Emergency director: Quitting land lines prompts problems

by Jonathan Green

Hot Springs County emergency management director Bill Gordon warns those who have wireless 911 phones that dispatchers might not be able to locate you. As wireless 911 call volumes continue to dwindle, 911 on a cellular phone. Gordon said he understands the economic considerations that compels people to use wireless 911 but dispatchers might not have the information available to locate you.

Older cell phones that lack global positioning system (GPS) circuitry will never display a location to the 911 dispatcher, and both buildings and vehicles can interfere with the system, he said.

So long as a cellular device has a signal, the 911 call will go through, but he estimated between 20-50% of wireless 911 calls do not provide location information.

The location pinpoint is especially useful in 911 hangups or when the caller cannot provide a location to the dispatcher.

Gordon said it would help for residents to contact the dispatcher at 984-3114 and provide their cellular telephone numbers in advance. He promised those numbers would be used strictly for 911 call location purposes.

The dispatcher can see if anyone has provided that information.

The number placing the call and will be able to search records to see if anyone has provided that information.

That money will be used to fund project and economic viability planning. Any unused portion must be returned to the state on June 30, 2010.

Her other bill that passed amends statutes to make only clear conservation districts can receive federal natural resources policy account funds. She said it was important to make the distinction when western counties in Wyoming often depend upon active conservation districts to develop policies for public lands.

After passing through the House, an effort to implement minimum sentencing for some sexual offenses died in the Senate. Quarberg said the failure of the bill to be approved in the other chamber was her greatest disappointment "bar none" of the legislative session.

Quarberg lamented lawmakers want to set maximum penalties for every crime enacted by the Legislature just to turn around and refuse to impose minimums, arguing to do so would limit the discretion of judges.

She also was disappointed the Legislature voted to order the Department of Transportation to comply with federal government requests for information contained in the Real ID act.

The two bills sponsored by Quarberg to fail were those that would have established an enforcement office for public federal lands.

Her other bill that passed amends statutes to make explicitly clear conservation districts can redeveloping land with economic viability planning. Any unused portion must be returned to the state on June 30, 2010.

The bill requires Hot Springs County and Thermopolis to enter into a joint powers board to obtain a lease from the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

The bill was passed by the chamber her greatest disappointment "bar none" of the legislative session.

According to Geis, 3.5 million dollars was spent by the committee passed "pretty much all we wanted," specifically enhanced brucellosis testing for cattle, and another which would have allowed employers to provide non-certified day care for employers' children.

She will try the dentists bill again in the future, noting, "It wasn't ready for prime time."