

Cheyenne County Sheriff gives speech at fundraiser

By Norma Martinez
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In conjunction with the Emergency Responders Fundraiser held recently in Bird City, Sheriff Cody Beeson reminisced on his recollections of the fire department, and spoke on the present emphasis being placed on Emergency Services. Modern technology advertises tools that will end all crime, but in reality, most agencies can't afford them, and obviously we will still have crime, he said, and in the emergency field the best resource is in the intelligence, ability, and courage of the responders. Before looking into the future, it's necessary to pause and look to the past to find a solution to future problems.

Reflecting on his fond memories as a child, Beeson said, "My father was a Bird City fireman when I was growing up, and I spent lots of time at the fire department." Back then, the fire trucks were yellow instead of the traditional red, he said, and he has memories of riding on his father's lap as he drove the big International rural 2 fire truck in a parade at age two. As a school child, he remembers Hal Sager showing his class around, and spraying water out of the hose. The kids were excited about the rainbow effect from the water, but he was more interested in the big International fire truck. He knew then - he wanted to drive that big yellow truck and be a fire fighter.

As time went on, a new fire station was built, and fire phones and the siren were replaced with pagers and radios. His desire to be a fire man did not change after attending college and marrying, so he joined the Bird City Fire Force. He still remembers the first time he went to the Emergency Building, put on his gear, and was told to get into any truck. There it was...Rural 2... the big yellow

International Fire Truck. "There was no way," he said, "I was going to go to my first fire in any other truck." Between Dave Hickert and him, with his big smile, he didn't think there was room for anyone else to ride in that truck. "I was four years old when this big yellow truck was built, and it still serves the people in Cheyenne County today," he said.

When emergency services was first started in Bird City, the fireman's purpose was self explanatory - to put wet stuff on red stuff. "The EMS was to take care of you, and the sheriff rode around on his horse to keep the peace. Today these two departments have blended together, and represent the community as 'first responders'," he said.

Through the years, especially after the 9/11 attack, terrorist attacks and agro-terrorism, technology, and training have been enhanced. Previous sheriff's did not have to worry about protecting the farmer and rancher's cattle and the nation's food supply from being attacked by a foreign animal disease attack. Once the United States intelligence found this to be a threat, the state of Kansas took action to protect it's food supply. Previous sheriff's did not have to worry about this sort of protection.

In today's society, the old fashioned 911 calls do not serve the needs of the population and the standards and policies of organizations striving to fit into new and changing Government regulations.

Today's technology needed by emergency responders is expanding. At the sheriff's office, they are being forced to change their procedures and techniques for fingerprinting suspects. The sheriff's office, Mr. Beeson says, still uses the old fashioned ink and ten print card systems, and are the last to give up this system mainly because of the cost. Live scan

digital fingerprints are instantly sent via the internet, and are matched in a short amount of time. The results are faster, and provide a safer community by speeding up the time in catching those who are wanted for crimes or comparing prints to prints found at crime scenes. Sheriff Beeson says, "It will not be long until Cheyenne county is forced to have this system in place."

Using the comparisons of the unimaginable disasters of airplanes flying into buildings on 9/11, he related how unexpected it was for a bomber plane to blow up in the skies over Bird City when folks woke to cut wheat that day. Beeson says Emergency responders never know what lies ahead, and they have to be equipped, trained, and provided with updated equipment in case of future similar events.

Bird City, having the Emergency Building with ample space dedicated to a training room for first responders, shows the community's commitment to have the best responders they can. Sheriff Beeson asked those who were gathered around the tables used for training and planning sessions to look at the volunteers as a sheep dog. "I want you to imagine the room as the shepherd," he says, "The sheep dog has a shepherd to lead it, but when the wolf attacks, it must respond regardless, if the shepherd is there with it or not. It must react partly out of instinct, but also from what the shepherd has taught it."

This emergency response room is where CPR is taught, the firefighter is taught to put on the proper gear to enter that 700 degree inferno, deputies are taught to identify meth labs, and young children are forged into not just being responders but into leaders. His final words were: With the importance of a strong emergency service to the community



SHERIFF CODY BEESON meets with Cheyenne County Emergency Management Director Ryan Murray. Both are an important part of the emergency responders in Cheyenne County.
Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez.

and a constant need for people who can step up the ladder and all the talk about ability, technology and preparedness, the

future of emergency service happens where the rubber meets the road, where the hands work, where the sweat is poured. The

future of emergency services is in us. It is in the children we raise and in the community we build.

Idalia News

Community News
Tuesday, April 1, 6 p.m. The Idalia Book Club will meet at the Cornerstone Center to enjoy a potluck meal and a discussion of "A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving. Everyone is invited to read the book and join in the always stimulating conversation!

St. John News
Sunday, March 23, 10:30 a.m. The worship service will include a discussion of The

Story, Chapter 22: The Birth of Christ. John 1:1-18

Wednesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. A Lenten community soup supper, provided by the church, will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Following the meal, Pastor Chuck Wright will lead a Bible study discussion, We Are The Church: A Teaching Community.

