

Phone Official Explains Cost, Vote On 911 Service



Ronnie Freeman

An official of AT&T explained last week a November ballot that will help get emergency phone service for rural areas of the county and for cell-phone users.

The speaker was Ronnie Freeman, area manager for Enhanced 9-1-1 Public Safety Solutions.

“Now, when you call 911 from a cell phone, they do not

know where you are,” Freeman said. If you have an emergency, you must give your location.

And since all rural residences do not have addresses, the emergency phone service has never been extended to the whole county.

The system certainly can save lives, he added.

There are two resolutions on the November ballot, one for cell phones and the other for land-based line phones.

Most people have a cellular phone, and some have two, the AT&T official said.

A county committee would have to decide the details of the “addresses” for rural phone users. Orlean Smith, who introduced Freeman, is a member of the county committee.

Residents now have a base rate ranging from \$10.25 at Arpelar

and Stuart, to \$14.50 at Ashland, Wardville, Kiowa and Savanna. The McAlester, Krebs and Alderson base rate is \$10.87.

Business phones are \$28.25 in McAlester, Krebs and Alderson, which is the highest in the county. The business base rates range from \$12.25 at Arpelar and Stuart and \$14 at Crowder and Canadian, to the \$28.25 rate.

Information which Freeman handed out showed the additional cost in McAlester, would go from five percent to 15 percent of the phone bill, which is an estimated \$1.63 for residential phones. For business phones, the increase of 15 percent would add up to a range of \$1.84 in Arpelar and Stuart to \$4.24 in McAlester, Krebs and Alderson.

Cell phones would have a flat 50-cent fee.

Fees collected on cellphones would go to the Kiamichi Economic Development District at Wilburton. The money would then be returned to Pittsburg County for use on wireless 911 services only.

Considerable update work for phone company equipment is expected, but the County E911 Board has not determined what the cost will be. An updated hard line system could run from \$90,000 to \$150,000. However, it is time for an upgrade of equipment in See 911 on Page 2

Rotary District 6110 Conference and Leadership Training

September 14 – 17, 2006

additional information available at www.ri6110.org

McAlester Buff Team Already Learning

Athletics are a big part of teaching, MHS Football Coach Bryan Pratt told us Aug. 15, and his Buffalo team showed they had learned something Friday night when McAlester beat Okmulgee, 35-26. It was the first game for the Buffs, under the new head coach.

Pratt said his goal is to “get us back in the playoffs.”

The new coach said he has “changed a lot of stuff,” but that he “feels at home.” And “there are lots of good young kids coming back” this year.

Coach Pratt said there are 50 varsity players, 48 ninth graders and 60 seventh graders, at Puterbaugh.

The varsity team uses a “split offense” with one back in the “I Of-fense,” and a 3-3-5 line. On the defense, “everybody has a gap,” Coach Pratt said.

“Things are a lot different than when I played,” he admitted. There is a “lot of speed” now.

He said he will try to make the team understand “how important special teams is.”

Pratt said the team will “watch the film” and try to make the events “family oriented.”

“We will work hard in a common goal—to win,” he said.

“What we’re trying to do is make them better people.”

The team has scrimmaged Poteau, and had a three-way scrimmage with Sallisaw and Grove.

“I tell the kids you get better or worse. You never stay the same.”

He told about a new building that will be “the best weight room in the state of Oklahoma. It also will be used as a band room, and the track team will use it.

Justin Klusak is the quarterback. And Deon Hall is a large player, he reported.

There also is a “big receiving corps,” with some 6-foot, two and See Buffs on Page 2



Bryan Pratt

Speakers Outline Operation Of 'Drug Court'



Judge, Jim Bland

Angie Marcum, Drug Court Coordinator

Judge, Farrell Hatch

Benny Robinson

Advocates of a voluntary Drug Court for Pittsburg and McIntosh Counties are "getting it underway," Judge and Rotarian Jim Bland told us Aug. 22.

The new court will be court-supervised and so will the participants, who must sign a "performance contract," which usually states they will not use drugs or alcohol, go into bars, liquor stores, or gambling facilities. And defendants agree to "pay all fees, court costs, restitution costs, victims' compensation..." associated with the charge against them. They will not leave the county, change addresses, or refuse to comply with all counseling and testing programs ordered by the court.

From 2002 to 2004, Drug Courts have saved the state \$87,000,000, said Angie Marcum, coordinator for the Drug Court. She said some 95 percent of all crimes involve drugs.

Judge Bland said Bill Layden will be judge of the Drug Court here.

Judge Farrell Hatch, a retired Durant Judge, talked about the Bryan County Drug Court. He does not charge for being judge of the Drug Court there.

Judge Hatch called addiction "a terrible thing." He said people who are addicted to smoking "would walk a mile for as Camel."

