

# Champaign County Farm Bureau News

Vol. 85 No. 5

801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite A, Champaign, IL 61821

May 2007

Phone (217)352-5235

E-mail: ccfb@ccfarmbureau.com / Website: www.ccfarmbureau.com

Fax (217)352-8768

## Proposed GRT unfair, hidden

Governor Rod Blagojevich wants to provide health care to everyone in Illinois and increase school funding, but the state of Illinois is billions of dollars in debt. His proposed solution to this problem is levying a gross receipts tax (GRT).

A GRT requires a business to pay a tax every time it receives money for a good or service. It is a tax on all income received by a business without any deductions for the cost of doing business. Therefore, GRTs are not based on ability to pay, but are owed whether or not a business is profitable.

In the few states that have a gross receipts tax, the rate is typically lower than a corporate income tax rate due to the much larger tax base.

The most recent proposal by the governor calls for a .85% gross receipts tax on the transfer of personal property including construction, as well as a 1.95% gross receipts tax on services. Businesses whose gross receipts total less than \$2 million are exempt from adding the tax onto their goods and services.

However, each time the tax is imposed on a product through-

out the supply chain, the cost of the tax will be passed on to the next purchaser. Therefore, even businesses who are exempt from adding the tax to their goods and services will still feel the effect as they pay higher prices for their supplies.

The agriculture industry, including farmers, will also be affected in this way. For example, according to numbers provided by leading agricultural industry organizations, as increased costs are passed down from input suppliers to farmers, corn producers will pay an extra \$5.29 per acre for fertilizer, seed, chemical and custom application. In the same way, soybean producers will pay an additional \$2.74 per acre. Using 2006 USDA production figures, these calculations mean that Illinois corn and soybean producers would spend an additional \$87,451,000 a year to put a crop in the ground.

As grain elevators are taxed, they will pass along their costs to corn and soybean producers in the form of lower prices paid. Assuming \$4 per bushel corn and \$8 per bushel soybean prices, farmers would receive 4

cents less per bushel of corn and 7.4 cents less per bushel of soybeans. According to this scenario and using 2006 USDA production figures, Illinois corn and soybean producers would receive an estimated \$108,395,600 less each year at the elevator.

Soon after Governor Blagojevich announced his proposal, the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors voted unanimously to oppose the GRT.

"Taxing gross business receipts represents bad fiscal policy – bad for Illinois farmers and for the business climate in this state," said Illinois Farm Bureau President Philip Nelson. "It is unfair because it is not based on the ability to pay and the tax is imposed whether a business is profitable or not," Nelson said.

Due to the potential impact of this proposed tax, it is important for Farm Bureau members to communicate their opinion on the GRT to their legislators. Though most legislators representing Champaign County have expressed their opposition to the proposal, it is important for them to hear from their constituents.

## CCFB Information Director to resign June 1, begin position in France

Champaign County Farm Bureau Information Director Karen Hertz will resign from her position effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Hertz will be joining the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ, a worldwide, interdenominational Christian ministry.

After completing training and fund-raising, she will be mov-

ing to Toulouse, France. There she will work with a ministry to college students throughout France.

"I've really enjoyed my time at the Farm Bureau. I have learned a great deal and appreciate the effort our members put into making this a great organization," Hertz said. "Though I will still

be in the community for a few more months, I am going to miss working with so many wonderful people."

She thanks everyone for their well wishes during this change in her career and hopes to stay connected to what's happening in Champaign County agriculture.



Ten Champaign County Farm Bureau members took part in the first Farm Bureau trip of 2007. The group visited several sites in Indiana. Above, trip participants (l to r) Arlaine Barnhart, Rawls Walden, Tom Barnhart, Mary Jane Walden, Lorenz Siuts, Janice Siuts and Don Wood pose in front of a mural at the Automotive Heritage Museum in Kokomo, Ind.

## Have you contacted your legislators about the GRT?

Your legislators need to hear from you. Take 5 minutes to call your state representative and senator today.

