

Final registration for all attendees Monday at CCS

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

If the numbers hold, it appears the 2009 SCORE (Science Camps Offer Rewarding Experiences) will set a new attendance record this year.

Final numbers won't be known until after final registration on Monday, June 8, but, as of May 30, Camp Director Marla Smith indicated more than 300 students had registered for the camp June 15-19 in and around Imperial.

Smith reminds parents that if they have a child registered for SCORE, they must come to Chase County Schools on Monday, June 8, for final registration.

The school will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day, when student programs/schedules, T-shirts and water bottles will be distributed, and final fees need to be paid.

Those individuals who have offered to be a volunteer during SCORE should also visit with Lynn Luhrs for instructions and schedule. She will be at the school all day during Monday's final registration, or can be contacted by phone at 308-882-3907.

Director Smith noted that in addition to the many guest instructors who will be teaching at SCORE, there are also a number of local instructors involved, as well.

"SCORE has a great reputation for outstanding teachers. We appreciate not only those coming from across the state, but also those who live close to home," she said.

There are also a number of former SCORE campers who are teaching sessions this year, she said.

See the accompanying list of local teachers.

SCORE 2009 local presenters

- Whitney Paisley—She will teach "The Poop Chute" (a creative and fun activity taking youngsters through the digestive system). Whitney has chosen a career in nursing and works at the Chase County Hospital this summer.

- Dr. Calvin Weiss—Dr. Weiss is teaching sessions on vertebrates comparing x-rays of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish. Dr. Weiss is also teaching the afternoon session of the "Poop Chute." Dr. Weiss has recently established a chiropractic business in Imperial.

- Joel Grosbach—Joel now lives near Imperial and is partner in his family farm operation. Joel first attended SCORE camp as a first grader, and more recently served as Assistant Director for the last four SCORE camps. In 2009, Joel returns to teach "Corn, Bread and Beans." Corn, wheat and beans are the most abundant crops grown in Nebraska. Students will learn about these important food sources by dissecting a corn stalk, grinding wheat into flour and getting to know their beans!

- Matt Vlasin—Matt currently operates a lawn care and landscaping business in partnership

with his mother, who owns Holiday Farms Greenhouse in Imperial. Matt attended SCORE as a youngster and has worked as an Assistant Director for numerous SCORE camps. Now, Matt returns as grade 1-2 Assistant Director and will also teach "From Plant to Plant," a session with 3-4 graders involving plant propagation and plant grafting. Students will get to keep their plants. "Edible, Non-Edible Plants and Herbs" is the title of Matt's session for 5-6 graders, who will also plant and keep their own herb garden.

- Fred Bessler—Fred is a retired teacher/coach of 37 years whose passion now is fishing. Fred, with the help from some of his fishing "buddies," will be helping campers with their fishing skills. Hopefully he will share some of his fishing "secrets" and help campers with their "catch." Fred says fishing is great therapy.

- Heather Francis—As Conservation and Information Specialist the past 17 years with the Upper Republican NRD, Heather says she is still a technician at heart. Heather is chairman of the Imperial Groundwater Guardian Team and has presented at the Children's Groundwater Festival on several occasions. Heather has presented at SCORE since 1995 teaching a variety of topics. This year Heather will be "testing water" in the SCORE Zone; helping students learn all about the Ogallala Aquifer with an activity called "The Edible Aquifer," and help 3-4 students learn about "Animal Signs." Students will receive a "Know Nebraska Water Activity Book" published in cooperation with URNRD and Papio-MO River NRD and a backpack that they can stamp with animal tracks.

- Margene Hayes—Margene will join her sister-in-law Murietta Proud, to teach "Tiny Trotters." She will bring "Cowboy" and "Reba," her two miniature ponies. Students will enjoy meeting and learning all about these "little horses." Margene has always loved horses and will enjoy sharing her passion with 1-4 graders.

- Carol Hess—Carol is the high school resource teacher at Chase County Schools and has been an instructor at several SCORE camps. Two specific traits have led her to SCORE. The first is an interest in science and the other characteristic is that she likes to learn. Carol's sessions include: "Making Rattlesnakes in "The SCORE Zone," "Nature Prints and Solar Beads," "Give Your Fish a Home" and "SCAT Cookies." Students have a take home project in all of Carol's sessions.

- Dan Lenners—Dan has been teaching at Chase County Schools since 1979. He is a Certified Aquatic Education Instructor and a Certified Boat Education Instructor for Nebraska Game and Parks. Dan has many hobbies—among them are watercolor painting, fishing, sports and yard work. Dan will be teaching the fishing sessions at Bauerles' Pond. Each student will receive a fish packet full materials and fishing supplies provided by the Nebraska Game and Parks.

- Michelle Mroczek—Michelle has been teaching for seven years. The past five years she has been teaching third grade at Chase County Schools. She enjoys gardening and spending time outside with her family. Michelle's session, "Garden in a Tube" will introduce 1-2 graders to an alternative way of growing plants. Using a test tube and water jelly crystals, students will plant their seeds and have a portable garden to take home. They will also receive a variety of bean seeds to plant later with this ongoing experiment.

- Bruce Peterson—Bruce wears many hats as he is co-owner of Peterson Boer Goats, manager of the Nebraska Range Buck Performance Test and an architectural designer. Bruce is an Imperial native who has returned home with his family and resides near Enders. He began raising Boer goats in the fall of 2006. His commercial operation involves 200-600 goats, depending on the time of year, working on grazing projects around Chase County. He

concentrates on the production of young meat goats for a growing market, but also maintains a registered bloodline to replenish his own breeding stock and offer stock for sale to other breeders. Bruce will bring goats to the camp site for viewing and present the benefits that goats can offer environmentally, economically and socially. Bruce recently was awarded the "Hidden Treasurer" Award for goat grazing projects. Bruce's session is entitled: "Goats, Nature's Weed Whackers."