answering machine.

The board was concerned that the furnace was not wired into the breakers.

Board members

There are supposed to be at least 15 fair board members. As of the first of the year, there were 13 and one new member, Mike Hansen, had been approved.

Those serving on the fair board at that time were: Dick Bursch, president; John Finley, vice president; Megan Douthit, secretary; Lacy Jones and Gary Cooper, treasurers. Other members are Kody Krien, Nick Ketzner, Ernie Ketzner, Mark Mills, Clarence Iliff, Clay Zimbelman, Jared Douthit and Wade Krien.

Active members are needed to help plan the fair and help with the fair. When the fair is over, the activities are reviewed and plans are started for the next year.

See FAIR on Page 8A



COLD WEATHER PROJECT — Kattie Jenik, left, and Hannah Stafford spent a cold day building a little city. They said it took the whole day and several bottles of glue. They are showing their work of art to second grade classmate Kayla Reed.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Resolution adopted for no burning in county

By **Karen Krien**

For the past month, the Cheyenne County Commissioners have been talking about adopting a burn-ban resolution but they kept hoping it would rain.

However, recently, a pasture north of St. Francis was burned after the owners burned some trees and brush. It had snowed but the snow quickly melted and

a wind caused some of the smoldering embers to fire up again.

Last week, a fire north which started north of Eckley in Yuma County, Colo., burned approximately 23,000 acres and injured four firefighters. Strong winds fueled the fire which spread about 10-miles wide.

Students and faculty from Wray High

School and the Wray Grade School were evacuated on the chance that the fire could jump the highway and continue on its path of destruction. The hospital in Wray was put on standby to evacuate.

Early Monday morning, Cheyenne Commissioners Andy Beikman and Jane Brubaker met and agreed to sign the burn-ban resolution.

No open burning not only means the burning of trash is banned but also the burning of fields, pastures, fence rows, any grassland or ditches, campfires, warming fires and charcoal grill fires. This resolution does not apply within the city limits of Bird City or St. Francis.

Anyone violating this resolution will be charged \$500 and can even go to jail.

On Tuesday, there was a fire alert for the plains of Colorado which could also include the bordering Kansas counties.

Meteorologists reported the combination of low humidity, gusty winds and above-average temperatures, combined with tender dry vegetation, warranted extremely high fire danger.



EQUITY BOARD CHAIRMAN Ron Zwegardt addressed a full house at the final merger meeting held Tuesday in St. Francis. Others pictured are Dale Rath, board member; and Tim Burr, Equity manager. The results of the vote will be released at a later date.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Firemen receive no reimbursement for work done during the blizzard

By **Karen Krien**

Had policy been written differently, Cheyenne County would have received a reimbursement amount for the firemen helping with the 2005 Thanksgiving blizzard.

J.R. Landenberger, St. Francis city superintendent; George Harper, St. Francis fire chief; and Troy Gardner, county sheriff; had recently talked with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials concerning reimbursements for those who had worked during the storm. The county's policy states that firemen are paid \$10 a run for fires and if more compensation is needed, the commissioners will make the deci-

sion "case by case." Since the policy didn't specifically say that firemen would be paid in any emergency, the firemen were the only volunteers who were not included in the Federal Emergency Management's reimbursement.

Sheriff Gardner said that his department could not have handled the different situations caused by the storm had it not been for the cooperation and work of the firemen. They were especially helpful in making sure that road closings were observed. He said firemen also help when there are accidents.

"We just don't have the manpower and the firemen help a lot," he said.

"The firemen bent over backward to help during the storm and everyone was compensated except them."

Superintendent Landenberger said the people can count on the firemen no matter what they are paid. But he urged the county to set a policy that would see that they were paid.

He had called several different counties/cities and had figures of what firemen are paid in these areas. They are paid for fires and other emergency calls where they are involved.

In Colby, firemen are paid \$9 for each call and \$9 an hour.

Goodland (city only) pays \$20 a call and \$5 an hour after the first

three hours.

Sheridan County pays \$15 a call and \$10 an hour after the first hour.

The commissioners appeared to be receptive for paying the firemen. However, Jane Brubaker, commissioner, wanted to contact some of the counties which are closer to the size of Cheyenne County. She will bring the information back to the next meeting.

Old truck to be converted

Chief Harper talked about converting the old 1984 fire truck into an emergency response vehicle. This vehicle would carry the hydraulic extraction tools as well as other equipment used in emergen-

See FIREMEN on Page 8A

Team walkers to travel 423 miles

By **Karen Krien**

Walk Kansas begins March 12 and ends May 6. The program is an eight-week walking program which encourages family members, schoolmates, co-workers, friends and neighbors to come together as a team.

It takes six people to make a team and each team will collectively walk 423 miles (the miles across Kansas) in that eight weeks. It will take approximately 30 minutes or 1.75 miles per day, five days per week.

Teams will chose a name and a captain who will turn their miles into the Extension office. Not a walker? Fifteen-minute segments of alternate aerobic exercise such as bicycling, swimming, playing basketball or running count toward a team's total mileage.

There are no limitations who can participate.

This is the third year that residents in Cheyenne County have participated in Walk Kansas. Last year there were 24 teams with 144 people walking. Together, they walked 10,152 miles during the eight-week period.

The Walk Kansas program has proven successful in weight management while promoting healthy lifestyles. Participants can walk anytime of day and do not have to go to a specific location.

Participants report a happier outlook, increased energy and self confidence, stress reduction, more restful sleep and weight loss. One member of a team increased fruit and vegetable consumption while participating in the program and credits it with helping her loose 20 pounds and keeping it off.

For more information, contact the Extension office at 785-332-3171.

Tornado sirens to sound Tuesday

By **Karen Krien**

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has proclaimed March 13-17 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Kansas. This week will focus on increasing awareness about the dangers of severe weather and informing residents about what to do in the event of severe weather watches and storm warnings.

Gary Rogers, county emergency

manager, said the tornado siren will blow on Tuesday. People should note what the tornado siren sounds like. This is also a reminder that everyone should have a plan of action ready when there is an actual warning.

A severe weather spotter training session will be held in St. Francis on April 4. The training will begin at 7

See SIRENS on Page 8A

Tree planting tips presented March 22

Spring is almost here and many people are contemplating planting trees. To get those trees a health start, Jim Strine, Northwest District Forester, K-State University, will be presenting tips for successful tree planting at 7 p.m. on March 22 at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds building, St. Francis.

He will be talking about preplanting planning; the do's and don'ts of tree planting, basics of tree care and making the right selection of tree species.

There is no cost for the class but people need to let the Extension staff know if they are planning to attend by calling 785-332-3171 before March 17.