



FIREMEN EXTINGUISHED the fire at the Rex Murray farm on Thursday. Above is what was left of the lodge Mr. Murray had just finished remodeling. Fire also burned about 500 acres of grass, corn stalks and wheat stubble. The Murray home was not damaged in the fire. *Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

and watch a big screen television. They had even installed a kitchen to entertain those visiting.

Sunday evening, Mr. Murray said he hadn't slept since Thursday morning and he was tired. He didn't know what they were going to do. "Maybe I should just call it quits," he said.

Family and friends had helped clean up the remains, the couple said. However, it wasn't just the people around the area helping. Hunting friends from Denver had stopped by Holyoke, Colo., to pick up and bring a dog trailer for him to use. Someone brought a shotgun.

The Murrays know a lot of people, having been involved with the dogs and hunters in state and national events. They began receiving phone calls from coast to coast. A hunter who was supposed to come this week called. When he found out about the fire, he said he was coming anyway just to help.

A New Mexico man arrived Sunday. He said he was hunting in South Dakota when he heard about the fire, and told Rex that he just packed up his stuff and came down to help.

It really meant a lot that people did that, Mrs. Murray said, what Rex does has touched so many lives.

The Murrays, along with children Crystal and Ryan, bring in hunters from all over the United States. Mr. Murray also raised and sold Vizsla dogs and trained his dogs and other breeds to hunt. He had dogs lined up to train for months in advance, his wife said.

The business had started as a hobby. Murray said he had always loved to hunt and dogs respected him as much as he did the dogs. Dogs knew him years after he had trained them.

He developed Ringneck Country, a state-licensed controlled shooting area featuring over 7,900 acres of upland game hunting. Murray said hunters could go after native birds

or controlled hunts with pen-raised birds.

Hunters arrive regularly to hunt the game. Pheasants wait in hatches, waiting to be released for a hunt. Often, they would bring a dog or two to be trained. The reserve features pheasant, quail and chukker. Murray said they mow the fields and plant feed to make sure the birds have a good habitat. He also holds hunting competitions on his property three times each year.

It took over three hours for firemen from Goodland, Bird City and St. Francis to put out the fire. A strong south wind hampered volunteers as they fought at least 3 miles of fire which burned grass, corn stalks and wheat stubble. People came with tanks of water and farmers arrived with disks and tractors to help control the flames.

"It is dry," said George Harper, fire chief. "There was high wind and the humidity was below 15 percent, making high fire index — fires start more easily and burn more rapidly."

Other fires

More fires have been reported since the Murray fire.

Chief Harper said firemen were called to extinguish a fire in a combine about 15 miles southwest of St. Francis late afternoon on Saturday. He said the fire appeared to have started in the engine compartment. Besides burning the combine, a small amount of milo was destroyed. The combine belonged to Kendall Helton.

On Monday, firemen were called to assist Sherman County firemen in a fire just over the county line. There was no information available.

HUNT

Continued from Page 1A of Commerce.

Soup supper

The Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Technicians will be holding a soup supper on Friday starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center at 322 W. Washington Street. They will be serving homemade chili and vegetable soups, relishes and cinnamon rolls.

The proceeds will help purchase a "stair chair" for the St. Francis technicians. Bird City already has one.

Jannelle Bowers, director, said so many homes are too small to get a gurney in and the chair helps the technicians to get a patient down the stairs or out of a tight spot. The chair will cost approximately \$2,100.

The technicians will be serving soup until they run out. Those who didn't have time to eat before the parade will want to stop by and eat a late lunch and help out the technician.

Santa

Santa Claus will be at Bankwest following the Light Parade. Children are urged to come tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

Treats will be given.

This is also a great time for parents and grandparents to bring their camera for a special Christmas photo.

Drawings

The Christmas Opening is sponsored by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce. However, throughout the season, with every \$10 of merchandise purchased in a participating business (decorated boxes and cans will be marked), the customer can enter the Chamber's drawing for a chance to win one of three \$200 scrip prizes.

The drawing will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17, in front of Jaqua Abstract. It will be held in conjunction with the St. Francis Herald and businesses Christmas On Us drawing for \$1,000 and \$100 in scrip and the Cheyenne County Museum's Christmas drawing; along with the announcement of the winners of the coloring contest and Christmas lighting contest. The ABC Preschool parents and sponsors will also be serving chili to help keep people warm during the drawing.

