



## Enhanced 911 project discussed

By Sandy Barnhart

The Enhanced 911 system was discussed in length at the St. Francis City Council meeting on Oct. 17 but no decisions were made and probably won't be made until the grant is received.

The council appointed mayor Scott Schultz to meet with a representative from the Cheyenne County Commissioners and Bird City City Council to explore the different options.

Chief of Police Troy Gardner discussed the cost-share between the cities of St. Francis and Bird City

and the county. The dispatchers are located in the city's power plant and, at the time the cost-share was established, the dispatchers were also used for power plant personnel. Presently the job has required a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week employee.

At the present time St. Francis pays approximate \$140,000 a year to dispatchers in salary and benefits. The county contributes approximately \$9,000 and Bird City \$3,000.

The county claims 39 percent of the population; St. Francis, 48 percent; and Bird City, 13 percent. The  
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## Rate increase approved for gas company

St. Francis customers of Midwest Energy may see a \$5 increase for delivery charges in their gas bills starting in October, depending on how much gas they use at their homes.

"Most residential bills will go up \$5.15 per month on average," said Bob Helm, Midwest spokesman in Hays. "The increase is only the second since 1995, and the first change

in gas delivery rates since early 2003."

The delivery charge for Midwest Energy varies depending on how much gas is used, he said, and may be more or less than \$5 a month.

Earnie Lehman, president and general manager of the cooperative, cited several reasons for the increase, including replacement of  
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## Time changes at 2 a.m. Sunday

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, residents will observe a ritual that began more than 200 years ago as a way to cut down on the cost of candles. Before going to bed on Saturday, everyone should set their clocks back one hour.

It was Benjamin Franklin who, as minister to France, suggested in 1784 that an extra hour of daylight would save French shopkeepers 1 million francs per year.

It was not until 1918, however, that daylight-saving time was

first implemented in the United States.

Those in favor of the daylight-saving time say that there is more time for recreation, reduced energy demand, decreased crime and increased traffic safety. Those against daylight saving time have consisted mainly of farmers, whose hours are set by the sun instead of the clock.

Remember, "fall back" one hour on Sunday morning or you will have a wait before church begins.



**DESTRUCTIVE SQUIRREL** — This little squirrel was caught in the act of tearing off the top of a bird feeder.  
*Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*



**HALLOWEEN IS ALMOST HERE** and it is time to start getting those pumpkins ready for the big day. Martin Beikman, left, and Timmy Lambert are painting their pumpkins.  
*Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick*

## Furharvest education held Saturday

By Karen Krien

Two furharvest education courses are being planned this weekend. The first is set from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Bellamy Farm, 1615 Rd. 51, 11 miles south of Goodland. The next day, Sunday, Oct. 29, a class will be held at the

Cheyenne County Gun Club, 1/3 mile south of St. Francis on Road 14, south of U.S. 36. Times are the same.

Mike Hopper, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks officer, said anyone hunting/trapping or possessing a furbearing animal or pelt is required to have a furharvest

license and to take furharvester education course.

If someone is hunting coyotes with a gun, they are not required to have a furharvester license but they are required to have a hunting license. If they plan to sell the pelts, they need the furharvester license.

Furbearing animals are badger,

bobcat, beaver, coyote, gray, red and swift fox, mink, muskrat, possum, raccoon, stripe skunk and weasel.

These are the first furharvester education classes to be held in this area. There will be a number of different classroom settings and dem-  
**See EDUCATION on Page 10A**

## Work begins on new building

By Sandy Barnhart

Dale Weeks, councilman, reported on the work at the emergency building site near the roadside park on U.S. 36 at the Oct. 17 City Council meeting. He said the work continues to progress and this week, the cement for the floors is scheduled to be poured.

Eric Fiala, city employee, has ordered the doors for the exterior of the building. It is estimated the doors should be here in around six weeks.

### Police report

Police chief Troy Gardner reported Bartlett Grain Company, St. Francis, had donated gloves and eye protection to the police and sheriff's department. The equipment will be used in case the officers would need to respond to an anhydrous spill situation. The officers will be watching several training tapes concerning safe handling of anhydrous.

At 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 at the Cheylin grade school cafeteria; and on Oct. 24 at the St. Francis grade school cafeteria, the officers will have a talk on protecting families against meth.



**NEW EMERGENCY BUILDING** has been started. Footings were poured on Monday. Ron Krien supervises some of the workers.  
*Photo courtesy of J.R. Landenberger*

### City clerk

City clerk Mary Lampe said that she had received a letter from the Kansas Department of Transportation noting that, as of July 1, new signs erected in another location will be required to have a permit to build along with a \$250 permit fee. There will not be a charge for present signs. Clerk Lampe will return the inventory letter designating the present signs.

### Other business

In other business:  
• Neil McCumber was hired as the roadside maintenance person.  
• The council approved business incentives of \$100 a month for six months to TJ's Improvements - Travis and Jennifer Milne, and Ooh La La Aquamassage - Shelley Culwell.  
• Councilman Roger Jensen,

councilwoman Carla Lampe and Clerk Lampe will be attending the League of Kansas Municipalities meeting on Economic Development.  
• The Enhanced 911 system was discussed in length with no decisions made. See related article.

### Executive session

Attorney Mike Day requested 3 minutes in executive session for legal matters. No decision was made.

## Time to cover meters

By Karen Krien

There have already been cold weather and, those who have not, need to insulate their water meters. J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, asks that people to insulate their water meters now.

"By insulating your water meters now, you will be ready for cold weather. If the water meter should freeze, it could be a costly project," he said, adding that it is much easier

to insulate the meter before the meter lid is frozen to the ground or covered with snow.

There are several ways of insulating the meter including filling it with a piece of the pink insulation used for insulating homes. Other ways are to fill a plastic bag with packing peanuts, sealing it and placing it in the hole or purchasing a special foam cover.  
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## Cattlemen meeting set

Cattlemen should plan to attend a meeting on feeding alternative forage to their cattle. The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 2 at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds building in St. Francis.

Forage types and values to be discussed will include barley, triticale, turnips, forage sorghum, sudan grasses and BMR sor-

ghums.  
A meal will be served prior to the program so it is good to register by Oct. 30. However, people can attend the meeting without calling ahead but the price is higher.

For more information or to make a reservation, call the Cheyenne County Extension office at 785-332-3171.