**52nd District, Senator Mike Frerichs**  
217-782-2507

**53rd District, Senator Dan Rutherford**  
217-782-6597

**55th District, Senator Dale Righter**  
217-782-6674

**103rd District, Rep. Naomi Jakobsson**  
217-558-1009

**104th District, Rep. Bill Black**  
217-782-4811

**105th District, Rep. Shane Cultra**  
217-558-1039

**110th District, Rep. Chapin Rose**  
217-558-1006

## Calendar of Events

### May

- 10 Prime Timers, 10:00 a.m.
- 21 Lady Landowners, 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Office closed for Memorial Day

### June

- 4 Marketing Club, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Young Ag Leaders, 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are in the Farm Bureau auditorium unless otherwise noted. Please call the Farm Bureau at 352-5235 with any questions.

## Farm Bureau to tour Chicago next

The Champaign County Farm Bureau will host a trip to Chicago June 20-21, 2007. This overnight trip will show you a side of the Windy City you may not have seen before. Following is a brief summary of the trip. For complete information, contact the Farm Bureau office.

### Visit Chicago

June 20-21

2 days/1 night

\$335 per person for double occupancy

Trip includes 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners & 1 night lodging.

Trip highlights include:

- A **Step-on Gangster Guided** tour of Chicago. What fun we'll have as you're given the history of the Gangster Era as well as see some of the sights.
- **Tommy Guns Garage – Chicago's only Speakeasy Dinner Theatre for Dinner & Show.**
- A **step-on-guide** will start our day that will include delicious **hot chocolate in Pilsen**, followed by a stop in **Chinatown** at a **fortune cookie factory** and a tour of Chicago's Gold Coast area.
- A **one-hour Architecture cruise** on the historic Chicago River as the professional guides showcase over 40 landmarks of modern American Architecture.



## President's Report

By Scott Bidner

As spring planting is now fully underway, it can be hard to think of anything besides getting into the fields. However, our governor has given us much to think about and act upon. The article on page one explains more about his proposed gross receipts tax, but as we look at that, it may raise more questions about our state budget.

I recently attended a meeting about education funding reform hosted by the Champaign County Farm Bureau. One of the presenters was Professor Jim Nowlan, senior fellow at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs. He also spoke at our April Legislative Committee meeting. At each of those meetings, he shared some helpful and interesting information on our state budget that I would like to share with you.

Illinois gains revenue through a variety of taxes and fees including individual income tax, sales tax, corporate income tax, motor fuel tax, driver's license & motor vehicle fees, public utility tax and the state lottery. However, in recent years these have not been enough to offset the cost of spending as the state debt has tripled in the last four years.

About one quarter of the

state budget is spent on operating expenses. The remaining three-quarters of the state budget go to programs such as education and health care. The governor has tried to deal with the budget deficit by cutting costs where he is able in the operating budget, borrowing money and avoiding payments into the state pension system. He has also used short-term options such as using motor fuel tax funds, which normally go toward highway repair and construction, to pay health care and other bills.

Therefore, the governor needs a new source of revenue to be able to add the new programs he has proposed. The gross receipts tax would provide that revenue, but at what price?

Another point of interest is that Illinois ranks third among the top ten industrial states in the amount of per capita property taxes paid. In 2003, the state received \$7.9 billion in revenue from income taxes. However, Illinoisans paid more than \$17.9 billion in property taxes.

Finally, changing gears, please remember to take safety precautions as you are back in the fields. Take time to eat and rest. No amount of time saved is worth risking the life and health of your co-workers, family or yourself.

## Agriculture TV show resumes

The Champaign County Farm Bureau is once again producing a television program called Champaign County Agriculture Today. The program's purpose is to educate the non-farming community on a variety of agricultural topics within Champaign County. The show is hosted by Champaign County Farm Bureau Board member Dennis Riggs and features different speakers who are knowledgeable on each topic.

The first four segments of season 2 were taped in April and will begin airing in May. The 30-minute segments covered soils, tillage and seeds.

