

Santa, I wantfor Christmas



Valerie Millan (above), 6, told Santa Claus what she wanted for Christmas and posed for Monica Benavides, to take a photo, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Saturday afternoon. Santa talked to lots of kids and handed out more than 600 bags of candy. Emersyn Colby (right), 2, told Santa she wanted a four-wheeler for Christmas, and was specific that she wanted it to be blue. Her father, Shawn Colby of Hays was in town visiting his parents Daryl and Marilyn Colby.



Dispatch gets grant to help pay for two consoles

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

The two dispatch consoles in the central dispatch office in the basement of the City Administration building will be hauled out in the next month or two and updated ones installed, Sherman County commissioners were told last Tuesday.

Crissy Conger, dispatch director and emergency management assistant, told the commissioners she had been notified the county has been awarded a wireless 911 grant to help pay for the upgrade to the consoles and help pay for some of the annual service and maintenance fees.

She said the grant is for about \$57,000, and the amount is based on the percentage of 911 emergency

calls that came in from wireless phones over the past year. She said for Sherman County that was 55 percent and was up about 10 percent from the previous year.

The total project to replace the two consoles is \$86,197, and Conger said the grant will pay for 55 percent of the cost or \$47,409. The remaining money for the project will come from the county 911 fund for \$39,049.

She said the consoles could be installed in the next six to eight weeks, and that the technician from NexTech has most of the parts.

She said all the radios in the central dispatch will be replaced at the same time.

Conger said the wireless money

comes from the monthly charge of 50 cents per line that is split with the county from where the phone is registered and the state. She said the other money is what Sherman County collects at 50 cents per month for each phone line in the home or business.

Conger said they are seeing a trend where more people are going wireless for all their phones, and the number of land lines are not increasing.

She said the upgraded consoles are part of an overall system upgrade that is being mandated by the Federal Communications Commissioner to move all radios to a narrow band system by 2013. She said the new program is to allow for

more room on airwaves for all the demands today.

"We are going to kill two birds with one stone," she said, "and ordered the radios at the same time to be ahead of the required change that is coming."

"We talked to the agencies in our area and the sheriff, fire, police and emergency services have put radios in their budgets. We will be up to date and ready for the mandated change. We are encouraging everyone to get ahead of the curve on this so it will not be a big problem when the time comes."

She said part of the grant money the county received will go to pay for maintenance and licensing fees that total about \$13,561 per year.

The grant will pay for 55 percent of that or about \$7,459 plus \$2,280 for monthly fees on the wireless trunk lines and a database charge.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Conger about the other costs for the system.

Conger said she was looking at the annual maintenance contracts and seeing if the numbers could be improved.

She told the commissioners she is working on a second project to get the trunk lines for the 911 system upgraded through AT&T to allow the calls to be transferred to the sheriff's office or Thomas County if the central dispatch office was down in an emergency.

She said this should be up and

running by mid-January.

"I think it is coming together so we can handle the 911 calls from the sheriff's office with the tandem trunking," she said.

Conger said AT&T handles all the 911 calls, but without the trunking upgrade they cannot transfer the incoming calls to another location such as the sheriff's office or to Thomas County.

She said S&T Communications does not handle the 911 calls, but does have the administration phone lines.

She got permission this year to have backup lines from AT&T to have an alternative if something happens to S&T.

Exhibits scheduled for next year

The Carnegie Arts Center has a full schedule of exhibits planned for the upcoming year. As usual, there is no exhibit in January, but the center and gift shop are open.

In February, the art of North, Central and West elementary school students will be displayed.

March's exhibit will be pho-

tography by Roxie Yonkey of Goodland, owner of Red Brick Road Promotions. The Grant Junior High and Goodland High School "Young Art Art" exhibits will be in April.

May's exhibit will be quilts by Marilyn Hasart, June's will be oil and acrylic paintings by Connie Hatcher and windmill photography by Rich Hughen will be in July.

August's display will be water

colors by Don Denning, the annual Flatlander Photo Contest will be in September and oil paintings by Marilyn Frisbee will be October's exhibit.

Paintings and prints by Matthew Richter will be in November, and the year will again close with local artists' work displayed in December.

