

County approves bailer building

BAILER, from Page 1

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she had read the state law and felt the county was not required, in this case, to be held to opening it up to bidding. She said there are other things that enter into the decision, including the continuity of building and materials, as part of what the county wants. "The understanding I have," Selby said, "is the county is looking at those things, and do not have to take the lowest bid." "You still have to go through the bid process," Miller said. "If the agreement will exceed \$10,000," she replied, and asked the commissioners if the Rhoads contract will be over \$10,000. "No, it won't," Tiede said. "Then the county is excepted from

the bidding process," Selby said. Tiede said the commissioners wanted to get around the detail process and get the project moving quickly. "In all fairness, we should have let everyone know we were going to do this," he said. "That is what is supposed to happen," Miller said. "We don't have to accept the low bid," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said. "It is not prudent not to accept the low bid if it meets all the requirements," Miller replied. "OK, we understand," Tiede said. "Now we will move on." Tiede made the motion to accept the agreement with Rhoads and Thomas seconded. The motion passed 2-0 with Commissioner Kevin Rasure abstaining because of

a potential conflict of interest. In other business, the commissioners:

- Reviewed financial records from the Sherman County Racing Association brought in by Alex West, and agreed to donate \$1,000 to help the group with the costs.
- It looks like you are losing a little each race," Tiede said. "I think we should help because the races bring a lot of people to the city."
- Agreed to help the new Flatlander Festival Committee with a \$1,000 donation for the event on Saturday, Sept. 24. Tiede said this was another program that is worth helping because it brings a large crowd of people to town. Thomas and Rasure agreed.
- Approved the purchase of two 19-inch computer monitors for cen-

tral dispatch so workers will be able to see the information provided in the new 911 call system. The cost is \$340 each from S&T Telephone.

- Approved paying Mary Messamore, chief of the emergency dispatch unit, for training time for an emergency management conference in Denver.
- Discussed the telephone building and a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places with Lloyd Holbrook of the Sherman County Historical Society. He asked what the commissioners wanted to call the building. He said it was the United Telephone building when it was built in 1931, and became Southwestern Bell in 1937. Tiede and Thomas suggested calling it "The 1931 Telephone Building."

Corn maze opens Saturday

MAZE, from Page 1

direction they are facing. The passports can be customized to suit groups, she said; for example, if a church group wants scriptural passports, that can be done. Besides the 10-acre corn maze, there will be a mini maze for preschoolers, Cole said, where parents will be able to watch their kids going through. And there will be a corn box (like a sandbox but with corn), she said, and a castle. There's a pumpkin patch, but the pumpkins won't be ready to pick until late September.

There will be "corn cops" in the maze, Cole said, who will help people who want a hint. They will be easy to spot in bright green shirts that say "Corn Cop." There will also be emergency exits, for people who are too hot or have just had enough. "We want it to be a fun experience for the whole family," she said. General admission is \$8, Cole said; kids six to 12 are \$6; and five and under are free. There are discounts for groups of 20 or more, she said, if they call ahead. Call 899-2132.

Representative visits town

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News Rep. Jerry Moran (R-Hays) met with about 30 people at the High Plains Museum in Goodland on Aug. 8 to hear about their problems, answer questions and find out what they want him to focus on when Congress goes back to work next month. The "town hall" meeting was the 54th stop on Moran's ninth annual Big First Listening Tour of his district, which started on April 18 and ends on Thursday in Leoti. The tour has 92 scheduled stops with at least one in all 69 counties of the 1st Congressional District. State Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) of the 121st District was among the people there. Morrison's district covers Graham, Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas counties. Before asking for questions, Moran described the economic boost he expects Kansas to gain with the signing of the new energy bill. The law, which President Bush signed on Monday, requires petro-

leum refiners to use 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuels, such as ethanol, a year by 2012. Moran said the boost to Kansas agriculture was the "brightest spot" of the law because it will give farmers more markets for their crops and could increase the price they get. Moran said the price of corn could go up by 10 percent or more. Kansas has seven ethanol plants in production now, with a capacity of 170 million gallons per year, with more being built. Moran said he visited the ethanol plant in Campus, east of Oakley, which he said is now operating at double normal capacity. Moran said the increased production of ethanol and other renewable fuels will lower costs and be good to the environment, and reduce the country's dependence on foreign oil. Moran was asked what was being done to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture to speed up its testing and certification process for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or

"mad cow disease," which would allow the country's beef producers to get back into full operation. Some cattlemen feel the department is being overly cautious when it comes to testing, especially when it involves inconclusive test results. Moran said he is critical of the way the department handles testing, which he said has resulted in longer delays for stockmen and greater expense for the government. On a related topic, Moran said he's continuing his efforts to get Japan to reopen its markets to American beef. He said the Japanese prime minister will visit Washington on Sept. 24, and Japan's failure to resume beef imports will be a top issue. In March, Moran introduced a resolution calling for economic sanctions against Japan if it fails to comply with its trade agreements. After spending a little over an hour in Goodland, which was his first stop of the day, Moran went on to Bird City, Atwood and Coby.

Mexican food is fair tradition

FOOD, from Page 1

Garcia has always been especially proud that none of her dishes have ever been brought back. The fair is not just a chance to cook for Garcia, but also an opportunity to see old friends. Schultz said at her age, her mom doesn't get out of the house much, so she enjoys the week. A deeply religious woman, Garcia said she has always set her priorities with God first, her children second and the community third. She passed on her community spirit to her son John, a city commissioner and chairman of the county Economic Development Council. Garcia owns Garcia's Home Furnishings. In her years at the fair, Garcia has seen many changes, from a small outdoor hut to the present 4-H building. Even with modern conveniences, the week is still a lot of work. Schultz said Garcia comes in and cleans the booth to make it ready for customers. "This week takes a lot of preparation," she said. "It's a time-consuming thing."

Food cooked fresh at the fair

COOK, from Page 1

the menu. The taco shells are all fresh, but age keeps Garcia from making tortillas these days. For the fair now, she starts early in the morning making rice and beans. She moves on to make the chili and chops celery, tomatoes and lettuce. The next dish is the special gravy for the enchiladas. "Mother feels her specialty is her enchiladas and her beans," Schultz said, adding every item on the menu sells well. Schultz said they keep refilling the pots, making fresh food all day. Garcia has been cooking the same dishes over and over again for years. Schultz said she knows them so well, should could probably do them in her sleep. The nearly 90-year-old woman gets help in the kitchen from her large family. John Garcia, furniture store owner and a Goodland city commissioner,

and his wife Nora take turns behind the stove, along with his brother Ruben and Lydia Garcia, local harvesters. Other family members come home from all over to help out the master cook. Schultz and her 15-year-old daughter Keisha came from Guymon, Okla., to lend a hand this year. Garcia's daughter, the late Ann Ramirez, helped before she died in 1993. Rene, Postmaster in Ulysses, and his wife Pauline Garcia; Gloria and her husband Manuel Ochoa, from Houston; and Jesse and Levalla Garcia, a harvester in Dumas, Texas, all lend a hand at the shop. Garcia's children help her in the kitchen, each taking a different job. "We all pitch in," Schultz said. Garcia, who lives part-time here and part-time in Guymon, said she cooks because she loves it. She said she lives off the profits from the fair food. "I support myself," she said.



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- 5 to 11 p.m. Kiwanis serving meals to public
- 7 p.m. Opening Ceremony
- 7:05 p.m. Survivor lap
- Caregiver/Family lap
- Team lap
- 7:30 p.m. Team Basket Auction
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