

Council discusses turning building over to county

By Karen Krien

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During the superintendent's report at the Jan. 10, St. Francis City Council meeting, he suggested that the St. Francis Emergency Building be turned over to the county.

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, pointed out that the county emergency medical service and emergency preparedness offices are located there and all the west county emergency vehicles are housed there. The city only has two fire trucks in the building.

The emergency building was built with grant money and volunteer labor. Mike Day, city attorney, will check with the state to see if there are any problems which would stop the transfer.

The city takes care of bills and there is a rate for utilities.

The county commissioners and the city council meet every two months before the regular commissioners meeting. The clerk will find out when the next meeting of the two entities is scheduled and the emergency building will be on the agenda.

Contractor's insurance

The hike in contractor insurance requirements was again on the agenda. Mr. Day and Kelly Frewen, city's insurance agent, had contacted the city of Colby for a copy of their contract. This contract, Mr. Day said, addresses some of the concerns of the council. However, in Colby, the contractors have to be licensed determining their level of skill and Mr. Landenberger didn't feel that he was qualified to determine this.

Mr. Swihart questioned the need to change the contract. The council discussed amending the contract to address the situation.

All we want, Mr. Swihart said, is a permit that proves there is insurance. Most of the discussion came after the hail storm several years ago and some roofers did not do good work.

Property cleanup

The cleanup of the Sherry Smith property on East Emerson Street appeared to be moving

along. Attorney Day commended the police chief for his work with Ms. Smith. Mr. Day had talked to Ms. Smith who said she wanted time to take some of the items in the house, possibly late March or April before signing a quit-claim deed.

It was noted that there is \$1,700 in back taxes on the house. The city is willing to forgive the city's part of the taxes but there would still be the school and county taxes. Mr. Day will talk to the owner again.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent Landenberger said the trash rate for those living outside the city limits and not on city utilities, has been set. The base rate is \$19 per dumpster, then mileage is added. He noted that there is a private company who will pick up the trash for less.

He reported a city hydrant broke on Scott and Fourth streets and was repaired.

In other business

In other business: Mr. Jensen said no date has been set for the next e-waste pick up.

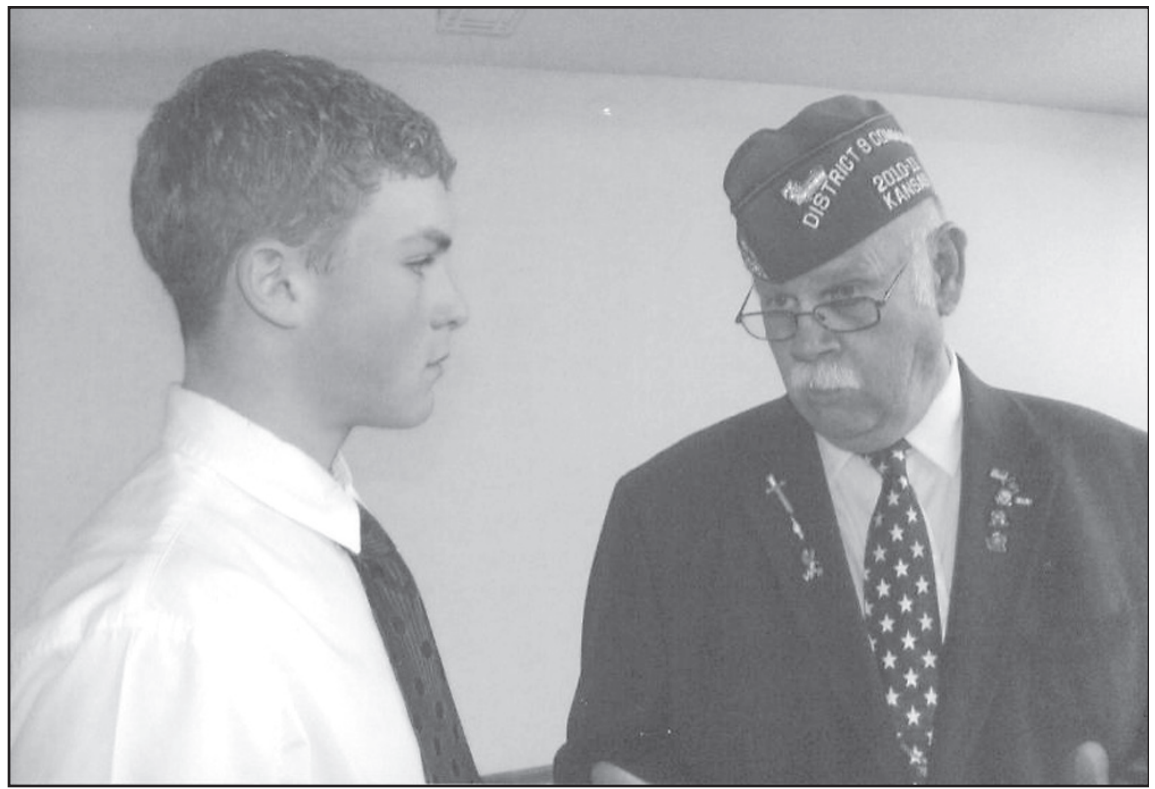
Mr. Swihart, the council's representative on the Good Samaritan Village Committee, reported \$34,000 had been donated to the Community Foundation, earmarked for the Village restoration. When the Good Samaritan Society has restored what the insurance money allows, there will be beds for 32 residents, which is roughly about 60 percent of what the facility was running before the Oct. 19 fire.

Bartlett Grain, St. Francis, had submitted a bid for summer chemicals for \$5,488 which is less than last year's cost.

The clerk handed out health insurance information for the council to review. She noted that it was up 10 percent over last year's cost.

Police chief, Shane Guggemos, said Jim Walter had passed the academy. Also reported that the high school had been broken into again.

Next meeting The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at city hall on Main Street.



CADE BRACELIN (left) is the state's Patriot Pen winner. Bracelin visits with Larry Rowlinson, 9th District Commander.

Student receives honors

Cade Bracelin, St. Francis, the state's Patriot Pen winner, was invited to attend the Voice of Democracy banquet in McPherson on Jan. 15. The banquet was held during the Mid-Winter Veterans of Foreign War Department Convention. This year was the first time that a Patriot Pen winner has been honored at the banquet.

Every Year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts and Ladies Auxiliaries across the United States sponsor two scholarship competitions for students, the

Voice of Democracy audio essay contest and the Patriot's Pen contest.

The Patriot's Pen is a nationwide youth essay competition. It is geared to students grades six, seven and eight, who are asked to write a 300-400 word essay based on the theme chosen by the Veterans of Foreign War for that current year. Students compete at the local, district, regional, state and national level with the national winner receiving a \$10,000.

Bracelin's essay was submitted by the Veterans of Foreign War Post 1528 and it Ladies Auxiliary from St. Francis.

He received a \$500 United States Savings Bond from the Department of Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars and his essay has been sent on to Washington, D.C., for the national competition.

Bracelin's guests at the banquet were his parents, Chris and Jill Bracelin, his sister, Hanna, and his grandparents, Tom and Sandy Smull.

Introducing

Kierstyn Makenna Gohl

Kierstyn Makenna Gohl, daughter of Tim and Heidi Gohl, Hays, was born Dec. 17, 2010, at 6:57 p.m. at Hays Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and was 20 1/2-inches long.

Grandparents are Deb Gohl, St. Francis, DeLynn Gohl, Elsie, Neb., and Dick and Michele Rohweder, St. Francis. Great-grandparents are Delores Gohl, McCook, Neb., Jerry and Sandy Patterson, Hayes Center, Neb., and Lavon Schlittenhardt, St. Francis.



Gohl

Obituaries

Lorna Jo Nichols

April 5, 1948 - Jan. 11, 2011

Lorna Jo Nichols died Jan. 11, 2011, at the age of 62 years, seven months, and six days at the Via Christi Hospital in Wichita, Kan.

Lorna was born April 5, 1948, in Colby, Thomas County, Kan., to Virgil Gail and Frankie Lee Lakey-Schielke Nichols, the eldest of five children.

Following graduation from Winona Consolidated High School, she spent two years with the Job Corps in Omaha, Neb., and Colby Community College, before attending and graduating from Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia with a degree in elementary education.

Following a year of teaching in Brewster, she decided to teach in one-room schools in Nebraska. This career was interrupted when her youngest sister was seriously injured in a car accident in Beloit. She helped care for her and her sister's daughter. She then decided to be a nanny with her first position being in Philadelphia, Pa. She held positions in Connecticut before returning where she managed a video and rent-to-own store.

Physical disabilities plagued her since she was a teenager and she moved into a housing authority rental and became an advocate for disabilities, traveling several times to Topeka to lobby for the disabled.

She was baptized and became a member of Trinity Lutheran

Church in Colby. While in Old Saybrook, Conn., she attended St. John's Evangelical Church.

Although Lorna never had children of her own she was loved by her nieces and nephews, school students and her nanny positions.

She was predeceased by her father, Virgil Nichols, and her grandparents.

She is survived by her mother, Lee Nichols, St. Francis; siblings, Loyall (Barbara) Nichols, Colby, Denise Packard, Grainfield, Dru (Tracey) Nichols, Laramie, Wyo., Dawn Nichols, Colby; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby, on Saturday, Jan., 15, with Pastor Robert Alexander officiating. The body was cremated so there was no viewing service. Interment will be at a later date in Elmwood Cemetery, Beloit.

Honorary pallbearers were Nolan Packard, Cheree Swaney, Michelle Selzer, Melissa Button, Marc Nichols, Darla Nichols, Aaron Nichols and Latisha Harvell.

The family requests the following donations in lieu of flowers: Trinity Lutheran Church, Colby, the food bank or Thomas County EMTs. They may be made in care of Kersensbrock Funeral Home, Colby.

Mildred Vera Gorlinsky

Sept. 10, 1915 - Jan. 16, 2011

Longtime Goodland, Kan., resident Mildred Vera Gorlinsky, 95, died Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, at Goodland Regional Medical Center.