County finances grader

Sherman County commissioners met in special session on Friday afternoon to review finance bids for lease purchase of a 2008 road grader with Western State Bank having the lowest interest rate.

The commissioners previously approved the purchase of a 2008 Cat Model M from Martin Tractor in Colby with a trade-in of an 97 model H. The total grader cost after trade in was \$147,000.

Curt Way, public works manger, said he was going to use \$32,000 of the machinery money to reduce the

balance to \$115,000, and split that up in four equal payments.

Way requested the special meeting to review the bids and Commissioner Mitch Tiede and Commissioner Chuck Thomas attended the meeting. Commissioner Kevin Rasure was not present.

Way said he requested bids from all four local banks, and received three bids.

Each bank was asked to bid on a lease purchase of \$115,000 with the first payment to be made in February and the remainder in three equal payments ending in 2012.

First National Bank bid 3.97 percent interest. Peoples State Bank bid 5.75 percent. Western State Bank bid 3.745 percent.

Thomas made a motion to accept the Western State Bank bid and Tiede seconded.

The first payment of \$30,572 is due in February and then three equal payments over the next three

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story.

Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual.

We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Commissioners interview for job

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners continue to interview applicants for the city manager position vacated by Wayne Hill, and without a manager, the commissioners met individually with department supervisors at their meeting last Monday.

The commissioners held four closed-door sessions of 15, 20, 30 and 15 minutes and met individually with the city department heads, including City Clerk Mary Volk; Charlie Bandel, supervisor of the electrical department; Rod Blake, power plant; Public Works Manager Rich Simon; Linda Holton, curator of the High Plains Museum; Building Inspector Steve Criswell; Fire Chief Brian James; and Police Chief Ray Smee.

Without a city manager the commissioners could meet with the

department supervisors to talk to them about their performance and their staff. Usually staff performance is the responsibility of the city manager.

When they returned to open session, no action was taken.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved final engineering design payment of \$1,112 to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for the turning lane project on Business U.S. 24 at Cherry Ave. and a reimbursement request on the same project for the state Department of Transportation for \$709.

- Approved appointment of Stuart Pittman, a pilot for Eagle Med, to fill a vacancy on the airport board created by the recent death of W.J. Trachsel.

- Approved reappointment of Bill Stoick, owner of Super 8 Motel,

to the planning commission for a three-year term.

- Approved the reappointment of licensed electrician Shad Sheldon to a three-year term on the electrical board.

- Approved reappointment of Harold Gillihan for a three-year term on the plumbing board.

- Approved a beer license renewal for El Reynaldo's.

- Approved an amendment to this year's budget to show an increase in expenditures for solid waste from \$361,750 to \$378,250. Volk said the increase of \$16,500 was because of the \$1-a-month rate increase that went into effect in February.

The next city commission meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 5, upstairs in the City Administration building.

Car hits back of Freightliner

Wallita Ghebremichael, 18, of Henderson, Nev., in her 2006 Kia was following a 2007 Freightliner attempting to pass a snow plow milepost 27.5 east of Edson when she ran into the back end of a truck.

Cathy Badger, 27, and Dayanna Hambric, 5, both of Columbus, Ohio, were both passengers in the Kia. Badger was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center and released. Ghebremichael and Badger were wearing seat belts but Hambric was not.

Mark Alvis, 42, of Springfield, Mo., was the driver of the truck. He was wearing a seat belt.

Need a Ride?

Call General Public Transportation Bus Services are available within the City limits of Goodland, Kansas

To schedule a ride call:

Monday thru Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
785-899-5082

Donations are accepted
Handicap Accessible

"Project Funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

Look What's Coming for the Holidays!

Ends Tonight

Four Christmases
PG-13 • 7:00
Closed Christmas Eve
Starts Christmas night

Bedtime Stories
PG • 7:00
www.goodlandnet.com/movies

Sherman
1203 Main - Phone 899-6103

Hollyday Special

Sign up for a year at
\$25 a month!

Open 24 hours a day!

Work out when YOU want!

Changing Lifestyles

1224 Main, Goodland
(785) 890-7512
(785) 821-2383
(785) 821-4938