



Girl shares passion

By Tom Betz
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She has been in 4-H for eight years, but is reducing her projects to cooking this year, said Holly Wilkening, 15, who enjoys being a football team manager and is into dance.

Wilkening has started working at Dairy Queen this summer and thinks it is fun. She said she likes the people she works with and enjoys making and serving the blizzards and other items on the Dairy Queen menu. She said she does not do the cooking but does make everything else they feature.

In her 4-H years she has raised pigs, done arts and crafts and cooking. She said over the years she has not had many white ribbons.

She said she has been happy with the results of her cooking.

She said she had a good time raising pigs, but they take a lot of time, and with her working and being the football team manager plus her dance classes things, were getting a bit crowded.

Her first year in cooking was muffins, which she said was easy. This year she will be in Level 5 and the advanced program allows you to do what you want, but it needs to be a challenge.

Holly Wilkening in her costume for her first year of dance in 2003.

Photos by Tom Betz
 The Goodland Star-News

She will be doing a chiffon and angel food cake and pies.

Her favorite pie to make is apple, and she said she has had a lot of compliments on her apple pies. She said she has won a grand champion ribbon on her apple pie in past years.

She said she will be going to her grandma's house in St. Francis, Gay Walz, to get the cooking items ready for the fair. She said she has to call her grandma as soon as the judging is over.

The angel food cake is a challenge she said, especially getting it out of the pan without losing any of the sides.

She said the cakes are left bare to give the judge a chance to see how well the cook did, and then the judge will cut a piece to taste the cake.

"The judge will tell you what you did," she said, "and if there is something to do to improve your cake."

She said she has gotten some tips on her angel food cake as one judge said it was too moist so she changed it for the next year. She said it depends on the eggs.

Another tip was on her muffins and the judge could tell if there was too much or too little of some ingredient in the mix.

In past years when she did arts and crafts she made hemp bracelets and necklaces.

Since she lives in town, she kept her pigs out at her dad's house where they built a place to

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for football, dance

practice for the show arena.

She said in showing a pig it is important to keep it between you and the judge. She said you have to be careful in raising the pig you don't make it a pet or the pig will follow you around the arena. She said that happened one time.

Raising pigs is a challenge she said especially trying to control weight gain. She said they used to use Cheerios, corn syrup and marshmallows as part of the food mix.

It is hard to make weight sometimes and she said around 280 pounds is a good weight.

As a high school freshman she decided it would be good to be a football team manager and her friend's brother was on the team.

She said it was a great experience and she learned a lot about the game last year. Going to the games was a lot of fun, and she is planning to be a manager again this year.

She said Coach Kent Teeter has been good to work for as a manager, and she is looking forward to this year. She said she will be interested to see how the football players do with three years under Coach Teeter. She believes they will show a lot of progress as they will have learned his offensive and defensive system.

Her dancing has been developing over the past seven years and she has six different dances and now helps with some of the classes.

The six areas are tap, jazz, point, lyrical, teacher dance and performance company.

She works with Jessica Kannady and Tiffini Overstreet.

"By graduation I will have 11 years of dance," she said.

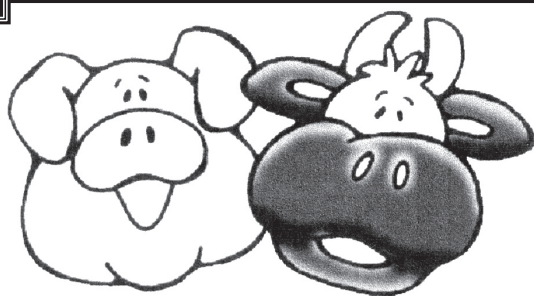
Her favorite parts of dance are point and lyrical, and she is looking forward to when she gets to choreograph her own piece when she is a senior.

She thinks keeping up with everything going on in school is fun, and she enjoys all the activities.

Her mom, Sheila Walz, works at Klip 'n Kurl Salon and Holly plans to go to Hays when she graduates to go to cosmetology school and to continue her dance classes.

