

Disaster classes offered in Colby

By Karen Krien

Kansas experienced its first string of violent storms at the end of March. Red Cross is one of the organizations that responds when storms shake communities and volunteers are the backbone of Red Cross.

Volunteers are needed to help provide comfort and compassion to victims of disaster. They set up shelters, prepare and serve meals, assess damage, help families who need financial assistance and provide counseling.

On May 10 and 12, Red Cross chapters in northwest Kansas will be offering two free disaster-training courses to prepare individuals to assist the victims of both local and national disasters. The classes are free and will be held at the Thomas County Red Cross Chapter in Colby.

will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on May 10 and 11. The course will help teach potential volunteers how to set up and maintain effective Red Cross shelters.

From 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 12, a Client Casework class will be taught. This course teaches participants how to work with families affected by disasters to help determine their needs and provide financial assistance.

Prior to taking the classes in Colby, those interested need to take the Introduction to Disaster course online at www.midwaykansas.redcross.org and print off the last page of the presentation, bringing it with them to the Shelter Operations or Client Casework class.

The class size is limited and pre-enrollment is required. For more information, call 1-888-765-9058, ext. 4060, or log onto the web site



MEMBERS OF CHEYLIN Junior-Senior High Band practice during class for their large group competition later in the week. Times Staff photo by Melinda Bassett

Research and history group formed

A Historical Research Group is being organized in Bird City.

Beginning with the first meeting being held on Saturday, May 5, at 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the Heritage Cafe's dining room (The Heritage Cafe's kitchen is closed on Saturdays) each meeting will be held on the first Saturday of each month (weather and health permitting).

The purpose of this group is to share information on "how to" collect, document and preserve historical materials in an archival (acid free and chemically safe) method.

The focus of the program will be on areas of local history, developing family histories, theme albums, special journals, a memory album jour-

nal or other historical materials of interest.

A portion of each program will include the presentation of a study guide on "how to" preserve historical documents, photos and memorabilia using the recommended archival products now available to the individual.

After the program there will be a sharing time for ideas, experiences or historical research problems.

Anyone (male or female including youth) who has an interest in preserving history.

For further information contact Dorothy L. Mast at 785-734-2750 or Rosemary Powell at 785-734-2441.

Commissioners discuss emergencies

By Karen Krien

Backup batteries for the repeater tower have been ordered. This was a number one priority for the Cheyenne County Commissioners when they met Monday morning.

The matter that there were no backup batteries at the tower was discovered during the storm and tornado which hit the county on March 28. At the previous meeting, the board had discussed whether or not to get batteries or install a generator at the site which is the control tower for emergency medical technicians, law officer and firemen.

Batteries were ordered and the cost will be around \$5,100.

The commissioners discussed the meeting with emergency personnel held in Bird City last week. There was the question "who is in charge if there is an emergency?"

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said his job was to keep in communication with the National Weather Service as well as state emergency personnel. Loren White, Bird City, and George Harper, St. Francis, were those in charge if a tornado or similar storm were to hit their city.

Had the tornado hit the town of Bird City and there was a considerable amount of damage, that would be considered a disaster and Mr. Rogers would have needed to be on the scene.

The meeting had resolved some of these issues. Andy Beikman, commissioner, said that a simple phone call would have solved the

problem of who was in charge during the tornado and suggested a meeting with all emergency personnel be held once a year.

Mr. Rogers said that there is an emergency plan being drawn up and once it is completed, there will be an organizational meeting so everyone will know who is responsible for what during storms, emergencies and disasters.

Base radio

During the storm, Bird City had lost electrical power, thus the warning siren didn't work. There were also other problems concerning the lack of power. The firemen had determined that a base radio was needed for the emergency building in Bird City.

A base radio will cost around \$1,200 and the commissioners agreed that something was needed. Mr. Rogers said St. Francis has a mobile base radio which has an antenna similar to a vehicle antenna and it worked well. He said that, with the mobile base radio, they could talk to anyone they needed to in the county. He also said that the mobile base radio didn't cost nearly as much money.

The commissioners said they had asked Bird City firemen to contact Mr. Rogers as he probably knows more about the base radios. He said he would be glad to help but, as of Monday, no one had contacted him.

New ambulance

The commissioners discussed how to pay for a new ambulance for Bird City. At the present time, the

commissioners put back around \$30,000 a year for this purpose. It takes three to four years to accumulate enough money for the ambulance.

