

### Morgan County Communications Centers

# Emergency responders will need new radios

## Lightning struck MCCC building

By Dan Barker  
Times News Editor

Leaders of local emergency response teams need to start planning to replace all their radios. The state is updating its technology for alerting emergency responders to incidents, and part of that

is replacing outdated technology, said Deborah Blandin-Surbeck, a senior partner of OD Consulting, which is helping dispatch centers keep up with what is happening.

However, the state will not be paying for local technology upgrades, she said. Blandin-Surbeck was at the Morgan County Communications Center on Tuesday to talk with local officials.

She talked about strategic and tactical interoperable communications train-

ing, which local dispatchers and emergency responders will need in order to use the new technology.

MCCC Director Danette Martin said that replacing older technology is just a fact of life in the 21st century, and that the communications center is busy updating its dispatch consoles and communications towers.

Agencies should save up funding for new radios, she said.

New dispatch consoles

are scheduled to be put in place the week of June 9 and work is almost done on remodeling the technology room. A lease for use of a communications tower is completed now, and upgraded technology will go on towers soon, Martin said.

Blandin-Surbeck said the mission of the new state communications system is to allow communication among jurisdictions and governments in the case of a large scale emergency or disaster, and the system is

part of Homeland Security.

Since 2012, state interoperable communications have improved on a variety of measures, but having fully functional cooperation will require more collaboration and regionwide standard operating procedures, she said.

While there is collaboration at an informal level, it needs to be made more official, Blandin-Surbeck said.

The Northeast All Hazards Region needs to have its goals aligned with the

Colorado strategy, she said.

There are a number of obstacles to interoperability, including insufficient funding, not enough manpower, a lack of use of record keeping systems, political issues and a lack of training on the systems, Blandin-Surbeck said.

Colorado's goals include updating the state interoperability plan, assessing all radio systems, replacing repeater stations and getting the Inter RF Sub Sys-

See **RADIOS**, pg. 2

## Splash splash



Jenni Grubbs / Fort Morgan Times

Sabastian Lara, 11, right, flies off the west diving board as the boy next to him gets ready to make a splash in the water after jumping off the east one at Fort Morgan's community swimming pool early Monday afternoon. More than 220 people entered the pool complex at Riverside Park by 1:30 p.m. Memorial Day, which was opening day at the pool. "It's slowly gotten busy throughout the day," Recreation Superintendent Jay Cochran said of the early turnout, adding that she could not have asked for better weather for opening day. "The water's great, and it seems like everyone's having a good time." She said that with nine lifeguards on the decks, two inside and three managers, the pool had a full staff for the summer season.



Jenni Grubbs / Fort Morgan Times

Lots of children and a few adults enjoy warm weather on opening day at Fort Morgan's community swimming pool. More than 220 people came to the pool by 1:30 p.m. Memorial Day. Tony Hochanadel, pool manager, said everything was going smoothly on the first day. "We're looking forward to a very jam-packed and fun summer," he said. "We've got a good staff, and it's going to be awesome."

# County Republicans to hold candidate forum Monday

By Times Staff

The Morgan County Republican Central Committee and the Morgan County Republican Women will be holding a Republican Candidates Forum at 7 p.m. Monday at the Morgan County Administration Building, 231 Ensign St., in Fort Morgan.

The evening will start with a question and answer session with the candidates for Morgan County Clerk and Recorder, LaNette Nestor and Susan Bailey. Other local candidates will also speak as will candidates for the state and national offices. Candidates to higher office scheduled to come are Jon Becker, 65th House district, Jerry Sonnenberg, 1st Senate,

Ken Buck, Steve Laffey, and Scott Renfro, 4th congressional district and Bob Beauprez, governor.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 24. This is an opportunity to learn about the Republican candidates and make an informed choice for who will run for the general election.

The public is invited to attend to hear from the Republican candidates for local office and to the higher elected offices. The Hispanic and minority communities are invited to come and learn about the Republican principals.

For more information, contact Vivianne Lorenzini at 645-2485, Louise Pilcher at 867-7003, Judy Mortensen at 842-2016 or Micky Ashby at 970-988-2059.

### Common Law Grand Jury

# Two sign up with cause

## Concerned with course of the nation

By Dan Barker  
Times News Editor

Two Morgan County residents came out to hear about the common law Grand Jury at the Morgan County Justice Center Tuesday evening.

Supporters of the common law Grand Jury idea came through Fort Morgan during a tour of a few counties that day, stopping in Fort Morgan that evening, and hoping to have people join their cause.

Supporters of the idea join for a variety of reasons and have variety of things they want to do.

Some want the ability to put issues on county ballots whether local county commissioners want to or not. Some are concerned about what they consider the "despotism" of the current governments.

In general, many are concerned about what they consider poor statutes, abusive law officers and judges who use juries as "puppets," they said.

Morgan County residents had a chance to listen to a presentation of the ideas on a recording by John Darash of the National Liberty Alli-

See **COMMON**, pg. 2

### Index

Weather.....	3
Obituaries.....	3
Opinion.....	4
TV Guide.....	5
Sports.....	7
Times of Your Life.....	8
Comics.....	10
Classifieds.....	11

**Weather:** Skies will be partly sunny today with a high of 88°. Five-day forecast on page 3.

