

# The Community Page

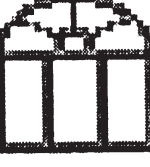


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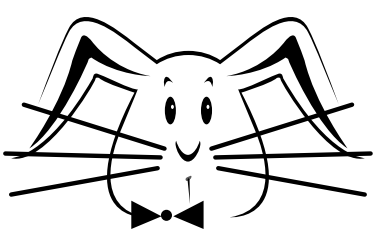

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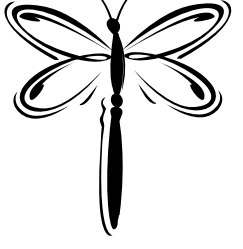
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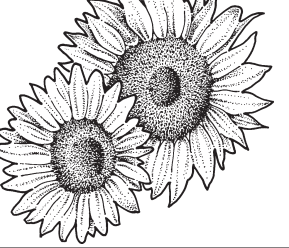
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## Community Emergency Response Team gains five members



### New members get state certification

Five new Community Emergency Response Team members in Sherman County completed 20 hours of training in disaster preparedness.

Alberta and Duane Coash, Sherry Branvik, Gerald Webber and Hazel Estes completed the training in November, receiving certification from the Kansas Emergency Management Association.

The course included fire training, disaster medical operations, assessment, triage and treating life-threatening injuries, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology and terrorism.

Instructors were local emergency personnel, including Gary Rogers, emergency management director; Justin Bentzinger, a fireman; Chris Bowen, utilities; and Jason Showalter, sheriff's department.

Judy McKee, Citizen Corps coordinator for Sherman County, and Kay Engleman, Citizen Corps coordinator from Barton County, led the three-day course. Other emergency response team members are Lisa Malsom, Amy and Rick Breininger, Sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter, Goodland Police Cpl. Bill Fulcher, Rogers and McKee.

"We now have 12 certified team members," McKee said, "and are looking forward to increasing our numbers with future classes."

A Homeland Security grant pays for the training, McKee said, adding that she applies through the Sherman County Emergency Management office for the grant.



Hazel Estes and Amy Breininger (top) reviewed the mechanics and classification of a fire extinguisher during Community Emergency Response Team disaster preparedness training. Alberta and Duane Coash (above) demonstrated the proper application of a sling. Photos by Judy McKee/Citizen Corps coordinator

"We can never have too many volunteers in an emergency program like CERT to respond to a crisis situation," she said, "and this program is beneficial to any citizen who takes the course."

The corps received \$1,400 for 2007, she added, but this is the last year the grant will pay for the program.

"There are now 32 counties that have instituted the CERT program throughout the state of Kansas," said Dori Mildyke, state representative for Homeland Security and Citizen Corps. "We are continually promot-



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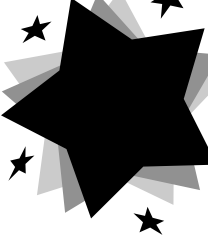
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