Response team seeks volunteers

By Amanda Miller amiller@nwkansas.com

The Northwest Kansas Community Emergency Response Team is seeking volunteers to serve on a new Community Emergency Response Team.

After the floods in Colorado last year, many residents of northwest Kansas were calling, wanting to know what they could do to help. Organization was key, and if something similar happened here, having a system in place would benefit the community.

Ryan Murray, Emergency Management Director, said that he saw a need for volunteers that could assist the firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and emergency management team during an emergency. The first responders will have a lot of duties to perform during an emergency. A separate group of volunteers to assist the first responders, in an organized fashion, would be beneficial.

That is when Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, and Thomas counties collaborated. Mr. Murray is the Emergency Management Director of Cheyenne, Rawlins and Sherman county. Thomas county also liked the idea of the northwest counties working together in the event of an emergency, and came on board.

The counties submitted a grant project to the Kansas Citizen Corps to establish a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). This is the first plan of action of it's kind, and the state of Kansas is using northwest Kansas as a model, Mr. Murray said.

They were notified that the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Citizen Corps, and Kansas Highway Patrol awarded the grant to fund development of the joint training program. The grant money provided will fund all the training and necessary expenses so that the counties do not incur them.

The Community Emergency Response Team Program provides basic emergency and disaster preparedness instruction to commu-

nity members through its introductory training class. The CERT introduction class is approximately 20 hours, and is free. Everyone can benefit from learning to be better prepared for an emergency

Following a catastrophic event, such as a flood or tornado, residents may be called upon to assist with local emergency services to help protect the community.

Those selected to serve on a lohelp. With training and practice by be able to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people after a disaster, while protecting

Basic emergency and disaster response skills training will include fire safety, light search and rescue skills, team organization, and its function within the emergency response model, basic emergency medical care and disaster medical operations, and community disaster recovery sup-

Northwest Kansas Community Emergency Response team welcomes all members of the community who are interested in helping serve those in need.

Volunteers are needed to join the CERT program. Stacy Kaup and Randy Nelson will be team leaders in Cheyenne county. Jordan Riley is the team leader for Sherman county, and David Becker is team leader for Thomas county.

If you would like to join, or are interested in additional information, please contact Stacy at the Cheyenne County Emergency Management office, 785-332-2560, or email her at daskaup@ gmail.com. She will be more than happy to assist you and/or put you in contact with one of the leaders.

Woman receives a huge dinner surprise

grandchildren, and four great-grand children for a surprise birthday party. Joy and her family enjoyed steaks, laughs, and stories. They ended the evening with raspberry cake, hugs, and precious memories. Joy feels spending time with her family was the best birthday present she could have received.

In attendance: Harold and Christy

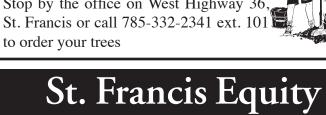
"Surprise!" is exactly what Joy Tygart of St. Francis; Larry and Dallas, Texas; Alé Lorimer and her husband Eric of Shawnee; Danielle Waite of Denver; Adam Tygart and his wife Nicole of Manhattan; Andy Waite, his fiance Betty and their son Anderegg of St. Francis; Killy Lampe and her daughter Billeigh of St. Francis; and Matthew Tygart and his friend Melanie of Dallas.

Trees for Sale

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will be taking orders for trees and shrubs until mid-March.

Order early to guarantee availability. Anyone may order in any amount. Trees will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 12, 2014,

from 8 a.m. to noon. We also sell heavy duty fabric weed barrier and drip supplies for your windbreaks, gardens or landscaping projects. Stop by the office on West Highway 36,

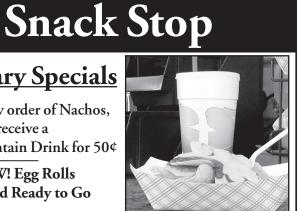


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cal CERT team will receive continuing training that will equip them to be able to assist local emergency responders. The training covers basic skills that are important to know in a disaster, when emergency services need working as a team, volunteers will themselves from becoming a vic-

about these "fake number" phone calls, or collect phone calls, and heeded warnings not to answer. The Better Business Bureau has put out several warnings over the last month about scammers that are hitting the phones. Here are some things consumers will want to know if they receive a phone

recognize

By Amanda Miller

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est article for this week about a

'one-ring scam" going on, a curi-

I have heard a few warnings

call from an unrecognizable num-

recently issued a fraud alert for

the "one ring scam" after being

contacted by people all across the

ous thing happened. I received a

As I was busy typing up the lat-

Anderegg felt as she entered Big Cathy Tygart, Chris and Mary Ed's the evening of Jan. 11. She was Glascock of Denver; Sheila and expecting to be treated to a birthday Terry Hilt of St. Francis; Dana dinner by her daughter Sheila Clendenin of Bird City; Rachel and her husband Terry Hilt, of St. Tracy and her friend Chris of Denver; Francis, but what was in store was Derek Vella, his wife Jocelyn and an even bigger treat. Joy was greeted their daughters Madison and Avery at Big Ed's by her five children, 10 of Greeley, Colo.; Aaron Tygart of

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According to information reter the first ring, they disconnect. They hope you'll see that number in your missed call log and be cu-

Beware of fraudulent telephone calls

rious enough to return it. If you do return that call, you phone call from a number I did not might be sorry.

WORKERS CONTINUE at a frantic pace to complete the B&W building on Highway 36.

The caller is connected to an expensive international hotline that charges as much as \$19.95 as soon as you connect. There may also be a sizable per-minute fee.

Some area codes of the scammers include Antigua (268), British Virgin Islands (284), Dominican Republic (809), Grenada (473), Jamaica (876) and Turks & Caicos Islands (649).

Always stop and think before you return any unknown call. You The Better Business Bureau can Google the number, to check the area code, and see if there are

any scam reports. The phone call I received was country. This is how it works. The from an area code of (855). After phone. scammers use automatic dialers to doing a search, I found multiple

randomly call phone numbers. Af- lection scheme.

ceived by Better Business Bureau, calls from this number are from "National Fraud and Investigation Agency." They accuse consumers of defaulting on payday loans and threaten that if consumers don't pay immediately via wire or by providing bank account or credit card numbers, he or she will be arrested or sued.

At the City Council meeting, police chief Shane Guggenmos warned that in Nebraska there have been scammers calling stating that they must pay past due utility bills. These bills are not real, but the victim believes that they may have missed a payment, and gives over account information to pay it. Always double check with your utility services before paying anything over the

Scammers may have consumcomplaints of a phony debt col- er's Social Security, old bank ac-

count numbers, or driver's license numbers, as well as home addresses, employer information, or even the names of personal friends and professional references to make

Herald photo by Tim Burr

The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice to consumers if they receive a suspicious telephone call about an out-

it seem that the threats are legiti-

standing debt: • Ask the debt collector to provide official documentation which substantiates the debt.

• Do not provide or confirm any bank account, credit card, or other personal information over the phone until you have confirmed the legitimacy of the call.

• File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online if the caller is abusive, uses threats, or otherwise violates federal telemarketing laws.



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