



The Imperial Republican



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The ownership of Champion Mill State Historical Park and State Recreation Area changed hands July 1. Nebraska Game & Parks Commission formally handed the area over to the Chase County Commissioners during a ceremony Monday. (Republican photo)

Champion Mill, Lake now in Chase County's hands

By CAROLYN LEE
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

It was a beautiful Monday morning and the crowd of about 35 people enjoyed the sunshine as ownership of Champion Mill State Historical Park and State Recreation Area transferred from the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) to Chase County.

During a ceremony at the Mill, Kirk Nelson of NGPC's Parks Division said NGPC is in "a state of flux. We're looking for outside funding sources."

That's why this is the eighth transfer of ownership of a NGPC site to another government entity.

The Chase County Commissioners agreed to take ownership of the area. If it doesn't remain a public park, or if the financial load becomes too heavy, NGPC will step back in.

Of the ceremony, Nelson said, "This is a commemoration of our partnership. We wouldn't be anywhere without you."

State Sen. Mark Christensen of Imperial, who introduced the legislative bill that transferred ownership, said he "commended Chase County and the community of Champion that's taken this project on. Champion locals always kept it up. That's a sign of what the community believes in. I hope you won't stop here."



Champion Mill and Lake board members, from left, Burton Beard, Don Weiss, Jr., and Charlie Beard examine a picture/plaque with Game & Parks Commissioner Mark Spurgin of Paxton. (Republican photo)

Christensen suggested that features such as a bike trail would add to the attraction.

"If you want this place to see more visitorship you have to do more things," he added.

Mark Spurgin of Paxton, a NGPC commissioner, said he loves history. He said historical parks, such as Champion "are difficult because people don't come back to visit. I commend the community to take this on because it takes a community to make something viable."

Chase County Commissioner Chuck Vette of Wauneta said, "If I could pick one place to put something it would be

Champion because the people are well rooted" and they're the ones to get things done.

Nelson said, "We have to think of how to get people's interest in historical parks. We have to get young people out of doors. It's a good thing for them."

The commissioners have appointed a board to oversee the care of the mill and park. The board includes Charlie Beard, Burton Beard, Commissioner Don Weiss Jr., Dennis Spady and Don Welch.

Bill and Kristi Eskew will be the caretakers for the first year.

Other locations for new fire hall being considered

By JAN SCHULTZ
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

At the suggestion of one council member, other locations for a new fire hall for the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) are being discussed.

But, while council member

John Arterburn suggested a look elsewhere, others felt the empty city-owned lot between 7th and 8th Sts. on Broadway originally considered remains the best option.

It likely will become a matter of now or later.

With construction costs continuing to rise and good

interest rates now, an IVFD building committee wanted to see concrete in the ground before this winter.

Based on discussion at Monday's meeting, city council members hoped to attend next week's board of education

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Fireman's Fun Day Thursday

Weather forecasts for Thursday, the Fourth of July, say it will be in the low 90's. To cool off, area residents are invited to take in the Helen Fanning Memorial Fun Day, hosted by the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) as a thank-you to area residents who support them all year. Activities, including water fights, tug-o-war contests, free food, IVFD demonstrations and the FFA's mud volleyball tournament, will be held throughout the afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wellington St. football field. All events are free. This year, people attending can also donate to the Travis Wheeler family. All donations up to \$1,000 will be matched by the fire department to give to the family to help with medical expenses. A fireman's boot will be set out for those donations. (Republican file photo)

Matching grant of \$30,000 will help fund Feed My Starving Children event later this month

By RUSS PANKONIN
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

People making donations to the Feed My Starving Children packing event in Imperial can get their donations matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$30,000.

Dick Banks of Imperial, committee chair, said an anonymous donor offered a \$30,000 challenge grant to aid the fundraising for the third annual event. It will be held July 23-27 at Crossroads Wesleyan Church in Imperial.

The event is organized by the Southwest Nebraska Meals for God's Children (SNMFGC) committee.

The overall fundraising goal for this year's event has been set at \$110,000. This will provide for 500,000 meals to be packaged during the event.

Banks said people can stretch their donation by taking advantage of the matching challenge.

The matching grant will only be available on donations made no later than July 28.

People wanting to make donations to the Imperial event can send them to FMSC, PO Box 91, Imperial, NE 69033. Checks should be made out to FMSC and should include the event No. 1307-39 on the check.

People can also go the MobilePack tab on the FMSC website at www.fmsc.org for

more information or to make donations. If donations are made on the web site, donors should note event No. 1307-39 to ensure donations go to the Imperial event.