She has two older brothers, Jordan Zweygardt, 24, and Britt Zweygardt, 20.

Wilkening looks at a collection of photos of her in costume and with the various dance groups she performs with. Her favorite parts of dance are point and lyrical.



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Ticket sales going well for bull ride event

By Tom Betz

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Tickets are selling steadily for the Western Plains Chute Out Professional Bull Riders event planned for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4, during the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Tickets went on sale July 1, and can be purchased online at www.goodlandcal.net/PBR or at Homestead Realty, 1023 Main Ave. All adult tickets are \$20 each, and kids 10 and under are \$10.

The local rodeo group Thunder on the Plains has worked hard to raise the more than \$45,000 it takes to underwrite the event. Randy Whitmore, a member of the committee, said the ticket sales are going well.

Whitmore said the group hopes to have a sellout crowd for the event. He said they are bringing in enough bleachers to bring the total seating at the fairgrounds to about 3,000.

He said they expect to have some top-name bull riders among the 40 who will perform that night, and that adding \$15,000 to the prize will help. He said the top 10 riders will get a second ride to determine the champion.

He said the champion from last year's event, Dusty LaBeth of Louisburg, will be among those returning. LaBeth was one of the few in the first section of 40 riders last year to make it to the 8-second horn and had a score of 87. In the final short round of 10 riders he was one of



Punkintown Clown and his horse Wrangler.

four who made it to the 8-second horn and had an 88 score.

The whole show took less than two hours to go through the 50 bulls. In the end the bulls had bucked off 36 cowboys to the 14 who managed to make it to the 8-second horn. Of that four

made good rides in both the long and short rounds.

Whitmore said the rodeo clown this year will be Punkintown Clown (Frankie Smith) from Charlotte, S.C.

"I will have Wrangler 'The World's Smartest Horse' and we have lots of things we can do to put smiles on all the faces," Punkintown Smith said in a phone call on Thursday. "I am looking forward to being in Goodland with my wife, Laurie, on our tour across America. I will do my best to prove I am a 'level-headed' dude and show off my hillbilly dancing."

It has been 14 years since Punkintown Smith started his journey in the Rodeo business. He will tell you he has been "rode hard and been put up wet" but there is nothing he would rather be doing than making people laugh from his

stage, the rodeo arena.

"I've been a comedian all my life," said Punkintown. "We had lots of females in our family, and I had to do something to get some attention!"

Wherever there was a crowd, Punkintown was sure to be smack in the middle of it telling tales and funny stories. Soon the crowds grew to thousands and were coupled with entertainers such as Willie Nelson, Patty Lovelace, Aaron Tippin and many more. He first realized his comedic potential when he was at Army basic training. He and a buddy were goofing off and Punkintown was doing a fine impression of his drill Sergeant... when he happened to walk in the door and catch him!

"Private Hillbilly," said the Sergeant, "You think you're funny? Let's see how funny you are!"

The Sergeant had him perform for other companies for \$50 per show and the Sergeant kept the money.

Punkintown has come a long way since his days in the army. He now performs at rodeos around the country. Punkintown enjoys providing an island of safety for the cowboys while keeping the audience in stitches between rides and is sure he will leave the Goodland crowd laughing.

Whitmore said the local committee decided the one-day event seems to work well.

"It does seem to fit better in the schedule," he said, "coming between two other big events."

Whitmore said anyone interested in the PBR events can go to pbrnow.com and click on the Touring Pro Division button.