Thursday, March 27, 10:15 a.m. Pastor Chuck and members of St. John will share worship and fellowship with residents of

By Pastor Chuck Wright



Hillcrest Care Center, Wray. Sunday, March 30, 10:30 a.m. This 5th Sunday worship service will be multi-generational study and discussion of, The Story, Chapter 23: Jesus' Ministry Begins. Mark, Chapters 1-3.

Idalia school news
March 24-30. No school. Spring break.

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Making Decisions Based on Crops Water Usage

Limited water in our environment is a given, whether in a dry-land or irrigated system. However, we can manage the soil and water content to our benefit. Limited water is at the forefront of many producers minds. Many cases of limited water spur from physical limitations, where the irrigation system can't keep up with the crop needs. In other cases, it is an institutional limitation, such as the LEMA enacted in Sheridan 6, where producers can pump 55 inches of irrigation water over a 5 year period.

We are lucky to have silty loam soils throughout much of the K-State Sunflower District. This means we can store up to 2 inches of water per foot of soil. This means we have a full profile, plants can extract roughly 8 inches of water in the top 4 feet of soil.

Now why is that important? Let's compare wheat and corn. For wheat, it takes 10 inches of water to grow a vegetative plant and move a plant into the seed producing portion of the life cycle. For corn, this value is 10.9 inches. If we have a full profile (8 in of water in 4 feet), it is close, but not quite

enough to help grow both a corn and wheat. The good news is that most of the time we are getting moisture to help grow this plant.

The next stage of the plant's life cycle is important and how it utilizes the water available. For wheat, we get 6 bushels per acre of wheat for 1 inch of soil moisture. For corn, 16.9 bu/ac for each inch of water. Therefore, we get more yield per inch of water from corn. However, under dry conditions, the wheat plant will enter it's reproductive stages with less water than corn. Hence, why wheat is considered more drought tolerant than corn.

For other drought tolerant crops, the values to grow a plant are even lower. To grow a plant to the reproductive stages, it takes 5.4 and 6.9 inches with sunflower and grain sorghum, respectively. Then for each additional inch of water, sunflower produces 218 lb/ac and grain sorghum produces 12.2 bu/ac.

Thankfully, we do not just rely on stored soil moisture to feed crops throughout the growing season. The wettest months are May, June, July and August. The mois-

ture received during this time coincides with times of peak water usage of the crops.

Looking over the weather data for the past couple years, we are quite a ways behind normal. For 2013, the precipitation is 4.17, 3.08, and 5.70 below normal for Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace Counties, respectively. If you look even further back, we are behind 6.02, 11.0, and 12.15 inches in Cheyenne, Sherman and Wallace Counties in 2012.

When you are finishing your cropping plans, keep in mind how much water it takes to grow a plant and where your farm is for stored soil moisture. Charts with these values are available on our website at www.sunflower.ksu.edu and click on the agronomy tab.



Wray Community Health Fair

Blood Draw Dates: Wray Hospital: Weekdays March 24-April 11 from 6 - 9 a.m.
The Cornerstone (Idalia): April 14th and 16th from 7 - 9 a.m.
May take normal medications prior to test
Fast for 12 hours (but **DRINK** plenty of water!)

Cost: \$30.00 - Chem Panel (glucose, blood count, electrolytes, thyroid & more)
\$15.00 - PSA (prostate blood test for men)

Call for a Blood Draw appointment: (970) 332-4811
(Appointments Highly Encouraged)

Health Fair Date
Saturday, April 19, at the Wray Schools
Kitzmilller Building - 8 to 11 a.m.

Call for any questions 970-332-2245
Jennifer Kramer, RN; Karen Keller, RN; Jeannie Neubauer, RN; Rachel Cure, ACSM, CES
Sponsored by: The Wray Community District Hospital, Wray Clinic, & Wray Lions Club

Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact: Tim Burr at

The Saint Francis Herald
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

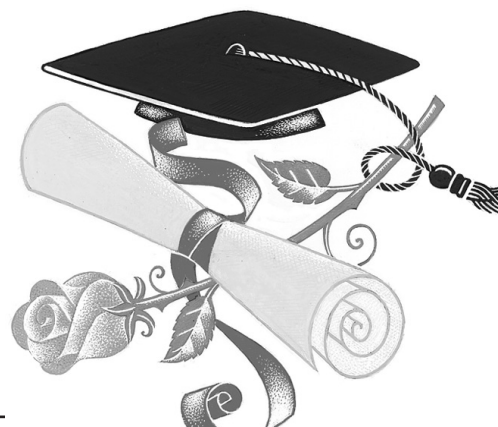
Spring School Section

Featuring students involved in sports, vocal, band, drama, honor society and journalism



Graduation Section

Coming in May



Don't Miss The Upcoming Special Section Promoting U.S. 36!