Haxtun native Carol Scheel chosen
Grand Marshal of 99th Corn Festival

By Candie Fix
candie@hfherald.com

It is often said there is no place like home and there are no truer words for Carol Scheel. Carol has called Haxtun home for more than eight decades and so it’s only fitting that when the community celebrates “Wide Open Spaces” on Saturday, Sept. 26 that she leads the Corn Festival parade as Grand Marshal.

This year marks the 99th annual Haxtun Corn Festival and Carol remembers being at all but one of the past 85. Her fondest memories are of the Saturday mornings in late September when she would walk to the parade or playing street games with her friends when she was younger. Now, she loves to watch as her granddaughter and great-grandchildren take part in the events in the enjoyment of the day is passed down by generations.

Carol was born in Haxtun on April 23, 1935 to Ivan and Florence (Beverd) Brooks, who also had a son, Keith. Carol’s family was deeply rooted in Haxtun and Phillips County. Her grandfather J.A. Brooks was the Mayor of Haxtun in the 1920s and her grandfather Beverd served as the County Sheriff during the same decade.

As a young girl, Carol remembers the start of World War II and hearing word of the bomb- ing of Pearl Harbor. She still recalls rationing of tires and gas, and some foods like cocoa and sugar, and that her mother and other women in the community would line up at the local department store for nylons when they were available, which wasn’t often since nylon was used to make parachutes during the war.

The day the war ended, Carol was walking with her father across the street from the Corner Drug Store to the Haxtun Telephone Company when the whistle began to blow. Shortly after, she said, store owners and merchants came outside to cheer and cars drove up and down main street blowing their horns. The entire town celebrated the end of the war.

Carol’s parents owned the local telephone company for many years and the couple and their two children lived just a block and a half south of the swimming pool.

Keith, who lived most of his adult life in California, later bought he and Carol’s childhood home and returned to the Haxtun community to retire. Carol said living so close to the swimming pool and park during the summer was a bless ing. Most of her summer days were spent at the pool or walking around the rock wall at the park. Carol said the pool would get dirty and require cleaning, which meant draining the entire pool and refilling it. Those first few days after it was re-filled were rough with such cold water but once the sun warmed it back up, she said it was perfect.

“Our reminder from Mother was to come home from playing with friends for supper when the 6 p.m. whistle blow,” Carol said.

She also remembers the hustle and bustle of town on Saturday nights. Carol said she and her friends would play kick the can behind town hall. The game was even more fun, she said, when the county kids came to town to play, too.

Carol said as a young girl she loved horses and anytime someone rode their horse to town, she would follow them around in hopes they would give in and let her ride. Later, she said her parents joined the saddle club and bought two horses, Babe and Topside. She still recalls later selling her horses to someone on the south side of the tracks and the next morning she went outside and there stood her horse, who she told to come home if the new owners were mean. She laughs knowing they weren’t, but that her horse knew where to find her.

When she was 16, Carol met recent Fleming High School graduate Kerr Scheel and right away she knew she loved him. Carol said some people say there is no such thing as love at first sight, “but I knew he was something special when we met on that Saturday night,” she said.

Eight months later the two were engaged and on her parents 25th wedding anniversary, Kerr and Carol were married; June 1, 1952.

Kerr volunteered for the draft and was inducted into the United States Army in October 1953. He attended basic training in Fort Ord, California and was later transferred to Fort Carson near Colorado Springs. Being with Kerr in the Army is the only time Carol’s been away from her beloved Haxtun community and during that time that she missed her one and only Corn Festival parade as Grand Marshal.

While in the Army, Kerr trained German hephgers as messenger dogs at the Army Dog Training Center. While at Fort Carson, the Scheels welcomed their first child, daughter Verna. Later, the couple added second daughter Nancy and son Greg, who were both born in Haxtun.

Carol said Greg was a special needs child and so she was a stay at home mom while her children were young.