In the soils segments, Howard Brown, manager of agronomy services for GROWMARK, Inc. and Emerson Nafziger, Professor of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois, were the

speakers. They explained that Champaign County has some of the most productive soils in the United States, especially to grow corn and soybeans. They also talked about drainage issues concerning the different types of soils and how to properly take care of our soil so that it stays usable for years to come.

Wayne Coffin, store manager at Birkey's in Urbana, Dave Long, Tillage Product Specialist for Case IH and Howard Brown served as experts on tillage during another half hour segment. They discussed the important role tillage plays in production by restoring the organic matter back into the ground to reuse for the next crop rotation, the different methods of tillage that farmers use such as no-till and strip tillage, and the equipment used for the

different tillage practices.

In the seeds segment, our speakers were Doug Miller, Director of Field Services for the Illinois Crop Improvement Association and Gary Cook, Registered Seed Technologist. They discussed the differences between corn and soybeans vs. grass and flower seeds, the origin of seeds, the depth at which seeds are planted, and the germination process of the seeds.

Champaign County Agriculture Today will air through Urbana Public Television on Insight Cable channel 6 on Sunday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The show will also be aired through Insight Channel 2 at 7:00 p.m. each weeknight. Some of our upcoming topics include urban sprawl, equine, organic farming, weather, drainage, and many more!

## 5th graders try to stump local farmer

Fortunately, when it comes to agriculture in Champaign County, the CCFB Young Ag Leaders are smarter than fifth graders.

In an effort to help students in Champaign-Urbana learn about agriculture, the YAL group has adopted three fifth grade classrooms at Carrie Busey elementary school. Throughout the year, volunteers from the group have talked to the classes about aspects of agriculture such as biotechnology and seeds.

Most recently, the group invited Dennis Riggs to talk to the classes about the many hats a farmer wears. The students then had an opportunity to ask questions ranging from "How do you get the rows straight in your field?" to "How do you make ice cream?"



Champaign County Farm Bureau member Dennis Riggs answered questions from three fifth grade classes at Carrie Busey Elementary School in Champaign as part of the Young Ag Leaders' adopted classroom program. Riggs used a box of hats to explain the many jobs of a farmer. Young Ag Leaders Todd Weitekamp and Chip Jorstad also talked to the classes about how their jobs relate to agriculture.

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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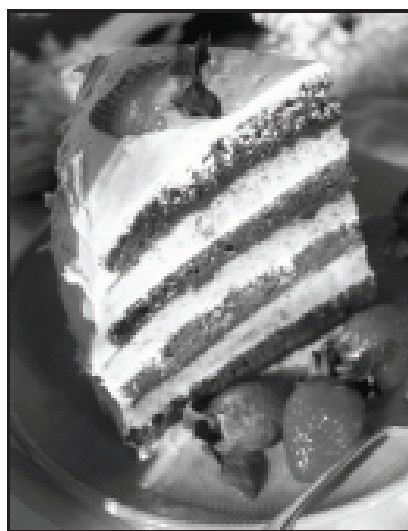
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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Manager -- Bradley Uken  
Administrative Assistant -- Brenda Cole  
Membership Director -- Deidra Gibson  
HMO Administrator -- Donna Huxtable  
Bookkeeper -- Amanda Hesterberg  
Information Director -- Karen Hertz  
Foundation Director -- Debby Rehn

Contact us at (217) 352-5235  
www.ccfarmbureau.com



## The Governor can't have his cake and eat it too!

The Governor says he can tax big business without taxing everyone. That's not true. When business costs increase, businesses pass along those costs to their customers ... that's business.

The Governor's Gross Receipt Tax will have a ripple effect and drive up our cost of living. Take for example an Illinois company that produces cake mixes and buys most of its ingredients from other Illinois businesses. There would be an EXTRA tax put on every transaction that company would make to create the cake mix. An EXTRA tax on the flour the company buys. An EXTRA tax on the sugar purchased. An EXTRA tax on the shortening. An EXTRA tax on the carton. It just goes on and on. There would be more than 28 transactions where the cake manufacturer would have to pay an EXTRA tax.

