Logan Co. resolution prohibits introducing black-footed ferrets

FERRETS, from Page 1

prairie dogs should be at least a half-mile from any adjoining property to prevent the rodents from escaping to other fields.

Anything less, he said, "you just as well draw a line on the ground and tell them not to cross it."

Haverfield, on the other hand, says he would like to give "vegetative barriers" he has constructed a chance to succeed, in tandem with inward shooting and poisoning using zinc phosphide along the borders of his property.

Judge Andrews asked if there was any distance agreeable to both sides, but got no answer.

Uhrich scoffed at the idea of a 90-foot barrier, saying a half-mile barrier would work only if "you go in and kill half of them in the core" of the prairie-dog town.

He went on to say the only way a landowner "can take care of a prairie dog problem is to kill them all."

When attorney Randy Rathbun, representing Haverfield and Barnhardt, first cross-examined Uhrich, he noted Uhrich and Haverfield don't agree on much when it comes to prairie dogs.

"There's some truth in that," said Uhrich, who generally has been the most strident opponent of prairie dogs among the three commissioners.

Haverfield and Barnhardt have tried to maintain prairie dog populations on their land and have signed agreements with the Fish and Wildlife Service offering up their land for an experimental black-footed ferret reintroduction program.

As the hearing opened, Judge Andrews told both sides he did not intend to get into the ferret question.

"I think the court needs to be aware of the effect a half-mile kill zone would have on a black-footed ferret program," Rathbun replied.

Killing prairie dogs that far into the property, he said, would effectively stop any ferret reintroduction program.

Mike Lockhart, Fish and Wildlife Service team leader for the ferret recovery program, detailed the proposal to reintroduce the endangered species. Without prairie dogs, he said, there would be no ferrets.

"Prairie dogs are absolutely the most important mammal species in the prairie environment," Lockhart said.

For the past two years, he said, the federal agency has set aside ferrets for Kansas. If they aren't released by January, he said, this year's allotment will have to go elsewhere.

"My personal hope is that they will be in Kansas," he said, adding that timetable for submitting public comments on the proposal to release ferrets closed Monday.

Under cross-examination, Lockhart said that if the kill zone is a half-mile wide, the reintroduction likely would not move forward.

Even though he has spent nearly $20,000 for chemical control of prairie dogs and built 23 miles of barrier fence, Haverfield was undaunted.

"We think it's the right thing to do," he said of his land-management plans.

Year-end target date for new Cheyenne 911

By Karen Krien
karenk@nwkansas.com

Cheyenne County commissioners heard last week that the county's new Enhanced 911 emergency calling system should be up and running by the end of December

Jim O'Laughlin, president of Allied Information Solutions, hired earlier to oversee the installation and equipment purchases, was at the Thursday, Nov. 6, meeting to update the commissioners. He said that when the equipment has been installed and is up and running, it will be one of the best systems in the state.

The dispatch center will be in the southwest part of the sheriff's office in the courthouse. Enhanced 911 will enable mobile or cellular phones to give their location when making 911 emergency calls and help emergency services, such as fire and medical personnel, to locate the geographic position of the caller.

When a person makes a 911 call using a traditional phone with ground wires, he said, the call is routed to the dispatch center with the address of the number.

O'Laughlin said the county project is still on budget and commended the commissioners on keeping the 911 funds, which are collected through the telephone bills, in check.

He said mapping is done and the staff at the appraiser's office had done a very good, clean job of going over the maps to identify each property. He said new photography, which will be much clearer, will also be done by Dec. 15.

One of the more difficult jobs in the installation is running the necessary cables to the dispatcher's office, he said.

O'Laughlin said he was applying for a grant next year which would cover some of the maintenance expenses over the next five years. This would free up the county's 911 Fund to build up for replacement equipment as needed.

Dispatch office

The commissioners watched a computer disk on real situations dispatchers handle. Carol Gamblin, county communications director, said that a dispatcher generally lasts at the job about seven years because the burnout rate is high.

Commissioner Ernie Ketzner said every person in the county should be able to watch the video and see just what a dispatcher does and goes through.

Chairman Andy Beikman noted that the dispatchers need to know what crew to send where in different situations.

"We don't want a cop sent into a situation that they don't know what they are getting into," he said.

Gamblin said she when she interviews dispatchers, before they are hired, they will also watch the video.