Later, once Greg started attending S.T.A.R.S in Sterling, Carol found jobs that would let her work around Greg’s schedule. Most of her time was spent working in Sterling at the Purple Sage, Elks Club or Coach House in the kitchen and at Quality Pack, where she learned to cut and wrap meat.

“We (Carol and Greg) would see the girls off to school and then be back just as they were coming home from school,” Carol said.

Last, Carol went to work for the Fleming Corn Festivals, jobs a job she held for nearly 20 years. Carol said that was a unique one for her as her mother worked for the same publication when it was the Haxtun Harvest, owned by Leslie Taylor.

When the couple returned to Haxtun, Kerr went to work for the Haxtun Telephone Company, just after Carol’s father sold it to Floyd Rheyer. Carol said Rheyer hired Kerr when he got out of the Army for just a couple weeks to help get caught up installing new dial phones.

(See Grand Marshal, page 8)
Corn Festival themed “Wide Open Spaces” set for Saturday, Sept. 26

Haxtun’s 99th Annual Corn Festival celebrates “Wide Open Spaces” as its theme when the event takes place on Sept. 26. This year’s theme honors the hard work and dedication of those who farm our land and provide for America.

The Festival will again feature a beer garden located on East Fletcher Street south of Points West Community Bank. Hosted by the Haxtun Chamber of Commerce, the garden opens at 1 p.m. and serves until 7 p.m. G&L Lights and Sounds, a local DJ is scheduled to play after the street games and throughout the afternoon.

The Corn Festival, sponsored by the Haxtun Chamber of Commerce, opens again this year with the Haxtun Volunteer Firemen’s pancake breakfast at the fire hall on the corner of North Colorado Avenue and Strohm Street, with serving beginning at 7 a.m.

The annual J. Jeffryes Memorial Run/Walk lines up at 8 a.m. at the corner of Fletcher Street and Colorado Avenue. Register for the parade at the Haxtun Community Center. Saturday closes this year with a street dance in front of the Haxtun Town Hall featuring the Emmett Bower Band. Gates to the concert open at 7 p.m. and the concert kicks off at 8 p.m.

Other contests and activities through the Corn Festival include a flower show, crop and garden show, FFA auction, street games, carnival booths, tractor pulls, golf tournament, quilt show, food court and other vendors on Colorado Avenue.

For more information on any Corn Festival event, contact Jenn Oberle at (970) 467-0194 or find the Haxtun Corn Festival page on Facebook!

People in charge of Corn Festival events

Flower arrangements sought for Violet Mae Anderson Memorial Flower Show

The Violet Mae Anderson Memorial Flower Show opens with a time to enter arrangements on Friday, Sept. 25 between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Haxtun Town Hall. Judging begins at 5:30 p.m.

The contest is open to the public in two divisions, adults over 15 years of age, and 15 years of age and under. Single bloom categories in addition to snapdragon include rose, dahlia, mum, petunia, zinnia and entrant’s choice.

Arrangements, in addition to Roadside Bouquets, may be entered as mixed (two or more varieties), mini small container/small blooms and a festival theme with the entrant’s choice of fresh flowers that best represent the theme “Wide Open Spaces.” No artificial flowers are allowed.

The public can view the entries on display at Haxtun Town Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Haxtun Town Hall, and the contest closes with the flower show, crop and garden show, FFA auction, street games, carnival booths, tractor pulls, golf tournament, quilt show, food court and other vendors on Colorado Avenue.

The Violet Mae Anderson Memorial Flower Show, Chris Kuehn, (970) 580-9101; Johnny Miller Memorial Tractor Pull, Phil Hart, (970) 774-7193 or (970) 520-1516; Golf Tournament, F & H Golf Club, (970) 774-6362; Street Games, Rod Workman, (970) 774-3335; Firemen’s Breakfast, Ron Carpenter, (970) 520-7524.

Kiddie Parade set to launch Sept. 26th festivities

The annual Haxtun Corn Festival Kiddie Parade will again reach the regular parade on Sept. 26.