During the 2012 event, volunteers packaged a total of 520,992 meals. That equates to providing 1,427 children one meal a day for a year. The cost for each meal is 22 cents.

For more information, to volunteer or to inquire about donations, people can contact Banks at 308-883-0397 or any of the other committee members.

They include James Marlatt at 308-882-6386, Paul Hickman at 308-414-1407 or Rhonda Hickman at 308-414-1406.



Andy and Karla Bauman award the flag prizes for Saturday's round during the evening dinner and auction event Saturday at the Eagles. (Republican photo)

Bauman family brings memorial golf tourney back home to Imperial

By RUSS PANKONIN
THE IMPERIAL REPUBLICAN

Andy and Karla Bauman said they've always had so much support from the Chase County area that they wanted to bring the fifth annual Logan Bauman Memorial Golf Tournament back home.

The Baumans started the memorial tournament in 2009 after their son, Logan, 14, was struck by a car and later died in early December 2008.

For the first four years, the tournament was played in Parker, Colo., home of the Bauman family.

Andy and Karla are both former Imperial residents and continue to have strong family ties here. Logan, an avid golfer, was a member at Enders Lake Golf Course and considered it his "home" course.

So, the fifth annual tournament came back to Chase County this past weekend.

With a full field of 72 two-person teams, golfers played 18-hole rounds at both the Enders Lake Golf Course and Imperial Country Club.

Golfers alternated courses, playing Enders one day and Imperial the other. There were morning and afternoon tee times at both courses to accommodate the full field.

"We've always had so much support from the area and Logan was a member at Enders," Andy said this week.

Bringing the fifth annual tournament back was "a way to show our gratitude and appreciation," Karla added.

Funds support youth activities

The Logan Bauman Memorial Fund is a foundation that supports youth activities and educational opportunities in Logan's memory.

Logan's goal was to attend Regis Jesuit High School in the Denver area. That dream was cut short but his family has

helped other students realize that dream.

This year marked the graduation of a Regis High School student who received an annual scholarship of \$2,500 from the Logan Bauman Memorial Fund (LBMF).

Next year, they will award a scholarship to another incoming freshman to help with expenses at the highly regarded private school.

Once an all-boys school, Regis now has girls enrolled, as well. One lucky girl, already a junior, is the recipient of another annual scholarship from the fund.

Since the inception of the tournament, LBMF has awarded more than \$100,000 to support youth and educational activities.

As part of this year's tournament, LBMF has committed \$10,000 to Chase County Schools to be used in the junior high for athletic equipment needs.

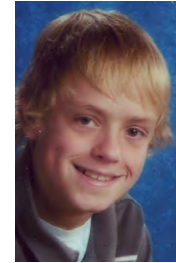
The Baumans also announced a \$2,500 donation Saturday night to the Amanda Johnson Memorial Fund.

The Fund has also underwritten a \$20,000 outdoor lab classroom at the middle school Logan, and his sister, Alyse, attended.

They have also designated money to another effort, LAB 21. It provides money for the Parker Hawks youth football team including money to help kids obtain equipment they normally wouldn't be able to afford.

Hopes of raising \$2,500

After Logan's death, the Baumans wanted to do something in Logan's memory to help a Regis student.



Logan Bauman

Andy said they met with a friend who had run professional golf tournaments. They decided on a memorial golf tournament because of Logan's love of the game.

"Our goal was to raise \$2,500. That was it," Andy said. His friend told them a golf tournament was a lot of hard work just to raise \$2,500.

Undaunted, the Baumans took on the challenge. They were blown away with the support from people, raising \$32,000 that first year.

The Baumans expect this year's tournament to be one of the best ever. The silent and live auction raised more than \$20,000. A total of 37 hole sponsorships at \$150 were sold, along with various other fun activities, such as the "Buy-A-Drive" option.

Instead of having to hit a drive for a donation of any kind, golfers could place their ball 80 yards out on Imperial's hole #3 and 100 yards out on Enders' hole #5. Baumans said that alone raised around \$4,000.

On Saturday night, golfers enjoyed dinner at the Imperial Eagles, which was followed by the silent and live auctions and a performance from the Gary Bragg Band of Denver.

Bragg is a native of Imperial and offered to bring his band out for the occasion. He is joined in the band by his sister, Roxanne Fromm, also of Denver.

Source of therapy

The Baumans are among parents who've suffered the pain beyond comprehension of losing a child.

For the Bauman family, the tournament has served as part of the healing process in dealing with the loss of Logan, as well as keeping the memory of Logan alive.

"It's been our biggest source of therapy," Karla said.

Andy said the tournament, which is the only fundraiser for the LBMF, has been "a blessing."