

By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

Several local volunteer groups were greatly benefitted from the annual Cattlemen's Ball in Paxton on June 7-8.

Some of the funds distributed will help right here at home in Perkins County.

The Perkins County Health Services at Grant and Chase County Hospital Foundation at Imperial each received \$7,500, and both will use the funds for satellite treatment center equipment.

The grant fund allocations also included \$10,000 each to the Paxton, Sutherland and Ogallala Volunteer Fire departments. All three departments will use the money for emergency medical technician services and supplies.

Volunteer fire departments at Imperial, Brule, Madrid, Elsie, Grant, Wallace, Hershey, Keystone-Lemoyne and Arthur all received \$5,000 each, with money to be used for emergency medical technician services and supplies.

Other organizations receiving funds included the Sand-hills District nurses, \$10,000 for preventative tests; Gift of Hope at Ogallala, \$10,000 for cancer treatment care; Sutherland rest home and hospital, \$5,000 for cancer treatment care, and Festival of Hope at Scottsbluff, \$5,000 for cancer treatment care.

In all, 20 local healthcare entities received grants.

A total of 16 Cattlemen's Ball events have been held, with more than \$9.73 million raised for cancer research.

This year's Cattlemen's Ball fundraising effort of \$2.12 million smashed the previous high total of \$1.49 million.

A record \$2.12 million was raised this year.

Annually, the ball promotes beef in a healthy diet, showcases rural Nebraska, and raises money for cancer research in the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center at Omaha and local healthcare-related projects.

The ball was hosted by the Ralph and Beverly Holzfaster family of Paxton and the Neal Hansen family of Sutherland.

With 10 percent of the funds raised going back to local entities for healthcare-related projects, this year's Cattlemen's Ball organizers were able to distribute \$200,000 to local agencies.