

# Director seeks bids for new ambulance for area

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County emergency service director reported at the Monday commissioners' meeting that she has started looking for a new ambulance.

Janelle Bowers, director, said she had talked to two companies and was looking for a dually, four-wheel drive vehicle ambulance. She was hoping the low bid would be a Ford as there is a Ford dealer in the county.

The county's ambulances had passed state inspections.

Mrs. Bowers had met with the emergency medical technicians to discuss plans for severe weather. It has been a year since a tornado hit the Bird City area.

Mrs. Bowers had asked the dispatch director what would happen if a tornado were to hit St. Francis where the center is? She was told that, whoever was on duty would stay in the center until the very last minute and would then take a handheld radio to the basement where there was cover from danger but would continue to dispatch.

Mrs. Bowers said that she plans to move the office into the new emergency building in St. Francis by April 30.

## Vouchers questioned

The commissioners, before approving the bills, reviewed several of the vouchers. There were two from the appraiser's office (vouchers 16268 and 16278) concerning training in Topeka. They questioned the extra night's stay (motel cost \$73) and 8 miles driven to the training from the motel but agreed to pay. They also checked

out voucher 16264 concerning shotgun shells purchased by the sheriff's department for \$21.88.

## 911 dispatch

Carol Gamblin, 911 communication director, was concerned that, when all the bills had been paid for the 911 system, they had come up \$6,833 short. Money has been used from the 911 fund for several projects, all qualifying for 911 funding. That fund has been depleted until the next payment is received.

The commissioners agreed to take the money out of the capital outlay fund.

The city of St. Francis had asked the dispatch center to take over sounding the tornado siren because there the center is manned at all times. However, to take over the service, there is a need to have either a new phone line or a wireless internet line. The wireless signal would have a one-time charge, while a phone line would have a monthly charge. More information was needed before making any decisions. In the meantime, the city crew continues to blow the 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. whistles and can sound a tornado siren if needed.

Mrs. Gamblin said Jennifer Padgett and Steve Nolan have been in dispatch training and have done very well, passing their tests.

## Cleaning Keller Pond

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked to the commissioners via conference phone. He said the Cheyenne County Wildlife members had talked to him about the county cleaning out the east side of Keller Pond. He said this would be a good community project and the

material cleaned out of the pond would be scattered on the road near the pond. The commissioners told Mr. Flemming to go ahead with the plans.

Mr. Flemming reminded the commissioners that two of the county's tractors will be sold at a consignment sale this weekend.

Several permits for trenching county roads and ditches were discussed. He suggested that the commissioners sign a permit for Marvin Kamla to put a gas line. He talked about the activity west of St. Francis, noting that there may be a minimum maintenance road that may need to be upgraded. No other permits were signed.

## In other business

In other business:

- Because there has been an increase for a company to pick up tires at the landfill, the fee for people bringing in tires will see an additional charge. The cost to leave a car tire at the landfill will go from \$2 to \$3; truck tires, \$5 to \$8; and tractor tires, \$15 to \$20.1

- The clerk had received a call from Bohm Metal Recycling about metal pick up in the county. There hasn't been anyone in the county to pick up metal for several years but it was noted that former companies had taken only what they could get money for but left other metals behind. The commissioners agreed to investigate the company before allowing the company to come in.

## Next meeting

The next commissioners meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15. There will be a bid opening for the courthouse steps replacement at 1 p.m..



NEW EQUIPMENT for the John Deere Real Time Kinetics system is shown by Goodland Greenline employees Gary Cooper (left) and Matt Breininger. Mr. Breininger, a agriculture management solutions consultant, gave a presentation to describe the new technology to area farmers at Captain Hook's restaurant in Wheeler. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

# New satellite system is being operated by implement store

By Casey McCormick

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Agriculture technology continues to advance. One example is the development of a new satellite system being operated by the area John Deere implement dealer.

Goodland Greenline of Goodland and Wheeler has already positioned three base stations in northwest Kansas and has two more on the way. This will make their Real Time Kinetics (RTK) system available for farmers.

Matt Breininger, Greenline's agriculture management solutions consultant, has spent the last two months getting the network up and going. He sees advantages of the system over the typical global positioning system (GPS) signal.

"RTK sends a differential correction to the tractor eliminating global drift, where as your traditional signal does not," Mr. Breininger said.

With the current technology, a farmer sets his A-B line, which

gives the auto tracking a base to go off of. But, as the earth rotates, this line will change/drift since satellites move faster than earth.

With the RTK, the differential allows for 1-inch or less accuracy. "It doesn't matter if it's two hours, two days or two years later, those lines don't change," Mr. Breininger said.

A farmer can leave the field he is working on, then return and the lines will not move.

The three towers in place now are at Ruleton, Goodland and Brewster, all in Sherman County. The next two base stations will be placed in McDonald (Rawlins County) and in southern Cheyenne County. These will be operational by mid-April. Each tower will send out signals up to 12 miles.