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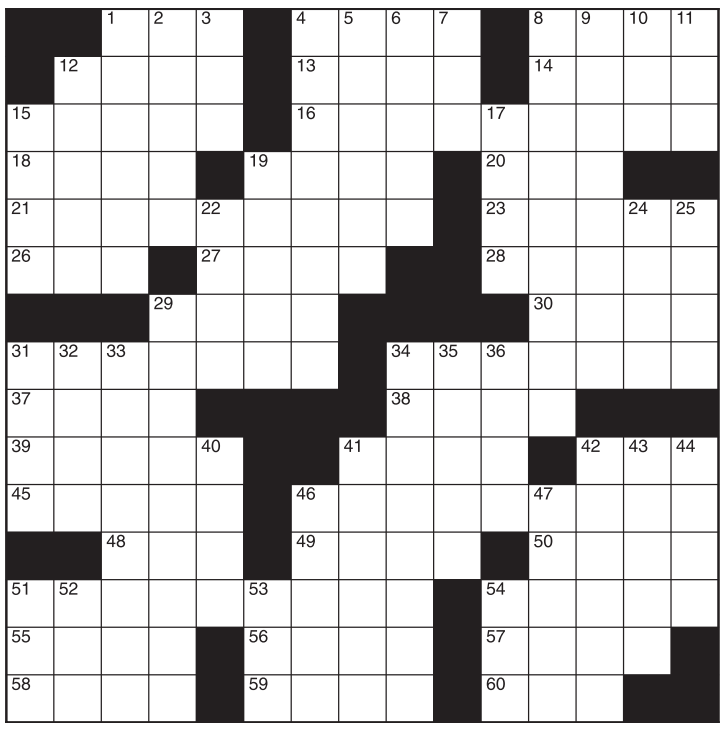
Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. They __
4. Female parent
8. Russian monarch
12. Maple genus
13. Armpit gland: ____lary
14. Athapaskan
15. More cunning
16. People who inhabit a community
18. Sums up
19. Norse god of thunder
20. Rhub___: pie fruit
21. E. Humperdinck classic
23. Wild oxen
26. Not wet
27. Chows down
28. Chronic tropical disorder
29. Set of principles or rules
30. A small island
31. Herb teas
34. An elderly person
37. Biblical name for Syria
38. A fortified wine
39. Indigo bush
41. Sandy piece of seashore
42. 30 - 300 gigahertz
45. The sound of a bagpipe
46. Part of a T. Williams title
48. A tube in which a body fluid circulates
49. Appendages found on grass bracts
50. 1st fixed capital of Japan
51. Anthemis nobilis
54. Typical geese
55. Cut with the teeth
56. Freshwater duck genus
57. Billiards rods
58. Glimpsed
59. Porcinos
60. Intermediate, between high and low

CLUES DOWN

1. In a sour way
2. Della __, singer
3. Make a mistake
4. Large heavy knives
5. Self-evident truths
6. Bishop's hat
7. Boxing icon Muhammad
8. Healer
9. Common solar design
10. Calendar month (abbr.)
11. Beam out
12. 1950 Nobel Chemist Kurt
15. Reddish-brown chalcedony
17. Zigs and
19. Hebrew letter
22. The longest division of geological time
24. What a sovereign does
25. Visionary
29. Photographers
31. Small amounts
32. Alternate spelling Iraq
33. Drool
34. Frankness
35. Herac_____: Byz. Emperor 641 AD
36. Sediment in a liquid
40. In addition
41. Pendulous neck skin
42. Rubbed out
43. Pays for services
44. Be afraid or scared of
46. American state
47. Blahs
51. Ed Murrow's network
52. Go quickly
53. A waterproof raincoat
54. Kenny Chesney won their top award

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Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Calendar for Nov.

Today: 3 p.m., junior high basketball vs. Weskan at Weskan. 4 p.m., high school scholars bowl at Tribune.
Wednesday: 10 a.m., Western Kansas Liberty League scholarship test at Brewster
Thursday: 3 p.m. junior high basketball vs. Wallace County at Brewster.
Friday: 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., high school basketball vs. Cheylin at McDonald.
Monday: 4 p.m., junior high scholars bowl at Tribune. 4 p.m., high school scholars bown at Colby.
Tuesday: Half day school. 3 p.m. Sagebrush Shootout at Brewster.

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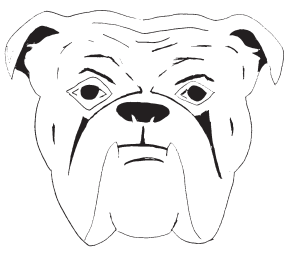

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