Ninety-eight percent of the people who try "Meth" are addicted, he said. However, where there is a "Drug Court," they can plead guilty, agree to random testing and "stay drug free."

They have a curfew "just like a teenager," he noted.

One school teacher lost her job for using drugs. "There are good, decent people, who are victims of drugs," he stated.

Benny Robinson, who said he used drugs, told about his life.

"I wasn't raised that way," he said. "Somewhere along the way I did mess up."

Robinson said he had been to three rehabilitation programs and to prison.

The Drug Court programs "keep you busy." You are not allowed to go around with former friend. "You have to hit bottom," he testified.

"But it works."

The program "gives them a way to a straight life," he said.

Judge Bland said for people under the program, "If you are not working, you're going to school. "Or they will find work for you to do," he said.

Ms. Marcum said a person cannot graduate from the program "without paying the costs."

Violence cannot be involved in the charges. But the sentence is deferred, they said, until the program is completed. Then the defendant is put on probation for five years. But the defendant does not go to prison, if they comply with the performance contract.

Asked if the use of methamphetamines is down, Ms. Marcum said that the manufacturing is down, "but not the use."

Bland said not all the rules for the local court are worked out yet. They follow "general guidelines, but all courts are different," he said.

911 from Page 1

McAlester, Freeman reported.

For rural areas, "you have to drive every road in the county and put it on the system," he said in answer to a question. Implementation may take 24 months, although it could be done in 12 months, he also said in answer to a question.

Fees are set by the State Corporation Commission, Freeman said.

Buffs from Page 1

three-inch players.

Only the "skill guys" will play on both offense and defense, he noted.

McAlester lost five games by less than seven points last year. The team will be trying to do better this year, "so I can come back next year," he confided.

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were 43 present. Second reading was held for Helen Wheeler, who was a guest of Mary Helsebein.

On Aug. 22, there were 58 persons present. Frances Lerblance was a guest of Richard Lerblance. Helen Wheeler was a guest of Mary Helsebein.

On Aug. 15 there were 58 present. Jeff Carney was a guest of

Thurman Shuller. Helen Wheeler was a guest of Mary.

HANDSHAKERS-Last week, Judge Jim Bland had the dollar again. By now, he probably has a grand jury investigating that big money give-away. But he whipped it to Tim Whipps. On Aug. 15, Orlean Smith phoned it to Larry Auld. And on Aug. 22, Phil Brenner flew it to Don Harris, who did not give it to the Salvation Army.

Governor's Message

By Peggy George

A Note from the Governor:

As I write this, I have just completed my 26th club visit with only 51 to go! Everywhere I have visited, I have been warmly received in the true spirit of Rotary Fellowship, and I have been greatly impressed with the good work I see going on around this district. I am so proud to be even a small part of it.

I am asking the clubs I visit to write up their projects and take great photos and ship them along to our District Newsletter Editor Steve Reid so that we can share them through the Governor's Newsletter, which is now available to every Rotarian in the district who has e-mail and wishes to receive the publication. We can celebrate each other's accomplishments and glean great new ideas for our own clubs as we swap stories. If you haven't already opted-in to receive the newsletter, please do so. We want to grow our family!

In this issue you will see some exciting news about the latest gift our generous Past District Governor has given Rotary International Foundation's permanent fund, with interest proceeds to be shared with our District. We can never say "thank you" enough to this giving man who truly lives out our Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

You will also see an article about one of our guest artists, Kyden Creekpaum, who will appear at

our District Conference. Rotary gave this young man a great hand up during his teen years, and it is a great pleasure to track his progress and see what he is doing with his gifts and his life.



You'll learn how to match your gift to RI Foundation this year by signing up for EFT!

But the most important message I could possibly give you this month is —

“DON'T MISS OUR DISTRICT CONFERENCE!!!”

It will be an incredible experience with a wonderful blend of fun (golf and poker), Rotary education, with plenary sessions on youth, international understanding, a water well report from Nicaragua by Angeles Bermudez, a presentation on The Wheelchair Foundation by Chris Lewis, a University Scholar's presentation on his experience teaching in Fiji, and beautiful music from jazz to country to classical piano, to the Rotary Men of Note sprinkled throughout the conference. Our keynoter Jerry Traylor will give you a life-changing message, and, oh yes, you'll have an opportunity to save a life by donating your blood and to give shoes to orphan children around the world!

This conference is our major event of the year, and it is for all

Rotarians. **YOU SHOULD BE THERE!**

I have great news! Because of overwhelming last-minute registrations, **we have received an extension on our deadline for meeting sessions and meals ONLY through September 1!**

The hotel will also extend our reduced room rate through Sunday, August 20 only,

so don't delay making your reservation. There are also several other hotels within a mile of our facility where you can find rooms and have a short commute to the conference. Terri Pollmiller will research the area and publish a list for your convenience. So hop onto our ri6110.org website and get your hotel reservation form and conference registration. Send your registration with check, to Terri Pollmiller, District Administrator and make your hotel reservation direct with the Renaissance. You'll be blessed!

