

# Trail ride canceled this year

The annual Cheyenne County Trail Ride was cancelled because of cold, wet weather for two Sundays in a row. Gary Cooper, coordinator, said next year's ride is already planned for the second Sunday in October. The place will be the Kelly Gienger farm north of St. Francis.

This is the first time in 17 years that the ride has been cancelled. Riders have endured some pretty cool temperatures but cold rain just makes it too miserable to enjoy the day.

Each year, Sharon Olofson has coordinated the trail ride with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Riders are asked to donate money to help children who are unable to go on a trail ride and, while the donations are not huge, they add up.

"This year, since there is no ride, Sharon doesn't have any money to send to St. Jude," Mr. Cooper said.

Mrs. Olofson is hoping there will be some people who donate to the children's hospital even if they didn't get to ride. Donations can be sent to her at P.O. Box 307, St. Francis, KS 67756.



**BAD WEATHER CAN'T STOP 4-Hers!** Emily Elfers learns how to shoot a bow and arrow from Penny Archibald. Despite the wind and rain many kids showed up at the fair grounds for the 4-H Shooting Open House.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

# Workers needed to help

By Karen Krien  
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The steel structure and frame of the new emergency building on U.S. 36 went up several months ago. Then there was little activity as it was harvest time or the weather prevented work. In the past month, cement approaches with heating coils have been poured.

Now, the weather is beginning to change. The temperatures have dropped and the days are shorter. Volunteers have a difficult time finding enough daylight to work at their job, then go to the emergency building for another two to four hours.

To meet the requirements of the Kan-Step grant, the building must be done in March. Firemen, along with other volunteers, are beginning to worry.

The football team was lined up on Saturday to help with the roof but, conflicts and the prediction of wind

caused the schedule to be canceled. "If we can just get the roof put on, then we can work on the inside during the cold weather," said Derrick Tice, fireman.

When the roof is up, more help will be needed.

"If you can push a broom, go for nails, paint, help with insulation, carry a hammer — anything, we can count your volunteer hours for 'points,'" said Mr. Tice.

He is also encouraging groups such as senior citizens, home extension, 4-H and other clubs to "please come help."

The stipulations of the grant is the funds will be furnish for materials and the volunteer hours will be matched to the dollars.

"We need everybody," Mr. Tice said.

Ron Krien, contractor, has agreed to be the foreman but, he, too, is a busy man. Coordinating volunteers'

and the contractor's hours has been a challenge but, this week, there has been a call for all volunteers to be at the building site, starting on Wednesday. There will be a serious push to get the roof on and, if possible, the building closed in.

Roger Jensen and other volunteers have been putting together partitions in Jensen's shop. Anything else that can be done off the job site is being done so, when the building is enclosed, the next steps of the job will be done as quickly as possible.

When the emergency building is complete, it will house the fire trucks, ambulances and other emergency equipment. There will be offices for the emergency manager and ambulance director as well as a meeting room.

Most importantly, the building will be paid for — thanks to the people who have volunteered their time and the Kan-Step grant.

# Public hearing held for grant

By Karen Krien  
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On Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 12:45 p.m., a public hearing was held at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. The hearing was held so people could voice their opinion about pursuing a Community Development Block Grant to purchase an ambulance for Bird City.

No one was present so the hearing was closed.

Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, discussed the ambulance grant with the commissioners and Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director. The commissioners agreed to move forward with the grant.

Mrs. Bowers said some technicians thought a four-wheel drive ambulance would be a good purchase. No decision was made.

Clerk Terry Miller told the commissioners that surveys will be required for rural Bird City residents to complete in order to apply for the ambulance grant.

Mrs. Bowers presented contractual write-offs in the amount of \$1,251.

She told the commissioners that, after talking with county attorney Justin Barrett, the ambulance department will participate in the Kansas Setoff Program. This is a billing procedure.

Mrs. Bowers asked for permission to purchase shoulder microphones for some of the technicians. She said that some of the technicians are farmers and while they are on the tractor, they have trouble hearing a page. With these microphones, they can wear it on their shoulder to hear better the call. Approval was granted.

**Fairground entrance** The entrance road to the fairgrounds in St. Francis was discussed. At the last fair board meeting, the matter of a better road was on the agenda.

The commissioners talked about possible funding to repair the road. They were told that any voluntary contribution to a government entity can be used as a tax deduction.

There is a program administered through the Department of Commerce called a "Small Communities Improvement Program" or SCIP, that requires local sweat equity to help complete the project. Other options were also discussed.

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, later discussed the fairgrounds entry road but no decisions were made.

### Sheriff's report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen, introduced deputies Michael Blehm and John Lanz. Wage agreements for officers Blehm, Cody Beeson, and Sheriff Van Allen were signed.