Undoubtedly, consumers will help share those EXTRA costs, and the Governor doesn't see that.

Let your state legislators know you oppose the Governor's tax plan.

Call toll free and ask for your state senator or state representative:



**1.877.422.8424 Call today!**

A message from Illinois Farm Bureau®



# Foundation Corner



By Debby Rehn

Contact: [debby@ccfarmbureau.com](mailto:debby@ccfarmbureau.com)

The Foundation is prepared to take care of you this summer! Our summer raffle begins May 1<sup>st</sup> and will allow you to **FILL YOUR FREEZER** for your summer barbecue needs. We will be raffling a side of beef, 1 hog and \$100 worth of groceries from Jerry's IGA.

Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 and can be purchased from a Foundation Board member or at the office. Information sheets are also available to give you an idea of approximately just how much meat the winner will receive! Chuck's Locker has offered to store meat for the winners, so don't worry if you do not have the freezer space. The drawing will be held on Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to our raffle sponsors: **Aden Family Farms, Chuck's Ivesdale Locker Service and Jerry's IGA.**

You can also purchase your summer beverage supply from the Foundation with our **COKE 4 COLLEGE** sale. We have eight different products to choose from (order form on page 4). The scholarship program will benefit from each case purchased, so stock up! Orders are due by June 22<sup>nd</sup> and pick-up will be on June 27<sup>th</sup>, just in time for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday!

Spring started with Lunch with the Bunch, allowing donors and scholarship recipients to gather



*The Foundation sponsored Lunch With The Bunch on April 5 as an opportunity for scholarship donors and recipients to get acquainted. Above, Jhane Reifsteck (left), a scholarship recipient, and Barb Esworthy, a scholarship donor, converse during a "get-to-know-you" activity at the luncheon.*

for lunch and socializing. I would like to thank Lincolnshire Fields Country Club for hosting, Robbie Berg for decorating, and Heather Miller for photographing the event. And of course, thank you to all who attended!

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday June 26<sup>th</sup> for MONICAL'S COMMUNITY NIGHT**. The Foundation will receive 20% of carry-out or dine-in orders if our flyer is presented. The flyer will be in next month's paper and we will also have them available at the office. Participating locations include Champaign Mattis, Champaign Kirby, Urbana, Mahomet and Rantoul. Plan a pizza night for your fam-

ily, sports team or neighborhood...you will be supporting Champaign County youth studying agriculture!

We just received our second shipment of **The Farm Family Cookbook** at the office; our first batch sold out quickly! They make wonderful gifts for avid cooks or beginners...and why not buy a raffle ticket to stick in the front cover as an added bonus!

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION!**



### Women welcome Spring with annual event

The Women's Committee hosted more than 100 women for their annual Spring Fling on April 11. The program featured a demonstration of decorative painting by Judy Eggett and a presentation by photographer Larry Kanfer. The theme for the day was "Sip into Spring."

## New FB discount at Great Wolf Lodge

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has added a resort discount at one the Midwest's favorite vacation hot spot, Wisconsin Dells. IFB members can now save 10% off the best available rates and spa services at the Great Wolf Lodge.

Giving new meaning to the term "year-round family resort," Great Wolf Lodge defies the weather outside with an indoor waterpark experience that has young and old soaking in the fun! Its three indoor waterparks put the emphasis on fun with 19

waterslides, six pools and a four-story treehouse waterfort. The state-of-the-art facility utilizes nearly 300,000 gallons of water that is splashed, sprayed, waved and played in by both kids and parents alike.

To take advantage of this member benefit is as easy as sliding down a waterslide. Make advance reservations at 1-800.555.9653 or [greatwolf.com](http://greatwolf.com), and be sure to mention your Illinois Farm Bureau corporate code **ILLI617A**.



## It's time to Fill Your Freezer!

Get ready for summer fun with the CCFB Foundation Raffle. You could win 1 of 3 great prizes while supporting the Foundation scholarship program!