Nancy Semler, Bird City, had visited the commissioners at the last meeting and offered to write a grant for a fee. Amy Griffey, Northwest Planning and Development, Hill City, also writes grants and there is no charge. Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said the fair board had received a Rural Utility Service loan for the grandstands and there was no interest. Terry Miller, clerk, was asked to talk to Mrs. Griffey.

Join Hands

Elmer Kellner, St. Francis, told about the Join Hands project which will probably be held in June. The project encourages youth to work with the elderly in order to bridge the generation gap.

He asked if there were any service projects with the county which could be completed in a few hours. They suggested he talk to Carl Williams, courthouse maintenance man, Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, the fair board or the St. Francis Recreation coordinator.

The commissioners talked about the new organization, Cheyenne Initiative Association, and how there are a number of such organizations and members all seem to be working for the same objectives. It would be much

better if they all worked together.

Parks and recreation funds
Tina Sager and Canda Orten, representing the Bird City Recreation Commission, asked for money (\$806) out of the Parks and Recreation Fund. The fund is gathered by the tax collected on alcoholic drinks purchased in the county. The money is to be used for parks and recreation projects.

There was \$2,100 in the fund and the board agreed to give the money. Mrs. Sager said the money will be used to paint the bath house at the swimming pool and purchase some benches. They had contacted John Guthmiller at Ross Manufacturing to build the benches out of materials which would not weather like wood. These benches will cost approximately \$350 each. The Commission said five or six benches were needed but would plan only to purchase two or three this year and the remainder next year.

In other business

In other business:
• Clerk Miller was given permission to attend a mandatory meeting and a scholarship selection meeting.
• Ambulance adjustments (write-offs) for last month were \$839.26.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been scheduled for 8 a.m. on Monday, April 30, at the courthouse.

Club Clip

Town and Country Garden Club

Following the Arbor Day program, Joan Tongish opened the business meeting, and Betty Knapp led the group in prayer. There were 11 members answering the roll call by naming their "Favorite Lily."

The minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved. Bills were presented and allowed.

The May Plant and Food Sale was discussed and committees were appointed. The club will go

to the Frosty Mug for lunch that day. Also, the table favors for the October District meeting were discussed. Members will work on favors at the May meeting. They will also work on the flower arrangements in the Gazebo planters.

Helen Frisbie presented an interesting program, "Native Bulbs from Israel." The month's arrangement "Spring Awakening" was carried out with a vase of Forsythia branches. The meeting was adjourned and all enjoyed the cookies and coffee.



Community Benefit

HAMBURGER FEED & BAKE SALE

To assist tornado victims in Cheyenne County

Sunday, April 29

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sponsored by: St. Francis Thrivent for Lutherans; St. Francis Booster Club; Area Churches

• Matching funds provided by Thrivent for Lutherans • Monetary donations also welcome

2 Day AUCTION

Sat. & Sun., April 21 & 22 • 10:00 a.m. CT (Both Days)

Sale Site: 4-H Building (NW of town on Hwy 125) Atwood, KS
The Late Harrell Shannon Personal Property Auction - Chris Stolte, Seller

• Vehicles & Related (Day 1) • Woodworking (Day 1) • Antiques & Collectibles (Day 1) • Electric-Plumbing-Propane (Day 1)
• Snap-On Tools (Day 2) • Tools (Day 2) • Shop (Day 2)
• Auto Body Items (Day 2)

FOR MORE INFO & PICTURES VISIT <http://midwestauction.com>

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Harrell planned to open a hardware store and it would have been well stocked with all the supplies & tools needed for woodworking, plumbing, electrical, auto mechanic & auto body work. The VOLUME of tools (new & used) & inventory is impossible to list so keep in mind there are a lot of duplicates as the number & variety of drills & drill bits, all kinds of saws, sanders, lathes, drill presses, socket sets, hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, all types of mechanic & woodworking tools is enormous. Lunch will be served

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<p><i>'05 Ford F150 Ext 4x4</i></p> <p>□ Bronze □ XLT □ 23K □ 5.8 L V-8</p>	<p><i>'05 Ford Freestyle</i></p> <p>□ Red & Gray □ Cloth □ 25K □ LIKE NEW!</p>
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<p><i>'03 Ford Windstar</i></p> <p>□ Lt Green □ Local □ 83K □ Captain Chairs</p>	<p><i>'06 Chevy 3/4 Crew 4x4</i></p> <p>□ Red □ Cloth □ Only 6K □ Duramax</p>
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