

Group attends meeting to visit with commissioners about fees

By Karen Krien

A small group of people concerned with fees charged at the fairgrounds met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners on Friday. No decisions were made other than the commissioners said they would not override the fair board's decision.

Shawna Blanka, Debra Christy, Ranae Pilkington and Rodney Shay met with the commissioners to see just what was the opinion of the commissioners concerning fairgrounds arena fees. They distributed a list of economic impacts which would be brought in by those using the arena for horse-related events.

There has been a concern and maybe confusion over the newly implemented fees charged to certain groups including a group of barrel racers. The members of the group pointed out that the next barrel racing event would be a two-day event. It would bring many people to St. Francis and some of those attending would use the horse barn. (The fair

board could collect a stable fee for the barn use.) They did not feel that they were getting any support from the fair board.

In other counties, there is no charge except where there are indoor arenas. A Rawlins County official, when the women had called to inquire about charges, said there would be no charge and encouraged them to come there, noting that they would be glad to get the arena and grounds ready for the event. In Cheyenne County, the barrel racers and their spouses usually plow the arena and make any changes that need made. The group was a not-for-profit organization and money is used for prizes at the end of the year.

"We leave the arena in better shape than when we came," Mrs. Blanka said.

The fair board president Dick Bursch reported that they had agreed to not charge for school, hospital and kid events. The fee is \$125 because that is the fee charged for the use of buildings on the grounds.

The commissioners said that they would not override the decisions made by the fair board. President Bursch invited the group to attend the next fair board meeting to further discuss the matter. He said that it was at the discretion of the fair board to waive the user fee on a per-use basis — perhaps something could be worked out.

Introducing

Connor Scott Upson

A baby boy, Connor Scott, was born to Scott and Sherry Upson of Larned, at 5:15 a.m. on April 27, 2003, at Central Kansas Medical Center at Great Bend. Connor weighed 7 pounds, 7.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Connor is joined at home by his older sister, Corrie Anne.

Maternal grandparents are Wayne and Janie Blakemore of Tyro and the late Clifford Watts. Paternal grandparents are Joan and Jacques Molleker of Larned and Ron Upson of Beaver City, Neb. His paternal great-grandparents are the late Amil Stunkel and the late Marguerite Stunkel.

Years Ago

15 years ago - 1988

The 103 Board of Education has announced that Loyal A. Vincent, Ph. D has signed a contract for superintendent of Cheylin schools.

New business open house was held at Chic Lockes on April 6. Anita Wright is the owner of the new business.

25 years ago - 1978

Five students from Cheylin Elementary School have earned the Presidential Award for physical fitness. Winning the award from Cheylin West were Jennifer Dorsch and Vickie Peters and winning from Cheylin East were Mark Osborne, John Sabatka and Brent Wilkens. Jeanine Weaver, Ralph Lebow, Steve Love and Dale Shoemaker will be taking part in the National 4-H Council Educational Program in Washington D.C.

Forty-one members of the Class of 1978 completed their work at Cheylin High School with commencement being held May 22. The Baccalaureate service was held on May 21 with the Reverend Paul Gilbert giving the address.

Three members from Cheylin FFA will attend the Kansas State Convention of Future Farmers of America. Donalyn Holliman and Dale Bunjes will be the delegates from the local chapter while Allen Antholz will receive the State FFA Degree, the highest FFA award a member can receive at the state level.

Wedding is planned

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brandt, West Allis, Wis., are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Danille, to Michael Jared Officer.

Erin is a 1999 graduate of John Brown University with a degree in accounting and is an auditor for Stanfield & O'Dell accounting firm in Tulsa, Okla.

Michael is a 1999 graduate of John Brown University with degrees in both mechanical and electrical engineering and is employed by Witel Communications as a switch engineer, also in Tulsa.

The wedding is planned for July 25 at Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, Wis.



Brandt - Officer

Michael is the son of Lynn and Rita Officer, McDonald, and is a 1994 graduate of Cheylin High School.

Spring greenery also contains noxious weeds

With all the rains this spring, the countryside is green with grasses, trees and even noxious weeds — What! Noxious Weeds??!!

With northwest Kansas in a drought for several years a lot of noxious weeds have suffered but, this year they are thriving quite well. Cheyenne County Noxious Weed director Dan Schlittenhart reports that now is the time to scout pastures and fields for noxious weeds.

"Bindweed and Canadian thistle grow from seeds and roots, so these plants must be sprayed to destroy them," he said. "Do not dig them or your problem will be worse."

In pastures there may be some tall

dark green plants growing, possibly musk or bull thistle. These weeds are a biennial plant which means the first year is just a rosette and the second year it will grow tall and produce flowers. These plants can be dug or mowed to control them.

People are urged to call the noxious weed office to have the director come out to look at what you believe might be a noxious weed. He will be available to advise in the proper treatment. The number is 785-332-8840. People may also go to the Kansas Department of Agriculture at www.ks-agr.org and visit the photo gallery of Kansas Noxious Weeds.

Plain Sense

From High Plains Mental Health Center

"Feeling in Control"

It's no wonder that people are feeling anxious in recent months, what with family members and friends going off to war and the unstable national and state financial situations. People in places such as Northern Ireland, Israel and Palestine have become used to living under constant threats and fear, but this is relatively new for most of the United States population. Rona Fields, a Washington practitioner who is an expert in trauma psychology, states that fear resulting from the on-slaught of ambiguous and unpredictable threats results in all sorts of emotional distress, including anxiety, anger, depression and physical illness.

So, does purchasing duct tape really help? Realistically it might not. But, from an emotional standpoint, people need to feel like they are "doing something" when feeling threatened. Thus, buying duct tape and stocking food items are proactive, and give people some sense of control when they are feeling vulnerable.

