

# Plans for 911 dispatch office moving forward

By Karen Krien  
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The sheriff talked about plans for the 911 dispatch room when the Cheyenne County Commissioners met on May 15.

Troy Gardner, sheriff, said he was going to Salina to look at different types of dispatch equipment. At the previous commissioners' meeting, the board had been told there was a room at the hospital in St. Francis that would be available for a dispatch room. At the hospital, there was a generator and the county would not need to purchase one.

Sheriff Gardner had looked at the room and said it was a "shared" room and dispatch needed a separate room. So, the plans to install the dispatch in the old sheriff's office in the courthouse would be continued.

Some remodeling will need to be done and the sheriff said he could get an emergency generator with Homeland Security funds so the matter of a backup generator was taken care of.

Alternate ways to fund the new 911/dispatch system was discussed.

At a prior meeting, the commissioners had discussed tacking on a fee to electric meters as everyone in the county has an electric meter. However, Judy Moler, attorney for the Kansas Association of Counties Council, had said a fee to fund the county could not be collected this way.

At 10:20 a.m., the sheriff and the commissioners went into private session to discuss personnel. Ten minutes later, they came out and no decision was made.

### Eagle Scout project

Jacob Riedel, St. Francis, told the commissioners that he was working toward his Eagle Scout goal by erecting an awning at the St. Francis swimming pool kiddie pool. He was asking for funds to help with the project's materials.

Clerk Terry Miller said his office sells address books and part of the funds are used for the handicap equipment. He had recently given the Lions Club \$700 to purchase crutches and other handicap equipment which is stored at the courthouse.

The commissioners voted to give Jacob \$100 from the fund to help with his project.

**Ambulance department report**  
Janelle Bowers, ambulance director, said Mike Hanson is now qualified as a "training officer one."

She said she would like to have an IV class as the county is in need of more emergency medical technicians who can monitor IVs. The class would be taught by Gary Winters, Kanorado, at a cost of \$7,000, which did not include mileage. Currently there are four people who have expressed interest in the class.

The commissioners thought the cost was high and asked Mrs. Bowers to check with Rawlins and Sherman counties to see if they had technicians interested. With techs from these areas attending, it could help defray the costs. No decisions were made.

Mrs. Bowers asked for 10 minutes of executive session to discuss personnel. The session started at 9:30 a.m. and ended at 9:40 with no decisions being made.

Mrs. Bowers said there had been a problem with bank cards from Bankwest and asked to switch to First National Bank. The commissioners approved the switch.

### Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said the bid on an arch culvert was \$8,103. The bridge had been damaged by equipment owned by Advance Drilling and the company had agreed to pay for the culvert.

At the previous meeting, Chris Leibbrandt, in a letter, had requested help in fixing their private drive. Mrs. Moler, who had previously told the commissioners that it was illegal to put a fee on electric meters, said it was also illegal for the county to maintain private roads except in emergencies. Mr. Flemming said Mark Mills had fixed the Leibbrandt's drive.

### In other business

In other business:  
• The sheriff will hire a part-time officer to help during the summer hours.

• Carol Redding, St. Francis, attended the meeting asking that the board remember the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. It was noted that the county attorney, in year's past, had help fund the group with his diversion funds.



Youth members from the United Methodist Church learn a flag routine from Sherry Krien for a special service on Pentecostal Sunday.

Times Staff photo by Melinda Basnett

## Obituary

### Mary Lou Abendschan

Jan. 9, 1923 - May 14, 2007

Mary Lou Abendschan, 84, died Monday, May 14, 2007, at Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis, Kan.

Mrs. Abendschan was born Mary Lou Ballentine on Jan. 9, 1923, in Huntington, Ark. She moved with her family to Albuquerque, N.M., in

1935. There she graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1940.

She married John Jacob Abendschan V, March 18, 1942, with whom she celebrated their 65th anniversary this year. She followed her husband all over the United States as the wife of a service man, petroleum engineer and minister of the Gospel. She worked at most of the places they lived. After retiring, Mary Lou was always volunteering or serving in some way.

Survivors include husband, John Jacob Abendschan V of St. Francis; three sons, John Jacob Abendschan VI of Odessa, Texas, Ronald Emery Abendschan of Long Beach, Calif., and Robert William Abendschan of Cross City, Fla.; one daughter, Elizabeth Ann Gabel of Colby, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 18, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis.

Memorials may be made to the St. Francis Senior Center, Cheyenne County Hospital or St. Francis Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

## Student receives scholarship

Nathan Ketzner, a recent graduate of St. Francis Community High School, has been selected to receive a Presidential Scholarship at Colby Community College.



Ketzner

Candidates for this prestigious award are nominated by their high school counselors. They are selected on a basis of leadership, academic achievement, poise and potential for contribution to Colby Community College.

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Ketzner plans to major in biology. He is the son of Ernie and Kim Ketzner of Bird City.

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Included in the sale is a house with 2,689 sq ft of total living area on the south edge of Goodland KS, grain bins and a machine shed in Brewster KS, and approximately 1,600 acres of agricultural lands located in Sherman, Thomas and Wallace Counties.

**Sales will be held at the respective county Court Houses on June 20, 2007**

**Thomas County 9:00 A.M. Central Time  
Wallace County 11:30 A.M. Mountain Time  
Sherman County 2:30 P.M. Mountain Time**

For more information and a complete description of the property being offered go to [www.irsauctions.gov](http://www.irsauctions.gov)  
Or call Steve Hopkins at 651-308-5260

## St. Francis couple dances to Big Joe's music next week

By Karen Krien

karenk@nwkans.com

St. Francis couple, Benny and Kathy Weber, have been on the Big Joe Polka Show on RFD-TV. The show is aired 12 times a week and the Webers are often shown with the other dancers.

About a year ago, someone came by the barbershop which Mr. Weber owns and talked about the Big Joe Polka Show so they began to watch. Mrs. Weber mentioned it would be fun to go to Medina, Minn., to dance on the show but not much else was ever mentioned. However, as time drew closer to the July show, she found out that Mr. Weber had it marked on his calendar. It wasn't long before they had their dancing

shoes packed and were on their way to Minnesota.

It was a great time. They danced for two days to 40 different bands. The event was held in the Medina Entertainment Center which seats 2,400 people. When they weren't dancing, it was fun to watch the other dancers and they were also able to pick up ideas.

It wasn't until after they had returned home that they realized people from the area had spotted them on the show. Since there are reruns on Saturdays, they are often seen.

Mr. Weber grew up dancing. His family had a band which played and music was second nature to him. When he married Kathy, he taught

her to dance and they enjoy all types of dancing but especially polka.

They are leaving on May 25, this time, headed toward Branson, Mo., where Joe Siedlik will once again be hosting the Big Joe Polka Show and there will be many bands playing. Mr. Weber's sister Mary Garhart of Limon, Colo., will be going with them. Mrs. Weber said when her hip gives out, Mr. Weber dances with his sister, or they have worked out a threesome polka.

Whatever, the time will be spent having lots of fun and, when they get back, they may be seen again on RFD-TV.

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