

Suspicious package sent to courthouse

At 1 p.m. on Friday, the Cheyenne County Courthouse was closed after a suspicious package was found among the mail from the St. Francis Post Office.

The Cheyenne County Sheriff officers and county emergency manager, along with the Kansas Division of Emergency Management were immediately contacted. Incident Command was set up involving those already inside the building.

Sheriff officers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation checked out the package which was addressed to the Cheyenne County Courthouse, and by 4 p.m., decided that it contained no hazardous materials.

The package was sent from a foreign country, said Ryan Murray, emergency manager, and had suspicious wording written on the backside of the package which prompted the original concern. Officials made the decision

to close the courthouse and all precautionary measures taken.

"I am impressed with the quick thinking, response and action taken by the sheriff's office and all involved to protect the health and safety of the public and county employees," Mr. Murray said. "It is better to proceed with caution in this type of incident rather than neglect - situations of this nature must be taken seriously."

The courthouse opened as usual on Monday. Mr. Murray said there was a meeting with courthouse workers to go over emergency plans in case there is a similar happening in the future.

The incident, he said, remains under FBI investigation.

Agencies involved besides those mentioned above included the county clerk's office, county commissioners, county communications, county attorney, Kansas State Fire Marshall and the United States Postal Service.



Willy Martinez and Ray Martinez are removing the ceiling tiles and plaster from walls at the Senior Center.

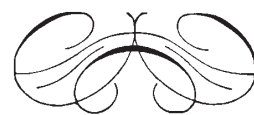
Seniors enjoy coffee, rolls, talking to each other

Monday's coffee and rolls brought the usual large crowd to enjoy Edna Roesener's homemade cinnamon rolls and donuts. Conversations were

louder than usual talking above the pounding in the back room. Progress is going well. Willy Martinez and Ray Martinez are busy working on the construction

which was made possible with money from the grant they just received. They are removing the plaster off the walls and salvaging the tin ceiling tiles

in the back room. The next step will be the insulation.



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