

Department gets new cell phones

By Karen Krien

Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring asked the commissioners to approve a cell phone plan. The plan is "Touch-To-Talk" phones which operate much like walkie-talkies and they would also change the plan to a National Freedom plan. If they purchased three phones on a 2-year plan, the phones would cost \$99 for the first two and the third phone would cost \$49. The plan would also include more minutes and would still cost less than the plan the sheriff's office is on now.

Commissioner Raile questioned if this type of phone was actually needed as they had hand-held radios. The sheriff said that the phone is always with him where the radios are not. Also, they are less bulky to carry and use. He said the city police is also looking into purchasing the phones and they would all be able to communicate. The commissioners approved the purchase.

The board cautioned Sheriff Dankenbring to watch his budget closely. They were specifically concerned about the overtime put in by the undersheriff, dispatcher and the deputy sheriff. Sheriff Dankenbring said the overtime was earned because of a series of circumstances and would not happen very often.

Courthouse maintenance

Carl Williams, maintenance man, said the bid from Pete Jensen for cement work on the proposed parking area on the northwest side of the courthouse was no longer valid and it was suggested that new bids be let. Mr. Jensen had suggested that Mr. Williams talk to either Ron Krien and Troy Porter. Mr. Krien, who is also a commissioner, said he was not interested in doing the project.

Mr. Williams asked about timer for the new sprinkler system on the east and south of the building. He had a bid from Lampe Hardware for \$1,125 but questioned if the timer should be placed on the outside or the inside of the building. The commissioners suggested that the timer be placed inside.

Mr. Williams also said the air conditioners needed to be cleaned and some maintenance done. The commissioners said to get a bid and if the bid was reasonable, have the work done before the equipment is needed.

Grants and pagers

St. Francis Fire Chief George Harper had brought in a Declaration of Participation for the Firefighters Relief Fund which was signed by Commissioner Raile. He also brought the commissioners information on grants they were pursuing.

The fire chief had been to a prior meeting to discuss the purchase of new pagers for the department. The old pagers are 14 years old and many of them were in need of repair. The costs of the radios were \$7,671 from Prairie States, an Imperial, Neb., company; and \$8,514

from the KN Colby. Chief Harper said Prairie States gave better service when repairs needed to be made but the commissioners didn't think there would be that much needed service and wondered if the service off balanced the \$800 extra? They also wondered if the Bird City firemen needed new pagers but Chief Harper said they used radios instead of pagers so didn't think they needed any.

After considerable discussion, the commissioners told the fire chief to choose the company he felt the most comfortable with. The money to pay for the pagers will be taken out of the 911 Fund.

In other business

In other business:
 • The board appointed Dave Yost, Ron Loudon and Ken Krien, all Airport Authority Board members, to serve on the Consultant Selection Committee for the airport's Master Plan.

• The Working Women's ad which will feature women in the courthouse was approved.

• The commissioners asked about the inventory, including the computer programs, in the judge's room. The county clerk said the judge had found a box of software.

• Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the closing of K161 for bridge repair (see related article). He also talked about the work the crew is doing. Commissioner Raile asked that some sort of standard be written and approved for the width of country roads, especially the main traveled roads.

• The commissioners and Dick Bursch discussed the remodeling of the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Cheyenne County Wildlife would like to furnish the supplies but also want to be able to sell and serve more than 3.2 percent alcoholic beverages at their annual banquet. The commissioners tabled the matter until the next meeting or until the Wildlife members approach them.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for 8 a.m. on April 15 in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



WHEELCHAIRS were delivered to the prison in Burlington where they will be repaired and distributed into developing countries. Photo courtesy of Francis O'Leary

Wheelchairs go to prison for repairs

By Karen Krien

The St. Francis Lions Club members recently took six wheelchairs to the prison in Burlington where they will be refurbished and, through the program "Wheels for the World," will be distributed throughout the world.

The Lions Club has been in charge of providing wheelchairs, canes, crutches and other pieces of equipment for those with injuries or disabilities. Kept on the top floor of the courthouse, some of the equipment was no longer in good usable condition.

That was when Elmer Kellner discovered "Wheels for the World."

Through Wheels for the World, wheelchairs are distributed into developing countries where the cost of a chair can equal a year's wages. It is estimated that there is a need of 18 million wheelchairs throughout the world.

The beauty of the Wheels for the World program lies in its teamwork approach: Local com-

munities collect used wheelchairs destined to be transformed into a life changing opportunity for someone overseas. The meticulous restoration takes place by carefully trained inmates in nine correctional facilities across the United States. One of the correctional facilities can be found in Burlington, Colo.

Francis O'Leary, president of the local Lions Club, accompanied Mr. Keller and Clarence Iliff to the prison last week and was amazed at the work the prisoners did.

"They took an old wheelchair, used steel wool and parts from other chairs and, outside of some wear on the wheels, it looked like brand new," Mr. O'Leary said.

The wheelchairs are shipped overseas where short-term mission teams, made up of disability specialists, wheelchair mechanics and support staff, work diligently to achieve the best fit possible for each person receiving the gift of mobility. They provide training in



CLARENCE ILIFF, Elmer Kellner and Francis O'Leary load the wheelchairs to be delivered to the prison.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

wheelchair use and upkeep. And, with every wheelchair, a Bible in their own language is given along with the message that Jesus loves and values each one regardless of their disabilities and abilities.

Mr. Kellner said that he hopes that people with old wheelchairs in the basements and garages will call him, Mr. O'Leary, Mr. Iliff or any Lions Club member and they will pick them up.

"Lots of times, people with these old wheelchairs will take

them to the landfill because they don't know what to do with them," Mr. Kellner said.

Those who have recently suffered an injury or have become disabled and need handicap equipment to help them can get equipment, on loan, at the courthouse. These people or relatives of the people need to call a Lions member or go to the clerk's office and talk to Terry Miller.

County Health Talk

The Cheyenne County Health Department received notice in March that kindergarten students for the 2004-2005 school year be required to have Hepatitis B series and Varicella (Chickenpox Vaccine) for school entry. Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary Bremby has signed the regulation change for Hepatitis B and Varicella for kindergarten school entry. It was published in the Kansas Register on March 25, and will become official 15 days after publication (April 15). The child or adolescent shall be required to receive the following vaccinations

before enrolling in any Kansas School: diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus and varicella (chickenpox), unless proof of prior Varicella disease is provided. The proof shall be verified by one of the following:

- A signed statement of a physician indicating the child's or adolescent's date of this illness;
 - A signed statement of a parent indicating the child's or adolescent's date of this illness;
 - Or laboratory evidence of Varicella immunity.
- Remember, the change will start

with the kindergarten students for the next school year. The county health department will be available to answer questions about the changes by calling 785-332-2381.



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