NUMBERS

Continued from Page 1A WWW

matching a number in the Christmas On Us ad pages must claim their prize before 5 p.m. the next Monday by bringing it into *The Herald* office. There is an exception to the deadline the week of the Christmas On Us drawing and, then winners must claim their prize by noon on Monday.

Check out the new numbers placed in ads each week because if ticket numbers from the week before are not claimed by the following Monday, they will no longer be considered.

If a ticket number is unclaimed, a new number will be drawn and it will be added to the next week's numbers on the Christmas On Us pages.

A total of \$400 in scrip will be given to Instant Winners and a total of 12 business prizes will be given away.

"Start collecting those tickets today and you might be the \$1,000 winner," Mr. McCormick said.

It is not necessary to make a purchase to claim a ticket because those coming to *The Saint Francis Herald* office may each receive one ticket per week.

"Each week, participating merchants will be advertising sales and specials in the ads on the Christmas On Us pages so while you are looking for matching numbers, be sure to take a good look at the specials," Mr. McCormick said.

Participating businesses in the Christmas On Us drawings are:

- Bier's Hometown Store
- Goodell Greenhouse and Garden Center
- Hilltop General Store
- Owens True Value
- Parkhill Restaurant
- Ross Manufacturing
- St. Francis Super's
- Schultz's
- St. Francis Equity
- The Saint Francis Herald
- United Methodist Thrift Store
- Video Kingdom

Enhanced 911 installed; up in mid December

By Karen Krien
karenk@nwkansans.com

The announcement was made at the Thursday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting that the new Enhanced 911 system should be up and running by the end of December.

Jim O'Laughlin, president of Allied Information Solutions, was hired earlier to oversee the installation and equipment purchases. He was at the Thursday meeting to update the commissioners on the progress. He said that when the equipment has been installed and is up and running, it will be one of the best systems in the state.

The dispatch center will be located in the southwest part of the sheriff's office in the courthouse. Enhanced 911 will better serve the county residents as it will enable mobile or cellular phones to process 911 emergency calls and help emergency services such as fire and medical personnel, to locate the geographic position of the caller.

When a person makes a 911 call using a traditional phone with ground wires, the call is routed to the dispatch center. Dispatchers then send out an emergency call to the proper services.

When the dispatcher receives that call, the exact location of the phone from which the call was made is known.

Mr. O'Laughlin said the county project is still on budget and commended the commissioners on keeping the 911 funds, which are collected through the telephone bills, in check.

He said the mapping has been done and the staff at the appraiser's office had done a very good, clean job. He said the new photography will be much clearer and will also be done by Dec. 15.

One of the more difficult jobs in the installation is running the necessary cables to the dispatcher's office.

Mr. O'Laughlin said he was applying for a grant in 2008, which would cover some of the maintenance expenses over the next five years. This would free up the county's 911 Fund to build up for replacement equipment as needed.

Dispatch office

The commissioners watched a CD on real situations dispatchers handle. Carol Gamblin, communications director, had brought the CD and said that a dispatcher generally lasts at the job about seven years — that the burnout rate is high.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said every person in the county should be able to watch the CD and see just what a dispatcher does and goes through.

Andy Beikman, chairman, noted that the dispatcher's job is so important as they need to know who to send where in different situations. "We don't want a cop sent into a situation that they don't know what they are getting into," he said.

Mrs. Gamblin has interviewed dispatchers and, before they are hired, they will also watch the CD.

She will report on dispatchers and the progress of the office at the next meeting.

Book Review

Book review from St. Francis Public Library

The Quickie

By James Patterson

When she sees her husband with another woman, Lauren Stillwell's heart nearly stops beating. Their marriage is perfect, she has a great job, she loves her life. But his betrayal turns her into someone she never imagined she could be — a woman lusting for revenge.

It was supposed to be a quickie, a way to even the score. But Lauren's night of passion takes a shocking turn when she witnesses an unexpected, unbelievable, deadly crime. Her horrifying secret threatens to tear her life apart, pitting her need to uncover the truth may be too horrible to bear. And whichever choice she makes could cost her dearly — her job, her marriage, even her life.



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- **3-Cheese Penne Bake - \$6.99**
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