



Keegan Smith armed himself well for a water fight following a relay with water balloons at the Family Fun Day at the fair Friday afternoon. In the relay, team members had to toss the balloons to each other until they reached the end of the line and were put into a bucket unbroken. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Festivities bring many out to fair

FAIR, from Page 1

ranch rodeo on Wednesday. "It was a packed house Friday for the demolition derby," Duell added. The final event of the week was the tractor pull and Duell said it was not a packed crowd, but about 750 attended. "It was a great week, and everything went very well," Duell said. Belshe said he thought the livestock entries were down a little, but that overall entries in most classes were close to what they have been. Several fair superintendents said there were not as many entries in some categories, but more in others. Booths in the Agriculture Building

were full, and most vendors thought they did well for the number of people who came through and stopped. Early in the week, the heat may have cut attendance at the daytime activities, but when the sun went down, the evenings brought out the people. Thursday, Friday and Saturday's daytime temperatures were cooler — in the 80s — and the evenings were busy. Steve Duell said the only injury of the week was a dad who got hurt Friday when a steer ran over him, but Duell said he was back on Saturday, a little sore. He said vendors in the agriculture building had some very nice setups, and that there was one additional vendor selling barbecue this year.

"We have the water problem solved," Duell said, "and we will work on the wash rack over the winter. The county commissioners are working with us really great." Another request for next year is to have new lights for the arena, which would improve things dramatically. Duell said the new lights would save quite a bit in power costs. He said work on the ag building may not get done because of the other projects. "We will handle what we can with trying to handle the most important," Duell said, "but we need to work on the eaves of the agriculture building, which need to be covered because the wood is getting very old."

Carnival getting bigger, better

CARNIVAL, from Page 1

profit organization that runs the home-owned carnival here. The group received a \$50,000 grant from the state and thousands of dollars in donations, and Sherman County's first home-owned carnival went on in Aug. 1997 — with relatively few hitches. "That first year, we didn't know what we were getting into," Becker said, "but it turned out real good. Becker said the board relies on volunteer help and support from the community and organizations to make the carnival go. He said the event, which is always well-attended, has brought in more money each year, averaging about \$30,000 in profits. He said the money is used to keep rides and equipment in tip-top shape and buy new rides. Well, you could call them "new." The ride committee was formed, Becker said, to seek out cheap, used rides, which can be refurbished. He said the committee bought a few of the first rides, which included the swings, Octopus and Krazy Train roller coaster, from a Colorado company called Wisdom Industries. The rides were "well-used," he said, but volunteers with the equipment committee, headed by Dick Allaman, worked hard to get them back in working order and looking like new. Other rides that decorated the fairgrounds the first year of the carnival included the Tilt O' Whirl, bought from a company in Boston, the Kiddy Car-

ousel and the Kiddy Jeep ride. Becker said the Merry Go Round was added the second year, along with the Bankwest concession stand, which the bank owns and runs, but donates the profits to the carnival board. He said when former board president Harlan House's father died, a memorial was set up in his name to raise money for the Merry Go Round. Mango's Whip, a small children's ride, was added this year. He said the board bought it a few years ago, but it took volunteers a while to renovate it. This year, he said, the board bought new dividers for the tents that house several booths on the fairgrounds. In past years, he said, the tents were separated by orange snow fences. "It was real crude looking," he said. "Now it looks nice." Becker said the ride committee has spent the past couple of years looking for a ride for the older kids, but hasn't found anything they want. He said they are looking for a Sizzler or a Merry Mixer, but they need to find one that is in good shape and priced in the committee's budget. "New rides are typically \$300,000 to \$400,000," he said. Becker said that First National Bank, which owns a jet, flies ride committee members all over the country to look over rides that they might want to buy. He said they've traveled to Oklahoma and St. Louis in search of a Sizzler ride, but have been disappointed. Becker said the committee looks for

rides on the Internet, in amusement magazines and tracks down fliers. While the board relies purely on volunteers (Becker, owner of B&B Electric Service, does all the electrical work), members make sure organizations that help it raise money get a share. "The nice thing about this carnival," said Allaman, "is that the money goes to the organizations who help." Becker said that the board pays each group which helps run rides or booths \$5 an hour for their time. "A lot of the organizations donate the money right back to the carnival," he said. "Others use the money for scholarships or youth programs." He said they are working to make each booth self-sufficient, to make it pay for itself, but that's not always the case. Still, he said, the carnival takes in way more than it costs to run it. Allaman said the carnival needs more volunteers and to find people who want to keep the carnival going in the future. Becker said the board members work year round to prepare for the fair. He said they meet once a month and also meet to find new games, rides and to work on maintaining the equipment. This year, he said, members built new metal trailers to store the rides on the fairgrounds. He said they designed each one to hold specific rides. The fair has run really smoothly this year, Becker said. "People are accepting and supporting the carnival," he said, and people at the carnival agreed.

Investigation underway on oil firm here

LAWSUIT, from Page 1

Fleming said there is an open investigation on this company, which is no longer in operation. The petition alleges that McGuckin did not inform investors that, in 1986, he was ordered to cease and desist from selling securities in violation of the state securities act. Specific allegations include that the defendants "told investors that Triton was a successful producer of oil and gas, but in truth and fact, only one well has produced oil and gas, and it was not in commercial quantities. "That the defendants told investors that

wells were being drilled or being placed into production when they were not. "Defendants McGuckin and McNab continued to tell investors that a particular well had high enough pressure to break a gauge used by Western Gas, even after a Western Gas employee told them the information was erroneous. When a Triton employee voiced her concerns about this, McNab said '**** the investors.' "That McNab told investors that McGuckin never hit a dry hole in 21 years. In truth and fact, Kansas Corporation Commission records show that McGuckin has hit at least two dry holes. "That McNab told prospective investors that his name was Kirk

Mitchell. In truth and fact, his full name is Kirk Mitchell McNab, so investors were unable to check his background before choosing to invest." Fleming said it will be up to Dinkel to take control of the assets of Triton, and to determine what real value the oil and gas leases have. He is to file a preliminary report with the court before Oct. 1, and Judge Burr has scheduled another hearing on the matter for 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 30. Triton is being represented by Jeffrey A. Mason of Goodland. Neither he nor the respondents, who appeared in person according to court records, made any objection to the injunction or the appointment of a receiver.

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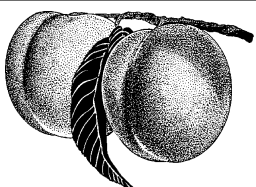
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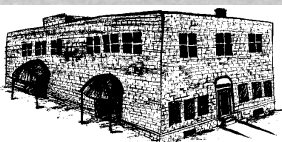
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