The rule disallowing motorized vehicles remains due to complaints about motorized vehicles in previous years. The Haxtun Chamber of Commerce instituted a rule several years ago for safety reasons, that any type of machine with a motor will not be permitted to enter the kiddie portion of the parade. This includes motorcycles, four wheelers and golf carts. Small power wheel toys are allowed to enter the Kiddie Parade.

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Please join us in celebrating Haxtun’s 99th annual Corn Festival on

Saturday, Sept. 26

CornerStone Hay
KC & Denise Branner
21501 CR 30, Haxtun (970) 774-4HAY

Oliver Agency, LLC
Rebecca Oliver, Owner/Agent
Haxtun, (970) 774-7186
Julesburg, (970) 474-2112
Licensed in Colorado & Nebraska

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Saturday, Sept. 26
CorinaoftheRice

By attending any/all events held at the Haxtun Corn Festival, you certify that you do not fall into any of the following categories:
• Individuals who currently or within the past fourteen (14) days have experienced any symptoms associated with COVID-19, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath, among others.
• Individuals who have traveled to any point in the past fourteen (14) days either internationally or to a community in the US that has experienced or experienced substantial community spread of COVID-19.
• Individuals who believe that they may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 (i.e., have had close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19) and are not yet cleared as contagious by the state or local public health authorities or the health care team responsible for their treatment.

By attending any/all events held at the Haxtun Corn Festival, you certify that you do not fall into any of the following categories:

Entry Fees: BEFORE SEPT. 20 — $25 for Adults; $20 for 18 and under
AFTER SEPT. 20 — $35 for Adults; $30 for 18 and under
All proceeds fund annual scholarships for Haxtun HS graduates.

Please make checks payable to:
HAXTUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mail this registration form and entry fee to:
Haxtun Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 535, Haxtun, CO 80731 or drop off at Hofmeister Insurance Agency. NO REFUNDS!

Please Select T-Shirt Size:
□ Adult □ Youth □ Adult Medium □ Adult Large □ Adult Extra-Large □ Adult Xtra-XX-Large
□ Adult Small □ Adult Medium □ Adult Large □ Adult Xtra-XX-Large

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Emmett Bower Band set to perform for festival on Sept. 26

Things just keep getting bigger and better at the annual Haxtun Corn Festival! Those with energy to spare after a fun-filled day of activities at Haxtun’s 99th annual Corn Festival on Sept. 26 can rock out to the sounds of a concert featuring the Emmett Bower Band.

The Haxtun Corn Festival street dance takes place on Sept. 26 on North Colorado Avenue in downtown Haxtun. Gates open at 7 p.m. and the opening act kicks things off at 8 p.m.

The Emmett Bower Band is a rock influenced alt country band from Lincoln, Neb., which originated in late October 2010. Since the early days of the band, the music and format has constantly evolved. Changes to the band’s roster were inevitable but the current lineup consists of a tight four-piece group, creating the foundation for the group’s unique sound.

Today’s group is made up of: Jeffrey Emmett Bower, acoustic/electric guitar and lead vocals; Blake Beiermann, on the electric guitar; Troy Johnson, bass/electric bass/upright bass; and Matty Sanders, on the drums.

The Emmett Bower Band plays nearly 100 shows per year, touring the nation — even playing shows in country music strongholds like Nashville and Austin. The band has shared the stage with amazing talent, such as Randy Rogers Band, Roger Creager, Jason Boland and the Stragglers, Bart Crow, Jackson Taylor, Gloriana, Sonia Leigh, No Justice, Thomas Rhett, Jon Pardi, Frankie Ballard, Logan Mize, Casey Donahue, Aaron Watson, and many others.

The band’s catalog of music currently consists of four self-produced albums under the “It’s A Party Records” record label (the band’s own label). Songs such as “Never Let It Go,” “Single for the Summer,” “The Way She Danced,” “Before She’s Gone,” “You Saved Me,” “Chasin’ the Sun,” “Tumbleweed” and “Main Attraction” have been played on radio stations in Nebraska, Kansas and Tennessee in regular rotation. Their latest album was nominated for 2018 Album of the Year and Bower was nominated for Songwriter of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Country Music Awards.

