

Five-member 911 dispatch board formed

By Karen Krien

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For weeks, forming a 911 dispatch board has been discussed. It has gone from 9 to 11 members to five.

At the Friday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, the board decided on a five-member board with a subcommittee of three law officers.

Andy Beikman had contacted an official at the state highway patrol training center and the official had suggested that there be only five members. Mr. Beikman said that more members made decision making more difficult. The subcommittee will have veto power over the dispatch board.

Before the meeting, he had contacted the proposed members and they had agreed to serve on the board. The 911 board will consist of Natalie Knodel, St. Francis City Council member; Jannelle Bowers, director of the county emergency medical service; George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief; Gary Rogers, county emergency manager; and Mr. Beikman.

The subcommittee, which the law requires, will be made up of the current county sheriff, county attorney and St. Francis chief of police.

A resolution will be drawn up to create the board.

Tractors purchased

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, and Rich Cox, sales representative for Sellers Tractor Supply, Salina, talked about tractors for the road and bridge department. The supervisor had proposed seeking bids for two tractors for the county and the bids had come in.

Sellers' bid was for a JCB 2155 Fastrac tractor. The bid was \$95,680 for one tractor if the county purchased two tractors. Otherwise, the bid was \$101,732 for one. The commissioners had several questions about the tractor and its operation. Mr. Flemming had also seen one in Greeley County.

Other bids for one tractor included: Yost, St. Francis, \$64,621; Goodland Greenline, Wheeler, \$79,111; Martin Tractor, Colby, \$68,300; Witzel and Rhea, Goodland, \$65,960.

The commissioners agreed that they could buy two New Holland 6070 tractors from Yost for almost the same price that one Fastrac tractor cost. Mr. Flemming will buy the tractors from Yost Farm Supply.

Trenching across roads

Mr. Flemming was concerned that there have been some companies trenching across county roads without permission from the commissioners. In Cheyenne County, there is no fee to trench across or bore under the roads. But, the road and bridge supervisor needs to know about it so, in the future, there will not be lines accidentally caught while grading or working on the roads.

Justin Barrett, county attorney, will draw up a resolution which will state that companies trenching across or boring under county roads without permission from the county officials could be fined.

Instructor to be paid

Mrs. Bowers asked for permission to create a part-time position in her department for Mike Hanson. Mr. Hanson will be teaching re-certification classes for emergency medical technicians. The board approved the request and Mr. Hanson will be paid \$10 an hour for teaching.

Executive session

The county attorney asked for 10 minutes of executive session to discuss privileged attorney-client communications. No decision was made when they were out of the session.

In other business

In other business: •Sheriff Craig VanAllen was given permission to attend several training classes including a concealed carry training, a mandatory racial profiling training and a pharmaceutical abuse investigation training.

Egg hunt on Saturday

The annual Bird City Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, at the Bird City Park, weather permitting. In the case of bad weather, the hunt will be held at the Cheylin Elementary gym.

Cheylin youth from toddlers

to fourth grade are welcome to hunt for Easter eggs. Along with the hunt, the Easter bunny will be making an appearance at 10 a.m. to hand out treats for the kids. There will be a duck pond and bunny arts and crafts for the kids to take part in as well as drinks and cookies for everyone to enjoy.

Finally, the kids can register for a grand prize to be given away by the Easter bunny himself.



THE FFA SLAVE AUCTION opened with Rachel Keltz, Elizabeth Keltz and Reese Leonard leading the crowd singing the National Anthem. It was a night of high bidding for FFA members.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

Slave auction draws big spenders

By Linda Schneider
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On Thursday evening, the Cheylin FFA members held their annual Lamb Fry Slave Auction.

The event was to raise money that FFA members would use throughout the year for attending state conventions and agricultural contests for livestock, poultry and agricultural machinery. In addition, the money goes toward purchasing the trophies and awards that are given out at the various events.

Following the meal, the slave auction began. Royce Rambat, Bird City, was the caller for the evening. The first youth on the auction block was Mitchel Jensen, and his skill was "cookie smeller." It was all fun as friends and family started to

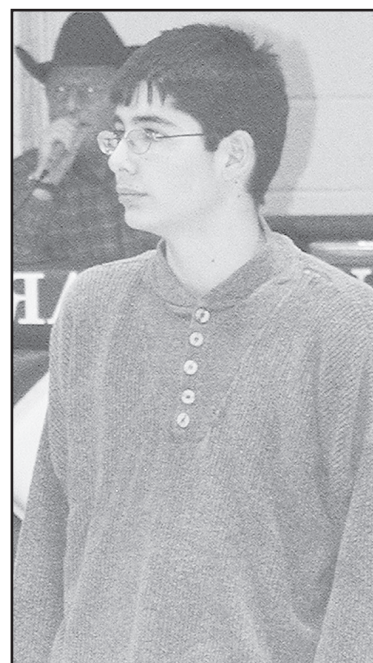
bid on his services.

It was the same for the rest of the evening. Everyone was able to bid on skills such as snail racer, Caleb Keltz; professional shovel supporter, Jacob White; and motor puller by "tiny and slim," Chris Basnett.

The auction was an opportunity for everyone to show his or her support for the youths. With 19 youths up for bid, it was fast and furious with the lowest winning bid bought services at \$100 and the highest at \$260.

The fund raiser was planned by Max Keltz, who has been the organization's advisor for 20 years and he says he still enjoys what he is doing.

"It is a great opportunity to provide the different agriculture fields available to the youths, and the keys to be successful in any career they pursue," he said.



WHAT YOU SEE is what you get! Everyone had a good time bidding on Max Keltz and Daniel Frisbie at the slave auction.

Wildlife banquet a sell out

By Linda Schneider
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The Cheyenne County Wildlife, Inc. held their annual fund raiser banquet on Friday at the American Legion Hall in Bird City. The event was to help with the yearly budget and recruit members.

The dinner included prime rib cooked by Kerby Krien. For new members signing up, the dinner was free. But, it had to be done early in the evening because there were 300 dinner tickets and only a few were left after reservations were made.

Donations for the raffle, auction, and door prizes were from many of the local residents. There was also a raffle for prizes for the youths that attended.

Started 22 years ago by local area residents when another popular wildlife organization, Ducks Unlimited, would have annual membership drives and fund raisers, but the money would go to places outside their own communities.

"We wanted to keep the money within the communities and support our own 4-H clubs and scholarships for our youths," said Gordon Russ.

Supporting the local youths is just one of the things the Cheyenne County Wildlife, Inc.



COLLEEN SHRADER helping Cody Baxter with his raffle tickets.

Time staff photo by Casey McCormick

local, Wildlife membership is growing and growing. Mr. Russ says that it may not be too many years away before the annual banquet will have to move into a bigger facility.

Wanting to keep everything



WILDLIFE BANQUET ATTENDEES Charolette Hilt, Jodie Hilt and Christina Hilt look over prizes that will soon be raffled off.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider