

Old equipment will strut its stuff

The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show begins Thursday, July 26, at the thresher show grounds east of Bird City.

The show will wind down Sunday, July 29, with services at 9 a.m. at the Neville Church.

Through Saturday, July 28, visitors will find the antique steam engines in action, threshing, plowing, corn shelling and wood sawing. A parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment will begin at 10:45 a.m. each day, followed by cars and tractors at 1:15 p.m.

The Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed and she will be crowned at 1:15 p.m. Thursday. The 2011 Thresher Queen, Vernetta Haack, will retire and her doll will be put on display in the Eggers Building with those of former queens. The princess, Stephanie Busse, will be on hand throughout the show. She will throw in the first bundle of wheat to be threshed.

On Friday, July 27, the Heart City Heart Warmers will entertain in the park following a Walking Taco meal at the American Legion Hall. The Cheylin High School Golf Team will be serving dinner starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

An antique tractor pull will start at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Many other activities will be offered for the kids and adults. The kids' favorite, a tug-o'-war with miniature steam engines, starts at 1 p.m.

People are welcome to visit the many buildings filled with articles used in the past. There will be demonstrations, new items to see and other activities. A swap meet will be held on the grounds. This is an attraction that draws collectors looking for certain items.

A Thresher Show special section will be inserted in the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald* next week. It is being delivered to subscribers throughout the United States, and extra copies will be available at the show.

The president of the Threshers Association is Lonnie Coon; vice president is Ken Beougher; Darci Schields, secretary; and Rod Klepper, treasurer. They have been working with the many volunteers who make the show a success each year.

For information, call Coon at (785) 890-3514 or Beougher at (785) 332-4822.



BIRD CITY TIMES

Volunteers at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher show in Bird City piled wheat from a wagon into an old belt-driven thresher during a demonstration of how things used to be done

in High Plains fields. The wheat had been cut by a reaper and then the grain had to be threshed, or separated from the stalks and chaff. Today, a single machine combines those jobs.

Immigrant flow plunges; arrests up

By Pete Yost

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government says apprehensions of people for federal immigration violations have dropped by more than two-thirds to the lowest level in 40 years, reflecting a decline in the northbound flow of illegal immigrants from Mexico.

At the same time, the number of suspects booked by the U.S. Marshals Service for criminal immigration offenses has gone up dramatically, a function of tougher law enforcement on the U.S. side of the border.

In a report released today, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics said the number of immigration-related apprehensions has steadily declined, dropping from 1.8 mil-

lion in 2000 to 516,992 in 2010 — the lowest level since 1972.

"The U.S. economic slump, more economic stability in some Mexican areas, increased U.S. enforcement on the border and in the interior plus the drop in the total fertility rate in Mexico are likely among the reasons for this drop," said University of Texas sociology professor Nestor P. Rodriguez.

"On the other hand, arrests by federal authorities for immigration offenses is rising, no doubt partly due to greater enforcement efforts," said Rodriguez, who has spent decades studying Latino migration and the impact of U.S. immigration policies on immigrant communities.

Suspects arrested by the Marshals Service for federal criminal immigration offenses increased

from 8,777 in 1994 to 82,438 in 2010.

In a seven-year span ending in 2010, the number of border patrol officers nearly doubled, from 10,819 to 20,558, the study says.

The number of Mexican citizens serving a federal prison term for an immigration offense increased from 2,074 in 1994 to 17,720 in 2010. Nine out of 10 immigration offenders in federal prison were convicted of illegal re-entry or illegal entry offenses. Ten percent were convicted of alien smuggling.

More than eight out of 10 deportable aliens in 2010 were citizens of Mexico. However, an increasing share of deportable aliens are coming from countries in Central America, 12 percent in 2010, up from 3 percent in 2002.



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