

Kansas State Fair rebounds with patriotic flavor

By Carl Manning
Associated Press Writer
HUTCHINSON — It started out like any other morning at the Kansas State Fair, with vendors hawking their wares and competitors preparing prize livestock for judging.

That quickly changed as word spread of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. The happy faces of fairgoers were replaced by looks of gloom and despair. Many walked around almost in a trancelike state.

Grandma's prize-winning apple butter was suddenly the last thing on anyone's mind.

"Everybody was walking around staring, like, 'What can we do?'" Sonia Farthing, who supervises the food judging, recalled of the scene at the fairgrounds on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Then it got dead. People had to get

home to get to their TVs. The fair came second," she added.

Denny Stoecklein, assistant fair manager, said some thought was given to closing the fair. But the idea was rejected.

"We thought it was important to continue, celebrating living in this country, because the fair is a compilation of everything American," Stoecklein said.

He said the 2001 edition ended with gross revenues down about \$750,000 from the previous year, largely because of a 20 percent drop in attendance attributed to the attacks.

This year, the fair is back to business as usual, but with patriotic overtones at almost every turn as the first anniversary of the attacks is observed Wednesday.

In many ways, the fair is providing

a diversion from talk of terrorism and rumors of war.

"There is kind of a feeling of simplicity, a simpler time where there was more trust in the world," Stoecklein said. "It makes people feel better to remember those times, to forget about what is happening now."

Even so, there were ample reminders of the real world throughout the fairgrounds during the weekend.

Scores of fairgoers wore T-shirts emblazoned with the American flag and "God Bless America" and similar sentiments.

One exhibitor handed out paper fans with a picture of the flag and another was giving away T-shirts that had a flag on the front with "As American As ... " followed by dozens of example such as "Fourth of July" and "apple pie."

Fair officials are doing their part,

too. Wednesday will be "Patriots Day," marked by a morning memorial service, a Red Cross blood drive and a display of emergency vehicles.

"We want to let people see this equipment up close and see what they work with on a daily basis," Stoecklein said.

Last year, the nightly concert was canceled on Sept. 11 because the grounding of airplanes nationwide kept Dream, the featured act, from reaching Hutchinson.

"We just didn't have a show that night, and people understood," Stoecklein said.

This year, the featured attraction Wednesday night will be The Charlie Daniels Band and a fireworks show.

Even Wednesday's food contests will have a patriotic flair.

At the Domestic Arts Building, Farthing talked about how she came up with the idea for a contest of patriotically themed cakes, cookies and similar items. Expected will be dozens of items in shapes of flags and eagles and lots of red, white and blue icing and frosting.

"I wanted to do something to acknowledge September 11th," she said, noting that it was partly personal: "I have a friend in New York who worked at the World Trade towers. He was OK, but it took him three days to get home."

Besides, she added, her husband is a police officer in their hometown of Valley Center.

Farthing said in her culinary corner of the fair, things seem to be better this year. She said there are some 2,700 entries, double the previous year.

"I think people are coming to-

gether," she said. "Things are going to be OK. We are sticking together."

In the dairy barn, Shelly Howland, a Fort Hays State University student, held a Jersey yearling by a rope, one of six cows brought to the fair from the school. Above each is a wooden plaque bearing the animal's name and an American flag.

"That was because of last year. We are trying to show our patriotism," Howland said of the plaques.

Vernon DeWerff, of Ellinwood, sat and chatted nearby with some of the friends he has made in his 63 years of fair-going — every year of his life except one. DeWerff said as bad as the attacks were, he's glad there's a state fair this year.

"It upset the farm people, but it didn't upset our lives," he said. "You have got to go on living."

Commissioners get waste details

Household hazardous waste details and a hearing on a grant request for a bridge replacement project top the agenda for Tuesday's Sherman County Commission meeting.

The grant hearing is to approve an application to the state for money to help with the replacement of a bridge 14.5 miles west of Goodland on old U.S. 24.

Most of the money for the bridge will come from a federal program, but the county is required to provide a match. Curt Way, county public works manager, said the cost estimate for the bridge is \$350,000, with \$322,000 coming from the federal program.

Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission from Hill City will handle the grant application for about \$30,000, to cover the county's share.

The county has to have the money in the bank before the bridge project begins.

Way said the bridge is part of the next five-year plan.

Crystal Linsner is on the agenda to discuss the upcoming household hazardous waste collection Saturday, and a question about taking computer monitors.

Linsner, who has received training from the state health department in

handling household hazardous waste, has been told that in Kansas the computer monitors are not considered hazardous waste, but the tube should be smashed and stirred into solid waste.

Way and Margaret Russell, who manages the county transfer station, have been telling people that they cannot accept computer monitors, and that they should be accepted at the household hazardous waste facility.

It will be up to the commissioners to make a decision, because if they are accepted at the household hazardous waste facility, the county will have to pay to have them hauled away.

There is a mercury coating inside the

tubes which is toxic, but the state feels they are not a hazard unless there is a large number being crushed at the same time.

Maintenance supervisor William McKnight will talk to the commissioners about recent elevator problems, and Steve Duell will discuss needs at the fairgrounds for the next year.