"These towers will cover the majority of ag land in Sherman and Cheyenne counties, with portions of Rawlins and Thomas included," Mr. Breininger said.

Farmers, who use the system, will lease the signal from

Goodland Greenline. They will need to purchase the receiver equipment, which is an RTK radio and activation.

"The advantages of the sub-inch accuracy and repeatability will pay for the equipment in a matter of years," Mr. Breininger said.

The innovations that led to this technology began in the late 1990s with parallel tracking. This allowed the farmer to know where his tractor should be, using positioning systems. However, the tractor still needed to be steered.

This was followed by auto-track, where the tractor could steer itself. Auto-track became available within the last five to six years, but the driver still has to turn the machine at the end of each row.

Today, John Deere offers the I-Tec Pro on their 8030 series tractors.

"This allows the tractor to turn itself," Mr. Breininger said. "The farmer is in the cab mostly for safety reasons."

# A Hawaiian theme enjoyed

Hawaiian Escape was the theme of the March 11, St. Francis is Federated Music Club meeting, held at the home of Betty Orth.

Beth Maifeld, vice president and program chairman, opened the meeting with an extremely interesting presentation of the history, attire and importance of hula dancing, much of which she learned while residing in Hawaii during her younger years. The program was truly a learning experience for the 11 members and one guest in attendance and was greatly enjoyed.

For the Poetry Moment, Bonnie Cram recited Psalm 139 from memory.

During the formal business session, the Nominating Committee reported on proposed officers for the coming year. Election will be held at the meeting on April 8.

Extremely favorable reports were received concerning Western Plains Arts Association's presentation of "Yankee Doodle Dandee" presented at St. Francis High School auditorium, by Wichita Children's Theater, on Feb. 18. Those attending were treated to 45 minutes of uninterrupted rhythmic rhyme, narration and songs relating the story of America's beginnings through to 1927, Charles Lindbergh's Atlantic Flight.

Music Club will be sponsoring and taking part in the fifth and sixth grade music contest as judges, and will sponsor Dance Ranch Mother's Day Recital during National Music Week in May.

Members were encouraged to support the performances of "Murder Can Be Habit-Forming," on March 15; the high school drama class's performances of "Love's Labours Lost" on April 13 and 14; the Elvis program at the band shell on Friday evening of the Cruisers Car Show; and the lunch to be served at the Cheyenne County Museum, on June 21, during alumni weekend.

# Barbershop music set for Oberlin on Sunday

The Colby Tumbleweed Barbershop Chorus will present an afternoon of "Barbershop Then and Now" at the Gateway in Oberlin at 3 p.m. on Sunday, hosted by Western Plains Arts Association.

Under the direction of Bradley Herndon, the 20-member chorus will be singing songs from the 1890s to the 1980s. The show



BETH MAIFELD demonstrates the importance of hula dancing during her program entitled "Hawaiian Escape"

Marsha Magley, president, shared that the club had been represented at the U.S. Navy Band Concert, on Feb. 26, at the Colby Community Building. She and Fred, Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen, Stan and Janet Carman reported an enjoyable evening. A major highlight of that evening, for Marsha, was having the honor of visiting with Captain George N. Thompson, commanding officer and band leader, who has the distinction of being the 12th Navy Band Leader (March 2007) and the first African-American to be commissioned a bandmaster in the history of the U. S. Navy (Nov. 1, 1990).

A motion carried to contribute a floral offering for the Adelina Walter Memorial service on April 12.

Appreciation was extended to Betty for hosting the meeting, to Margaret Poling for providing the evening's refreshments, and to Beth and Bonnie for their inspirational and educational

performances.

There being no further business, the muu muu and lei clad members adjourned to the kitchen and were treated to Hawaiian fruit kabobs and punch during the refreshment time.



## McDonald News By Vera Kacirek

### April calendar

- Wednesday, April 2: McDonald Area Development meeting at noon at the Legion hall;
- Monday, April 5: Senior Citizen dinner and meeting, Senior Center;
- Wednesday, April 9: Arbor Day tree planting at the McDonald Cemetery at 1:30 with Cheylin fourth grade students presenting the program at the Senior Center following the tree planting.

Ray and Marlene Johnson attended the memorial service for Emma Aguinaldo in Lebanon, Neb., on Saturday. Later they

visited Ted and Dixie Bethell in McCook.

Allison and Jessica Swihart spent the Easter weekend with Eleanor Swihart and on their return to Kansas City, Eleanor went home with them for a week's visit, returning home on Monday, March 31.

On Tuesday Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison went to St. Francis to visit Marie Holzwarth.

Doug Tongish was a Sunday dinner guest and visitor of his mother, Joan Tongish.

On Wednesday Laddie and Vera Kacirek attended the funeral of Swede Calnon in St. Francis. They were afternoon visitors of Bud and Helen Frisbie.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Times subscriptions: Vada Burkhalter, Bird City; Jill Partch, Ellis; Kevin Partch, Kearney, Neb.;



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