In Nebraska, Emmett Bower Band songs can regularly be heard on stations such as Y102, 103.9 KNLV, US92, 104.9 The Max, 93.1 The River and KBEAR Country. Possessing a wealth of stage experience and a deep catalog of music, the four members have honed their live performance to accommodate larger venues, dance halls, street dances, rodeos, weddings and festivals. The band takes pride in writing original music their own way.

Currently the boys writing music for their fourth album. There is no slowing them down and they definitely mean business.

Advance tickets are currently on sale online at https://www.ticketstorm.com/e/24445/t/, at the Haxtun Town Hall or by calling Jenn Oberle at (970) 467-0194. Find the Haxtun Corn Festival page on Facebook for additional updates.
HAXTUN CORN FESTIVAL
Downtown Haxtun
Saturday, Sept. 26 • All Day

Fun for Moms & Sons!

Fun for little kids,

Fun for big kids ...

... FUN FOR EVERYONE!
Local quilters’ club set to host quilt show during Corn Festival

The High Plains Heritage Quilters have volunteers ready to assist anyone who wishes to display quilts in the upcoming Corn Festival on Sept. 26 at the Haxtun Community Center.

Quilts may be entered into display on Friday, Sept. 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Categories may consist of all size of quilts, baby blankets, wall hangings, table runners, aprons and miscellaneous. People’s Choice of blocks for the 2021 quilt show will be on display and up for vote as well.

The 2020 quilt show will be open on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 1-4 p.m. Quilts must be picked up by 5 p.m. on the day of show by the quilter or designated person listed on the entry form. A quilt raffle will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. and entrants need not be present to win.

This marks the 30th year for the annual Johnny Miller Memorial two-cylinder Tractor Pull held during Haxtun’s Corn Festival. The Pull starts at 1 p.m. north of the Haxtun arena on Saturday, Sept. 26, and honors the late Johnny Miller, who owned and operated Miller Implement, the John Deere Dealership, in Haxtun for many years.

The Pull became an annual feature of the Haxtun Corn Festival starting in 1990 and has remained a part of the festival since then. In 2005, the group of sponsors added a second tractor pull sponsored by the Platte Valley Tractor Association, making it a two-day event. The Platte Valley Pull is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 27, beginning at 10 a.m. and also takes place north of the Haxtun arena.

Tractor pulls are a test of power in which the tractors pull a motorized sled over a 300-foot track. The Johnny Miller Memorial Pull is limited to John Deere two-cylinder tractors. Sunday’s Platte Valley Pull is open to all types and models of antique tractors.

The first ever Johnny Miller Memorial Pull was organized by Charlie Tripplette, Ron Thompson, andComplete想了。Please bring in clean from pet hair and smoke odors. Judging will take place by the public throughout the Haxtun Corn Festival on Sept. 26. Awards will be given for overall winner and People’s Choice. People’s Choice blocks for the 2021 quilt show will be on display and up for vote as well.

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Johnny Miller Memorial Pull to be held

We welcome you to come enjoy “Wide Open Spaces”

We are proud to support the 99th Annual Haxtun Corn Festival featuring EMMETT POWER BAND

Little Mr. & Miss Corn Festival to be crowned

Get ready for words of wisdom coming from the youngest among us as the annual Little Mr. & Miss Corn Festival Contest takes over the stage during Haxtun Corn Festival on Sept. 26. Eligible ages for the contest are three to six years old. The contest starts after the parade in downtown Haxtun on the stage located next to the Town Hall, prior to the Haxtun FFA member auction.

Pre-registration is required and children are to gather behind the stage before the contest starts. Children must accompany the participating child. According to Julie Thayer, contest organizer, the announcer plans to introduce each child and ask each to name his or her parents. Each must also answer a series of three questions and perform a short talent. Thayer said the talent performance may be as simple as singing the ABC’s.

Three out-of-town judges determine the winners. First place winners receive crowns and sashes and will be asked to ride in the following year’s Corn Festival parade. All participants receive a prize.