Sheriff Van Allen said he needed some portable radios for the officers. He has talked to Gary Rogers, emergency manager, about the types to get and would like to purchase them from his budget rather than deplete the 911 Fund. The commissioners said it was the sheriff's choice on how he

purchased the radios.

Carol Gamblin, communications director, discussed the physical progress in the 911 dispatch area of the sheriff's office. The Global Software contract for the equipment had been received but will not be signed until the county attorney reviews it.

Mrs. Gamblin said she is currently taking dispatcher applications and has some candidates.

### Appraiser's office

Appraiser Randy Sangster said he had hired Kathy Graf to help in the appraiser's office. Randy suggested Ms. Graf start as an appraiser clerk level I and in 90 days, move her to level II. Within the next year, they can move her to level III and the next step would be to appoint her as deputy appraiser and continue with schooling to help her become qualified. The commissioners agreed.

### In other business

In other business  
• Carol Rogers, High Plains Mental Health representative for Cheyenne County, presented a letter from the board chairman of the organization. The letter listed the many government cuts the group will be facing and assured the commissioners that High Plains was working on solutions to these budget cuts.

# City council hires law officers

By Margaret Bucholtz  
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The city of St. Francis has been without an official chief of police since Troy Gardner left the end of August. At the Oct. 16 meeting, the council voted to hire a chief and two officers.

Acting chief of police, Sarah Clogsten, gave the police report and asked for 10 minutes in executive session. After coming out, the council voted to hire David Warren as a part-time officer along with Dan Blair, who would work one day a week. It was also announced that Jason Ryan has accepted the job of chief of police and will start Nov. 3. Officer Ryan had previously been an officer with the department.

### Tour of town

St. Francis is a member of the

Ogallala Commons, which is made up of small towns. The Cheyenne County Initiative group met with members of the Commons to give them a tour of St. Francis.

Mayor Scott Schultz said the tour was to be about half an hour but lasted for over two hours. All of the people attending were very impressed with the town and they highlighted the town's positives.

One of their highlights was Sawhill Park and the band shell. They suggested having concerts in the park.

They were impressed with Main Street businesses and the overall condition of the town. Mayor Schultz noted that, in the past few years, there have been eight new small businesses.

### Memorial Park

The new lot which was bought

on the east side of the city office is being call "Memorial Park." Natalie Knodel, council member, reported that Robyn Raile is going to design a plan of fixing up the park. She will report back at a future meeting with the plan.

### In other business

In other business:

• Building permits were approved for Gerald Lauer to build a garage and Majestic Service to add a small addition.

• Zoning variances will be changed so each person will sign a separate sheet of paper instead one with a list of names.

• Superintendent J. R. Landenberger reported that Dick Morton will be able to fix the air space under the deck of the pool and it was approved to have it completed. He thought it would take no more than two days to complete the work. His charge will be \$1,000 a day.

Corrine, her husband, Jared and boys, Colby, Logan and Dylan.

Saturday evening supper guests of Kurt and Margaret Bucholtz were Gary and Bonnie Cooper; Greg, Janan, Gavin, Gatin and Garrin Cooper; Doug and Marla Ross; Lezlie, Casey and Joey McCormick; Travis, Trevor and Lexi Hilt. Everyone enjoyed the evening visiting with Keri Feather.

## St. Francis News

Betty Jean Winston enjoyed spending Saturday in Lakin with granddaughter, Corrine, and her family. She watched her great-grandson, Colby, participate in two football games in the end-of-the-season Bronc Super Bowl sponsored by the Lakin Rec Commission. He plays on the third/four grade Lakin team which lost to Syracuse and defeated Ulysses. She enjoyed having lunch with

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**WRAY COMMUNITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

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Richard Allan Straub Jr.

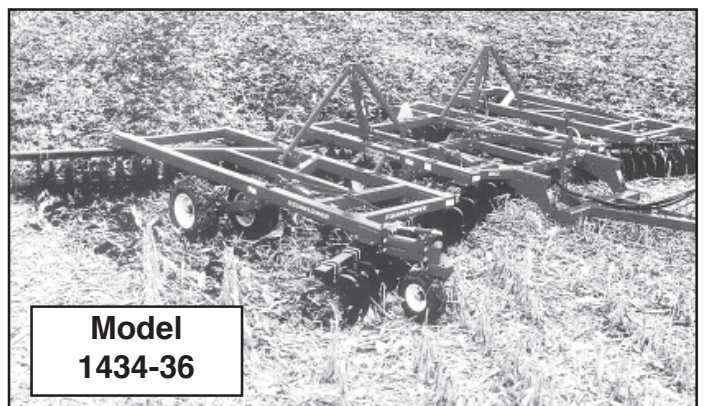


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**Thurs., Nov. 8**  
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Colby (p.m.)  
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