1st Prize: A side of beef

2nd Prize: A hog

3rd Prize: \$100 gift certificate from Jerry's IGA

Tickets \$20 each

or 6 for \$100

Drawing will be June 29, 2007 at the Champaign County Farm Bureau. Proceeds benefit Champaign County students studying agriculture.

To purchase tickets, stop by the Farm Bureau or contact a Foundation volunteer.

Champaign permit #BL-2775. Need not be present to win. Must be 16 years or older to purchase ticket. Employees and board members of the CCFB Foundation are ineligible to win. Winners responsible for applicable taxes and fees.

## "A Day for Women"



**Saturday, June 16**  
**10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

**Champaign County Farm Bureau**

The day's program will include:

**Picture & Document Preservation**  
Anke Voss, Champaign County Archives

**Center for Women in Transition**  
Kathy Ouellette

**Home Decorating**  
Casey Ehler

Lunch included

*This event will also feature various exhibitors sharing pointers on hobbies and ways to pamper yourself.*

**\$3.00 per person**

Call 352-5235 to register. Must register and prepay by June 8.



# CCFB Foundation Coke 4 College

Hosting a holiday cookout? Kids involved in summer sports? Stock up on your summer beverages while supporting the Foundation's scholarship program. Champaign County youth pursuing a career

in agriculture will benefit when you purchase your beverages through our sale!

Coca Cola	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Diet Coke	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Sprite	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Caffeine Free Diet Coke	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Minute Maid Lemonade	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Powerade Fruit Punch	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Dasani Water	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00
Dasani Raspberry Water	24 - 20 oz bottles	\$20.00

Product Pick-up will be Wednesday, June 27 from 2-6 p.m.

Complete this form and return it with payment by **June 22** to the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 801 N. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL 61821.

	Quantity	Price
Coca Cola	\$20	_____
Diet Coke	\$20	_____
Sprite	\$20	_____
CF Diet Coke	\$20	_____
Dasani Water	\$20	_____
Lemonade	\$20	_____
PowerAde	\$20	_____
Dasani Rspbrry	\$20	_____

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Must be paid in full at time of order

Make Checks payable to CCFB Foundation

**Order Due by June 22**

## CCFB offers Defensive Driving Course in May

The Champaign County Farm Bureau is offering a defensive driving course May 15 & 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with an hour lunch break at the Farm Bureau auditorium. The cost is \$12.00.

To sign up for the course, please call the Champaign County Farm Bureau at 352-5235

by May 7. Payment is due at the time of registration to guarantee a spot.

Space is limited to the first 30 participants. Individuals who sign up and do not take the course will be charged \$12.00 unless they cancel prior to the May 7 deadline.

### Committee Happenings

#### Lady Landowners

The Lady Landowners will meet on May 21 at 9:30 a.m. The program and location are yet to be determined. A notice will be sent out with more details when available.

#### Women's Committee

The Women's Committee will not meet during May. The next meeting will be on June 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the Farm Bureau.

#### Young Ag Leaders

The Young Ag Leaders will not meet in May. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on June 7 at the Farm Bureau. Dinner will be provided. Those able will meet at 6:15 p.m. to clean up Springer Drive.

#### Marketing Club


The Champaign County Corn and Soybean Marketing Club will not meet in May. The next meeting will be on June 4 at the Farm Bureau. The speaker will be Mike Zuzolo of Risk Management Commodities.

#### Prime Timers

The Prime Timers will meet at 10:00 a.m. on May 10. The speaker will be Ilene Gibbons of Habitat for Humanity.

Christie Courson will provide the entertainment.

The cost to attend is \$4.00. Call the Farm Bureau at 352-5235 to RSVP.



**Des Moines, IA**

General 1-Day \$23.00  
(4 yrs & up)

(Age 3 and under free. 2nd day tickets may be purchased upon arrival at gate for an additional \$14.50 per ticket.)



1-Day (4 yrs & up) \$30.00  
2-Day Adult \$44.00  
(48" & over)  
2-Day Child \$32.34  
(under 48")  
Individual Season \$71.00

(Children 3 and under are free. Individual season passes - first visit must be at St. Louis then may use at any park in USA. Tickets include Hurricane Harbor Waterpark. Two day tickets go by height and must be consecutive days.)