In this type of emotional environment, people also tend to perceive an unfamiliar situation as much worse than it really is. Such reactions as worry and anxiety, which are stress related, are normal. But if left unchecked, or allowed to continue without relief, the result can be damaging to both physical and emotional health. Here are some suggestions that can be helpful

* Limit exposure to bad news through the media. Watching events on television related to war has become "addictive" for many

people, so make an effort to turn the media off more often.

* Take good care of yourself; get enough sleep, eat properly and exercise.

* Don't isolate yourself. Make an effort to spend time with others.

* Positive actions such as just

being nicer, or volunteering time to help others are great stress reducers.

* Before stress, anxiety and anger become overwhelming, seek professional help.

Contributed Ron Speier, MS, LMLP, LCP, Manager, Hays Outpatient Services

Bird City News

Memorial Day guests of Ethel Dunn were Keith Headrick of Goodland, Steve and Isabelle Headrick of Thornton, Colo., and Brent and Belinda Headrick and daughters Jenny and Julie, of Cleveland, Okla. They did some yard work for her.

Lucille Wright spent Tuesday

evening visiting Ethel Dunn. Dorothy Chipperfield was a caller of Ethel Dunn.

Jaylene Shrader celebrated her birthday with supper at Big Ed's Saturday with her family. In attendance were Roy, Karen, Colleen and Grant Shrader and Paul and Edna Roesener.

Good Samaritan Village sends beds to Mexico

The Good Samaritan Village joined other Kansas and Colorado Good Samaritan facilities in collecting used medical equipment for shipment to the New Hope Compassion Ministry in Mexico and Guatemala.

"Our regional manager Randy Fitzgerald heard of an effort by the Simla, Colo., Good Samaritan facility to recycle used and obsolete equipment to a mission in Mexico," said Paul Rainbolt, administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village.

Mr. Fitzgerald organized Operation 4M, known as Midwest Medical Mission to Mexico for all the 27 facilities in Kansas and Colorado. "This project has promoted unity

and moral for our entire staff in all facilities," Mr. Rainbolt said. "It is exciting to know that many in need will benefit from good equipment that may otherwise have been discarded."

Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Kathy Hertel, Bird City; Keith Sanders, Bird City; Keith Headrick, Goodland; Ethel Dunn, Bird City; Roy Shrader, Bird City; Ray Johnson, Bird City; Dean Smith, Bird City; Wally Underwood, Bird City



BARNHART WELL SERVICE - Jason Barnhart (left) has leased the former Crabtree Well Service and Cody Barnhart will be working with him this summer. Herald photo by Karen Krien

Well service changes hands

By Karen Krien

Crabtree Well Service has changed hands and name. Jason Barnhart has leased the business and it will now go under the name of "Barnhart Well Service."

The business offers the repair of domestic wells, stock wells, install hydrants, bottomless stock tanks measuring 15- to 21-feet in diameter, and trenching for pipes and water lines. Mr. Barnhart will also

be installing pumps and pressure tanks, and installing, erecting and repairing windmills.

Mr. Barnhart has worked for Sam Crabtree during the summers and on weekends since 1998.

A 2000 graduate of St. Francis Community High School, Mr. Barnhart went on to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College where he graduated with a degree in diesel mechanics in 2001. He

worked for Martin Tractors, Colby, for two years and has worked for Yost Farm Supply in Goodland for the last eight months.

Mr. Barnhart's first day as the new owner was Monday and he reported that he is looking forward to serving old as well as new customers in Cheyenne County and throughout the tri-state area.

To reach him, call 785-332-3014 or 785-332-0424.

Amelia Earhart comes to Sainty

In conjunction with the Stearman Fly-In on June 14, Amelia Earhart (Ann Birney) will be entertaining the audience in the band shell in Sawhill Park. This unique entertainment, provided by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce, will start at 8 p.m. and is free to the public.

"Everyone I have talked to says that Ann Birney's portrayal of Amelia Earhart is extremely interesting — it takes the audience back in time," said Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary.

The audience will hear first-hand about her harrowing solo flight across the Atlantic — and her plans to fly around the world at the equator.

It is April of 1937. Ms. Earhart has torn up her Lockheed Electra in a ground loop trying to take off from Luke Air Field on Honolulu. But, she assures the audience, as soon as the plane is ready, she will take off again on what she hopes will be her last record-setting flight — this

time, heading east instead of west but asks that no one tell the press about the change of direction!

"Ride into History's" Ann Birney has delighted audiences of all ages with her energetic portrayal of Amelia Earhart. Each performance is tailored to the audience. For instance, hear how William Allen White's only advice to her, delivered through a reporter, was to take a comb into the cockpit and use it before she got out! Ms. Birney has introduced Amelia to audiences ranging from schools to libraries, after which she changes personality to enable the audience to talk about that final flight; to informal elbow rubbing at convention "mixers," staying in character all the while.

More about the speaker

"Ride into History" is comprised of two individuals, Ms. Birney and Dr. Joyce Thierer. Ms. Birney is an American Studies Scholar. Her field of research is rural women and

work. In spite of being hopelessly right-grained, she is a former librarian and Ride's foremost grant proposal writer. In addition to performing Amelia Earhart, she flies into schools for the Kansas Humanities Council's History Alive! program. She scripted and performs Julia Archibald Holmes and created and performs suffragist Elizabeth Hampstead.

Dr. Thierer has researched, published and lectured in agrarian, western and women's history. Performing, history and teaching are her passions which is why her history classes at Emporia State University are so popular. She grew up on horseback and is a dynamite Callamity Jane. She also uses family stories to make farm woman Rosa Fix come alive.

Both women travel throughout the country as one of few "cross-over" groups whose members are on both humanities council and arts commission rosters and are making overseas tours.

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