

Commissioners discuss emergency communication

By Karen Krien

Backup batteries for the repeater tower have been ordered. This was a number one priority for the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met Monday morning.

The matter that there were no backup batteries at the tower was discovered during the storm and tornado which hit the county on March 28. At the previous meeting, the board had discussed whether or not to get batteries or install a generator at the site which is the control tower for emergency medical technicians, law officer and firemen.

Batteries were ordered and the cost will be around \$5,100.

The commissioners discussed the meeting with emergency personnel held in Bird City last week. There was the question "who is in charge if there is an emergency?"

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said his job was to keep in communication with the National Weather Service as well as state emergency personnel. Loren White, Bird City, and George Harper, St. Francis, were those in charge if a tornado or similar storm were to hit their city.

Had the tornado hit the town of Bird City and there was a considerable amount of damage, that would be considered a disaster and Mr. Rogers would have needed to be on the scene.

The meeting had resolved some of these issues. Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that a simple phone call would have solved the problem of who was in charge during the tornado and suggested a meeting with all emergency personnel be held once a year.

Mr. Rogers said that there is an emergency plan being drawn up and once it is completed, there will be an organizational meeting so everyone will know who is responsible for what during storms, emergencies and disasters.

Base radio

During the storm, Bird City had lost electrical power, thus the warning siren didn't work. There were also other problems concerning the lack of power. The firemen had determined that a base radio was needed for the emergency building in Bird City.

A base radio will cost around \$1,200 and the commissioners

agreed that something was needed. Mr. Rogers said St. Francis has a mobile base radio which has an antenna similar to a vehicle antenna and it worked well. He said that, with the mobile base radio, they could talk to anyone they needed to in the county. He also said that the mobile base radio didn't cost nearly as much money.

The commissioners said they had asked Bird City firemen to contact Mr. Rogers as he probably knows more about the base radios. He said he would be glad to help but, as of Monday, no one had contacted him.

New ambulance

The commissioners discussed how to pay for a new ambulance for Bird City. At the present time, the commissioners put back around \$30,000 a year for this purpose. It takes three to four years to accumulate enough money for the ambulance.

Nancy Semler, Bird City, had visited the commissioners at the last meeting and offered to write a grant for a fee. Amy Griffey, Northwest Planning and Development, Hill City, also writes grants and there is no charge. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said the fair board had received a Rural Utility Service loan for the grandstands and there was no interest. Terry Miller, clerk, was asked to talk to Mrs. Griffey.

Join Hands

Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, told about the Join Hands project which will probably be held in June. The project encourages youth to work with the elderly in order to bridge the generation gap.

He asked if there were any service projects with the county which could be completed in a few hours. They suggested he talk to Carl Williams, courthouse maintenance man, Dave Flemming, road and

bridge supervisor, the fair board or the St. Francis Recreation coordinator.

The commissioners talked about the new organization, Cheyenne Initiative Association, and how there are a number of such organizations and members all seem to be working for the same objectives. It would be much better if they all worked together.

Parks and recreation funds

Tina Sager and Canda Orten, representing the Bird City Recreation Commission, asked for money (\$806) out of the Parks and Recreation Fund. The fund is gathered by the tax collected on alcoholic drinks purchased in the county. The money is to be used for parks and recreation projects.

There was \$2,100 in the fund and the board agreed to give the money. Mrs. Sager said the money will be used to paint the bath house at the swimming pool and purchase some benches. They had contacted John Guthmiller at Ross Manufacturing to build the benches out of materials which would not weather like wood. These benches will cost approximately \$350 each. The Commission said five or six benches were needed but would plan only to purchase two or three this year and the remainder next year.

In other business

In other business:
• Clerk Miller was given permission to attend a mandatory meeting and a scholarship selection meeting.

• Ambulance adjustments (write-offs) for last month were \$839.26.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been scheduled for 8 a.m. on Monday, April 30, at the courthouse.



CATCH-IT PIGS were picked on Saturday at the Darrell Pettijohn farm. Kaycee Williams is selecting the pig she wants to take home. Photo courtesy of the Extension Office.

Club Clip

St. Francis Lions Club

The regular meeting of the St. Francis Lions club was held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 9, with President Clarence Iliff opening the meeting. There were 20 members and one guest present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Marvin Zimbelman gave the invocation. The attendance drawing was won by Norman Morrow. Dennis Merklin introduced his guest, Deb Gohl.

Following the meal, several items of business were dealt with including March minutes by Betty Lampe, thank you notes from Dolores Raile and Cheyenne County Historical Society and the financial report by Dorothy Kellner.

Mr. Iliff read a thank you note from the Coronado Area Council

for the money to support the Boy Scouts of America, and also read a letter from Susan Roelfs announcing that the first Cheyenne County Community Healthcare Partner's Fair will take place on May 12 at Sawhill Park during the Cheyenne County Car Show.

Mr. Morrow thanked the club for participating in the Cheyenne Initiative Association.

Laura Reeser became a new member. Her sponsor was Rick Reeser.

Election of officers for the year of July 1 through the following June 30 was held.

Elmer Kellner and Dennis Merklin were presented certificates for recruiting new members.

The guest, Deb Gohl, thanked the club for the donation to the Girl Scouts.

She also gave an interesting report about her years in Girl Scouts. She told the things that Girl Scouts worry about today include: the economy, their physical and emotional well being, global violence, being able to cope with troubling things in the world and how to survive.

Rueben Schultz nominated Marvin Zimbelman to serve on the Scholarship Committee again. Francis O'Leary and Dick Rohweder volunteered to help.

The Sight I project was discussed. Elmer Kellner suggested the group have John Powell from Atwood attend the May meeting to inform members more about the project.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be May 14. Anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to attend.

Club Clip

Ramblers Club

Ramblers' Club met at Becky's Bierocks on Wednesday, April 12, for a very interesting talk on how she began her business, and samples of her products. After her presentation they moved across the street to Sondra Bracelin's home for the remainder of the meeting.

Reports and communications

were given. Roll call "a favorite bread I like to make," was answered by the 15 members present.

The May meeting will be a brunch at the home of Kate Jenkins at 10 a.m., on May 9, with co-hostesses, Rose Mary Bierig and Sherry Schultz.

900
~~The 800~~
pound
Gorilla



Just got a whole lot bigger!

That's right. The Gorilla has been growing. Already the biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region, **The Country Advocate** has been adding readers all year.

No more 800-pound weakling. Now **The Advocate** is the 900-pound gorilla of Northwest Kansas advertising!

First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

Then, the Gorilla picked up 1,750 new home-delivered households in Norton County when *The Norton Telegram* joined the club.

When you need to sell something,

find something or notify someone, the Gorilla is your best friend. Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 42,000 readers across northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado, the Gorilla packs a punch. It can move your refrigerator or your old car. A house? No problem for the Gorilla. And all at rates that save you money.

And **The Advocate** is nearly all

home delivered. Some "shoppers" count on people picking them up at the filling station. It's cheap, but it can't compare to home delivery reaching nearly every house in the area.

Just try it! The Gorilla will work hard for you. Call today with your ad.

Bird City Times

Box 167, Bird City, Kan. 67731
(785) 734-2621

THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749
(785) 475-2206

 **COLBY FREE PRESS**
155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan. 67701
(785) 462-3963

The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
(785) 899-2338

THE NORTON TELEGRAM
215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
(785) 877-3361

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756
(785) 332-3162