**Santa Claus, Indiana**

Adult \$31.00  
(54" & up)  
Child/Senior \$28.00  
(Under 54" & 60+)

(Age 2 and under are free. 2nd consecutive-day ticket available at park @ \$19 if purchased on the first day's visit. Free Parking & Unlimited soft drinks.)



Adult 1-day (3-61 or 48"+)  
\$35.00  
Child/Senior \$26.00  
(under 48" or 62+)  
Adult 2-day \$50.00

(Age 2 and under are free. Ticket holders can enjoy the park after 5 p.m. the night before a full-day visit for an additional \$10 fee at the gate. Two-day tickets do not have to be consecutive days. Price DOES include entrance to Boomerang Bay.)




1-Day General \$35.00  
(Age 4 & up)  
2-Day General \$53.00  
(Age 4 & up)

(Children 3 and under are free. 2-day tickets do not have to be consecutive days. One-day child tickets (under 54") are available at the Main Gate for \$36.04. Tickets include Hurricane Harbor. Tickets not valid for Fright Fest.)



Adult \$44.00  
(12 years & up)  
Child (4-11 years) \$34.00  
Ticket includes a free second day within 7 days of first day.  
(Age 3 and under are free. Ticket does not include White Water or Celebration City.)



Adult 1-Day \$15.00  
(over 48")  
Child/Senior (3-6, under 48" or 60+) 1-Day \$12.00

(Age 2 and under are free.)

### FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Two ads per membership per year. Ads will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Ads must be to the Farm Bureau by the 20th of each month. Commercial ads will not be accepted.

**FOR SALE - John Deere** rack wagon w/JD running gears, 6 ply tires, 7'x14' bed w/2" flooring and 6' rear bannister. Good Condition. \$600.

20 ton air/hydraulic bottle jack. Like new. \$60.  
3 ton hydraulic garage floor jack. \$50.  
PortaHeat 150,000 BTU portable space heater. \$50.

Ryobir C356 Chop saw. 14"x1/8"x1". \$50.  
Compact reciprocating saw kit. Never used from Northern Tool. \$40.  
Call 356-8312 and leave message.

**FOR SALE - Amish** crafted oak furniture, like new. 2 open bookcases. \$400 each. 2 Classic L-shaped desks w/raised panels. \$1250 each. 3 end tables. \$125 each. Coffee table, \$150. Sofa table, \$150. Excellent condition. Call 493-7723.

**FOR SALE - Sage green** sofa, \$600. Sage green chair, \$250. HP 3380 fax/copier/printer, \$350. Excellent condition. Call 586-5986.

**FOR SALE - 2001 Ebbtide** Boat Mysti 2100 20 ft. Inboard 350 Magnum. 4 hrs due to owner death. \$22,000. Call 896-2159 6-10 pm.

**FOR SALE - 2004 AQHA** gelding. Oteo, Poco Pine, Sonny South Two, Kid Clu bloodlines. Has looks, brains and athletic ability. Ridden since May 06. Slow shuffle trot, easy canter. Current shots & coggins. Pleasure, reining or roping prospect. Call 684-2096 or 621-4854.

**FOR SALE - 1997 Dodge** Ram SLT 1500 4x4 extended-cab pickup. 167K miles, all maintenance records available. First 100K miles highway miles. Very clean on the inside and in good mechanical working order. Comes with sprayed in bedliner, tonneau cover and tow package. One owner. \$4500 OBO. Call 369-7238.

**FOR SALE - 26' portable** hay conveyor w/electric motor. Good condition. \$400. Call 867-2586.

**FOR SALE - Western** show pads. \$40. All-purpose Granada English saddle, including matching bridle, saddle cover. \$350. Royal blue, 2 saddle cart with bottom storage. \$100. Woman's western show clothes. \$40-\$85. Everything in like-new condition. Need to sell new horse tail extensions. Call 649-5213.