David Griffith will appear to ask the commissioners about the county helping to pay for emergency medical technician classes.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

Commander seeks removal of stops around the world

By The Associated Press
INTERNATIONAL

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan met a renegade warlord to seek the removal of checkpoints hindering troop movements, a U.S. military spokesman said today.

The meeting late Sunday was held on the same day fighting flared nearby between militiamen loyal to the anti-government warlord, Bacha Khan Zadran, and government-allied forces near the southeastern Afghan city of Khost.

Lt. Gen. Dan K. McNeill, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, met Zadran on a road south of Khost to "discuss the placement of two checkpoints that were impeding the flow of coalition forces," said Col. Roger King at Bagram Air Base, the U.S. military headquarters in Afghanistan.

He could not say if the checkpoints were later removed.

McNeill sought the meeting to let Zadran know the checkpoints were

starting to interfere with coalition operations and that they needed to be dismantled or he would "suffer the consequences," King said.

NATIONAL
RICHLAND, Texas — Truck driver Cleaster Broadway didn't have much time at home with his 19-month-old son, so he brought the toddler along on road trips when he could.

Their shared ride Sunday ended in tragedy after Broadway lost control of his tractor-trailer about 60 miles south of Dallas and slammed into a pillar that supported a highway bridge.

The column collapsed, toppling the overpass. Debris rained onto the truck's cab, killing the little boy and trapping his father for eight hours.

Broadway was in stable condition at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco, nursing supervisor Barbara Miller said. His injuries were not life-threatening, she said.

NEW YORK — A group of black police officers is asking federal authorities to look into the investigation of the 1989 beating and rape of a female jogger in Central Park, saying police may have been "overzealous" in pinning the crime on five teenagers.

Police rounded up more than 30 teenagers whom they suspected had been part of a park rampage they called "wilding." Five black and Hispanic teens were tried and convicted in connection with the attack after police said they confessed.

But earlier this year the case was reopened after Matias Reyes, a 31-year-old convicted murderer and rapist, told defense investigators that he alone attacked and raped the jogger. Authorities say his DNA matches a sample found at the scene.

Lt. Eric Adams, head of One Hundred Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, said he would ask the United States attorney's office to review the

Building being readied for collection

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will not accept.

Do Bring: Cleaning products, disinfectants, herbicides, insecticides, paints (including aerosol cans), solvents, gasoline, kerosene, wood pre-

servatives, photo chemicals, pool chemicals, auto and household batteries (AAA, AA, C, D and 9 volt), brake fluid, anti-freeze, adhesives, art/craft products, rat and mouse poison.

Used oil may be accepted, but call first.

Don't Bring: Empty containers, explosives, ammunition, radioactive waste, asbestos, medical waste, compressed gas cylinders, smoke alarms, heavy metals.

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case. The victim, then a 28-year-old investment banker, was attacked the night of April 19, 1989, while jogging. She was near death when police found her and was in a coma for 12 days. All the defendants have served their prison sentences and been released.

NEW YORK — Gov. George Pataki on Sunday paid tribute to New York's National Guard members, handing out medals designed to honor those called to duty in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Pataki also said on CNN's "Late Edition" that there were no "credible threats, specific threats against New York as we approach the anniversary."

At the New York City armory, Pataki told about 400 Guard members their service in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center was crucial to the state and the city's security and recovery.

The New York Defense of Liberty Medal was created for all the New York Guard members called into action since Sept. 11. It depicts the Statue of Liberty. Those guardsmen who served at least seven days in Manhattan will also receive a WTC decoration.



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West Nile virus expanding faster than expected

WEST NILE, from Page 1

Deb Smith, co-owner of Prairieland Animal Clinic, said the vaccine has been available here since May.

She said sales picked up at the beginning of August, when the virus was found in animals in Cowley County on the Oklahoma border in southeast Kansas, it's first appearance in Kansas.

Even though the virus is in the area, though, it might never have a strong presence, the biologist said.

"This thing needs mosquitoes, pure and simple, to spread itself," Wiley said. "Western Kansas is notorious for being dry, an atmosphere mosquitoes don't thrive in."

These counties have had positive West Nile virus in horses or birds:

Barton, Butler, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clay, Cloud, Comanche, Cowley, Decatur, Dickinson, Douglas, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Geary, Gove, Graham, Grant, Greenwood, Harvey, Hodgeman, Jefferson, Jewell, Johnson, Kearny, Kingman, Labette, Leavenworth, Lincoln, Logan, Lyon, Meade, Mitchell, Montgomery, McPherson, Nemaha, Norton, Osage, Osborne, Ottawa, Pawnee, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Rice, Riley, Russell, Saline, Scott, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, Stafford, Sumner, Thomas, Wabaunsee, Wallace, Washington and Wyandotte.

Brothers go on trail in Wichita

WICHITA (AP) — Two brothers from Dodge City each say they were nowhere near the scenes of a weeklong crime rampage that left five people dead.

But when Reginald and Jonathan Carr's trial begins in Sedgwick County District Court, neither will have any

trouble implicating his brother.

"We're going to be pointing fingers at each other a lot," Jay Greeno, one of Reginald Carr's lawyers, told District Judge Paul Clark at a recent hearing.

The brothers are charged with abducting five people from an east Wichita home in December 2000.



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