Peggy George
District Governor



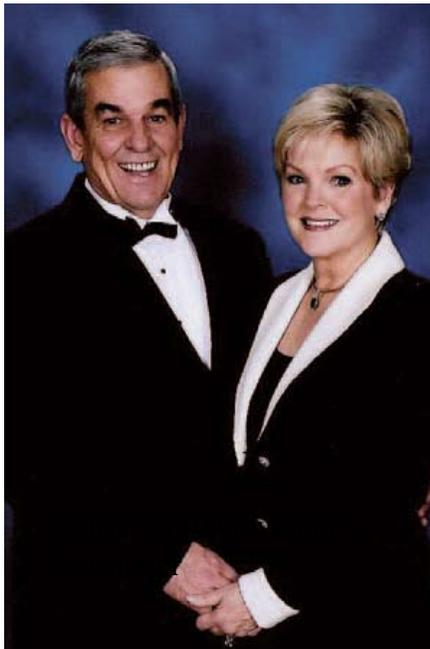
DISTRICT 6110 IS GIFTED WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR GERALD HARP

Gerald Harp is a man of few words, gently spoken, with a million-dollar smile that flashes across his face often. He is friendly, helpful and completely genuine. He came into Rotary in 1968 after his father was tragically killed in an auto accident. The “retail grocer” classification was open, and he was invited to join the Springdale, Arkansas club. It’s a day that should be recorded in the annals of Rotary and District 6110 history.

It took Gerald ten years before he decided to become a Paul Harris Fellow in 1978. He said that was the way most of his club members did it. They gave their \$1,000 and that was it. But in 1988 the PolioPlus project captured his attention, and he contributed to it. Then in 1989, he decided to make all his family members Paul Harris Fellows, and today more than 30 of his family members have been so honored.

Then, Gerald noticed that many of his club’s past presidents were not Paul Harris Fellows, so he proceeded to honor each of them (some of them posthumously) with a PHF, and today every Springdale club president, past and present, is a Paul Harris Fellow through his generosity.

He began to seriously study about the problems of the world. The more he learned and the better he understood the power of a 1.2 million worldwide family, the more he wanted to help. He started with water, and in 2001 he donated \$10,000 for water wells in Africa and \$5,000 for water wells in Nicaragua. And then he took on education, contributing \$150,000 to endow a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to honor Jim Rountree and Ben Saltzman. The scholarship administered



through Rotary Foundation benefits students attending the University of Arkansas from District 7010, which covers Haiti, Jamaica, Virgin Islands and several other islands in high poverty locales. He calls this a “two birder” allowing him to honor his Alma Mater and give to the Rotary Foundation to help young people pursue a higher education. Students pursuing agricultural studies are given preference.

He funded three matching grants with Lima, Peru to provide 450 residents fresh water, children with fresh soy milk from mechanical cows, and school books.

During his term as District Governor, Gerald provided 318,000 in matching foundation points to encourage District Rotarians to become Paul Harris Fellows. In 2005-06, during Ed Hardesty’s term, he provided over 62,000 matching points, and has once gain this year provided 50,000 recognition points for Rotarians who sign up for EFT for the first time as a channel for Rotary Foundation giving.

Gerald is a Level 6 (million dollar)

donor with lifetime giving over \$1,349,000.00, and he and Vicki have made the Rotary Foundation a part of their annual planned giving. “There are so many ways you can give to the Rotary Foundation,” he said. “Gifts of appreciated stock have great tax benefits and so do Donor Advised Funds.”

His most recent contribution is a \$400,000 gift through a Vanguard Donor Advised Fund, which at his death will benefit the Rotary Foundation Permanent Fund with Annual Program Funds Share (50%) accruing to District 6110. This is Gerald’s way of benefiting both RI Foundation and our District. He has made provisions to continue his legacy through the Bequest Society and this Donor Advised Fund.

Gerald has always been reluctant to talk about his lifetime giving to Rotary, but with much urging and encouragement agreed to share his story in the hope that it might encourage others to be generous with the resources they have and to be a part of Rotary’s service both at home and around the world. “If I can encourage one person to give to the Rotary Foundation, it will be worth it,” he said.

Gerald is serving as Chair of our District’s Annual Giving Committee. He has formed a committee of District 6110 Rotarians who have training and experience in Foundation giving. They are available to speak to clubs around the District and to provide counsel to individuals who want a broader understanding of the Foundation and its work.

We extend our deepest gratitude to this giving man who is the ultimate example of “Service Above Self,” and is in every sense of the word “Leading the Way!” 