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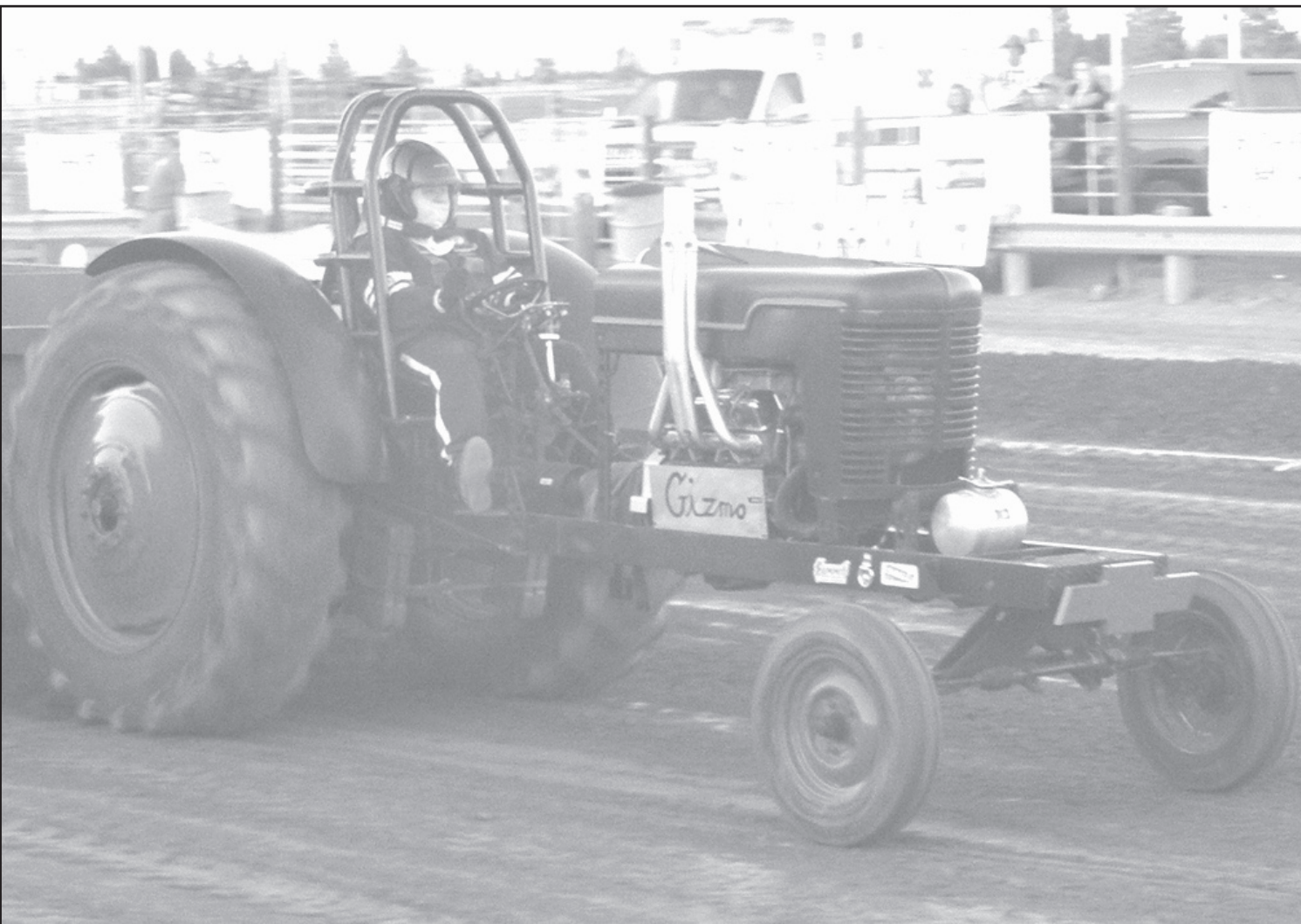
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Carnival

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

A small group of people from the Sherman County Fair Board, the home owned carnival and Kiwanis have been working on projects at the fairgrounds for several months getting ready for the fair.

The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair starts this week and runs through next week, and fairgoers will find a variety of improvements to the buildings and grounds of the Sherman County fairgrounds.

Aaron Duell, home owned carnival chairman, said he could not begin to list the volunteers who help with the carnival each night of the fair.

“So many people volunteer and help I am not sure where to even start,” he said, “and I would be afraid of missing someone. It takes over 100 volunteers a night to make the carnival function. We do want to thank everyone who comes out to volunteer for the games and rides to make the carnival possible.”