Gorlinsky

She was born Sept. 10, 1915, in Cheyenne County, near Kanorado, the daughter of Vinnie Ethel (Reish) and Lloyd V. Weeden.

She graduated from St. Francis High School.

On Feb. 24, 1936, she and Stanley Daniel Gorlinsky were married at the Methodist Church in Goodland. She had worked as a bookkeeper at Duckwall's and Alco, retiring after 40-years of service.

Mildred was a member of the First United Methodist Church and Circle Three.

Preceding her in death were her parents, two brothers, her husband, Stanley Gorlinsky, and granddaughter, Vicki (Goalden) Lewallen.

Surviving family includes two daughters, Carol Ann Goalden and her husband, Dr. Alvis of Goodland; Margie Jean Jensen and her husband, Kenneth R. of Goodland; five grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Audrey Mooney of Denver, Colo.; Marie Holzwaorth of St. Francis; and brother, Gaylen M. Weeden and his wife, Dorothy of St. Francis.

The funeral will be Thursday, Jan. 20, at 11:30 a.m. (10:30 a.m. mountain time), at the First United Methodist Church in Goodland. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Friends may share their respects on Wednesday, from 4 until 7 p.m. (3 to 7 p.m. mountain time), at Koons Chapel in Goodland.

Memorials may be designated to the First United Methodist Church, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Student graduates from university

Dr. Bryan Neville graduated in December with a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in animal sciences with an emphasis in ruminant nutrition from North Dakota State University, Fargo.



Neville

The focus of his research was "Factors influencing sulfur toxicity in ruminants fed distillers dried grains with solubles."

Bryan previously received his bachelor of science and master of science degrees from University of Wyoming and North Dakota State University, respectively.

Bryan and his wife, Tammi, will be moving in January as Bryan will begin his new career as the animal scientist at the Central Grasslands Research Extension Center located in Streeter, N.D.

Bryan is the son of Keith Neville of Benkelman, Neb., and Joya Neville of Grant, Neb.

He is the grandson of LouAnn Neville of Benkelman and Norma Weems of St. Francis.

Importance of Radon Testing

Radon is a naturally occurring element produced from radioactive decay in the soil; it's an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas, and cited as the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause of lung cancer in the general population.

Radon surveys have shown that 6 percent of homes in the U.S. have average concentrations above the recommended maximum level. However, the Kansas survey demonstrated that one in four homes were high, said Bruce Snead, Kansas State University Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

"Anyone can be vulnerable," said Mr. Snead, who explained that the cancer-causing gas, which can seep from the soil beneath the foundation through cracks or joints (in the foundation) into a home, is typically easy to detect and mitigate at a moderate cost.

"Detection is relatively simple," he said. He recommends beginning with a home radon detector, which, in its simplest form, can be purchased from many K-State Research and Extension offices in the state (for about \$5), at home and hardware stores and on the Internet, usually for \$25 or less.

"Testing is important, because it's the only way to tell how much of the gas is present," said Snead, who explained that, in Kansas, since 1987, 41 percent of the 50,182 test results available had levels above the recommended ceiling of 4.0 pCi/L (Pico Curies per liter of air, is the unit of measurement). Conduct tests in the home in the lowest lived-in level about 20 to 24 inches above the floor for two to five days. The goal is to measure the potential for elevated concentrations that come from the soil beneath the home's foundation. Testing in a kitchen or bathroom, in which more humid air and ventilation is typically occurring, is

not recommended. Following test directions is a must.

If the initial test result is 4 pCi/L or higher, a follow-up test is recommended. Consider fixing your home if the average of the first and second test is 4 pCi/L or higher. If the initial result is low, further testing would be advised if living patterns change, if you begin occupying a lower level, or a significant change occurs in the foundation, heating/cooling systems or insulation/air sealing features. Hiring a professional contractor to fix your home is recommended.

More information about radon is available via the Kansas Radon Program at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state, online at www.kansasradon-program.org and by calling 800-693-5343.

Radon programs at Kansas State University are supported by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency, and serve as a state and national resource on radon awareness, testing, and mitigation.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfeard@ksu.edu with questions or comments or to pick up a radon testing kit.

Till next week - Marty

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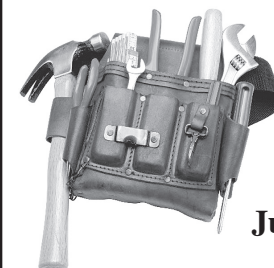
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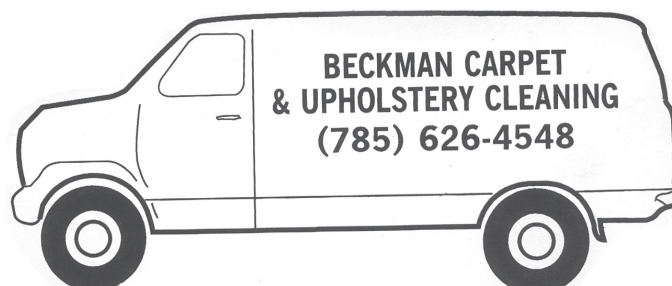
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