Mr. Taeden Holcomb nd Miss Tyndle McConnell won the titles in 2019 and have been invited to ride in this year’s parade.

Contact Julie Thayer at (970) 529-7470 to pre-register or for more information.

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The annual Haxtun FFA Auction follows the Haxtun Corn Festival Parade again this year, putting the event at around 11:15 a.m. The auction takes place on the stage downtown next to the Town Hall on Sept. 26.

The sale offers the opportunity for locals to purchase items donated by Haxtun High School FFA members. Those who win the bid receive a commitment of eight hours of labor from the student purchased. All bid prices are per hour.

FFA advisor Jeff Plumb, who oversees the event each year, said the students appreciate those who continue to support the program in this way and noted that bidders are welcome to partner with each other to purchase a worker.

“Splitting a worker’s time between two bidders is perfectly fine,” he said, adding that there are 60 students signed up for FFA this year. “So, it really adds up when you start paying for that many kids to participate in every thing that goes on.”

The money raised helps pay for students to attend State and National conventions and other activities throughout the year. Years when the auctions are exceptionally successful, the local FFA uses any excess with a fund established to assist families facing financial crisis.

Last year, according to Plumb, the auction brought in close to $25,000, including the price Plumb brought at the auction. The auction is the only fundraiser the Haxtun FFA members conduct throughout the year. FFA members also help sponsor service activities throughout the community.

J. Jeffryes Run/Walk to honor Sauder

As an avid runner, Sauder ran in many of the J. Jeffryes runs to start out his Corn Festival mornings. “It only seems fitting we dedicate this run to him and the entire Sauder family,” organizers said.

The 2020 event will feature a professional timing machine again this year to ensure accurate finish times of t-shirts match the number on the shoe of the runner. The machine works through a chip placed on the bib or stopwatch, so plans are to use this method again. The machine works through a chip placed on the bib or stopwatch, so plans are to use this method again. The machine works through a chip placed on the bib or stopwatch, so plans are to use this method again. The machine works through a chip placed on the bib or stopwatch, so plans are to use this method again.

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Grand Marshal

Kerm passed way just six weeks after he and Carol celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Carol said that while it was hard to lose her husband of many years, she has peace knowing he had faith in God and had accepted him as his Savior.

Over the years, Carol’s spent time active in her church, the Ber- ean Bible Church, and her commu nity as a member of the Haxtun Community Auxiliary. She enjoys playing cards and mahjong with friends and is, more often than not, found on the sidelines of any Haxtun Bulldog sporting event. “I love following the Bulldogs,” she said. Carol has been honored as the Haxtun Super Booster by the Haxtun Booster Club.

Carol also makes frequent trips to Sterling to watch her grand kids’ events; Carol’s family has grown to include five grand children, six great-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Carol graduated with the Haxtun High School Class of 1953 and she is known to ride with or in some way honor her class through the parade every Corn Festival. She said her class was and still is very tight-knit and often get together to celebrate their reunions.

The parade and the street games are her favorite part of the day and she fondly remembers her and friend Donna Harrell winning the softball throw many times. She said she also was a good runner and would win that race, too. Now, she likes to sit and watch as the kids compete and have fun in the afternoon games.

When she was younger, Corn Festival often featured a carnival and she and her friends always looked forward to the rides. One year, she said a very macho friend of hers had brought a girl he was smitten on to Corn Festival and he couldn’t quite handle some of the rides and ended up getting sick. She laughs that he didn’t end up being very macho that day.

“I love Haxtun,” Carol said. “It’s just like a big family and everyone is always so willing to help people.”

This year, as the parade heads down Haxtun’s main street on Sept. 26, Carol will make an appearance in yet another parade, but this time, she will be the guest of honor. She plans to ride a horse drawn carriage with as many of her family mem bers that can make it.

“I’ve always, always looked forward to Corn Festival,” Carol said from her home that she shares with her dog, Wilma. “For a little town, we have such a nice parade.”

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