Colleen McMurray of Wyoming was fourth with a pull of 260 feet. He was one of 27 drivers that competed in the modified truck and tractor pull last year at the fair. The Modified Tractor Pull will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, Aug. 6.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

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rides get ready

Duell said the carnival people have been busy this year with a variety of projects, and some annual maintenance.

There are new seat covers and seat belts on the Scrambler, and the clutch has been replaced with a new one.

Flooring has been replaced on the roundup ride. The old wooden skirting on Tilt-A-Whirl has been replaced with metal frame and plastics.

Octopus cars have been repaired. Lions ride cars were painted with the carnival and Lions club partnering to repaint the cars.

This is along with the many small repairs that have been made to be sure each ride is safe.

"Members of the carnival board and individual volunteers have been working most Wednesday nights throughout the year making repairs and building new items," he said.

The group purchased a Telehandler this year to help with ride assembly and any repairs, he said.

The Goodland Kiwanis club has been working this summer to expand the

Kiwanis Shack on the east end of the 4-H building. The expansion was tested during Freedom Fest and the Kiwanis members said it went well, but there were a few more changes that needed to be made before the fair.

The expansion doubles the number of windows for people to turn in orders and pick up their great Kiwanis burgers and other menu items.

Testing the expanded windows kept the Kiwanis cooks busy during Freedom Fest. Kiwanis member and Governor Brad Schields said he felt it went well, and thinks people will find it a great improvement during the fair days and nights.

The Sherman County home owned carnival will open on Saturday evening after the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Parade and at 7 p.m. each night of the fair Monday through Friday. Wrist band nights will be Tuesday and Friday with all rides costing \$10 and \$5 for the kids rides.

For the regular nights it will be 50¢ per ticket with most rides taking one to two tickets.

Terry and Dustin Baker worked on the pulley on one of the kiddie rides for the carnival. The Sherman County Community Services meets on Wednesday nights most of the year working on maintenance on the rides for the carnival.



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Saturday, July 31 thru Saturday, Aug. 7 2010 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Schedule "The Greatest Show On Dirt"

Saturday, July 31st

- 8:00 a.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
- 4:00 p.m. Parade Line-up
- 5:00 p.m. NWKDFP Parade
By: Sherman County 4-H Ambassadors
- 7:00 p.m. Kiwanis Demolition Derby

Sunday, August 1st

- 1:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
- 5:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Closed

Monday, August 2nd

- 8:00 a.m. Judging 4-H Foods, Arts & Crafts
4-H Foods Sale
4-H Life Skills Judging
- 9:30 a.m. Judging Exploring 4-H
- 2:30 p.m. Judging Rabbits & Poultry
- 5:30 p.m. Free Hotdog Feed
- 6:00 p.m. Family Fun Night

Tuesday, August 3rd

- 8:00 a.m. Check-in Entries 4-H & Open Class
Livestock Weigh-in
- 10:30 a.m. Livestock Weigh-in Closed
- 11:00 a.m. All Entries Closed
- 11:30 a.m. Judging 4-H & Open Class
- 1:00 p.m. Sheep Show
- 3:00 p.m. Goat Show
- 5:30 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull
- 7:00 p.m. **Carnival Wrist Band Night**

Wednesday, August 4th

- 8:00 a.m. Swine Show
- 4:30 p.m. Admission Gates Open
- 6:30 p.m. Western Plains Chute-Out PBR Touring Pro Division

Thursday, August 5th

- 9:00 a.m. Beef Show
- 12:30 p.m. Round Robin Showmanship
- 6:00 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Rodeo

Friday, August 6th

- 8:30 a.m. Livestock Judging Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Livestock Judging
- 4:30 p.m. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
- 5:30 p.m. 4-H Livestock Sale
- 7:00 p.m. **Carnival Wrist Band Night**
- 7:30 p.m. Modified Tractor Pull

Saturday, August 7th-

- 8:00 a.m. All Projects Released
Check-in Tri-State Royal of Champions
- 10:30 a.m. Release of Entries- Closed
- 1:00 p.m. Tri-State Royal of Champions

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