

Weather

Courthouse structure OK, say engineering inspectors

From "STRUCTURE," Page 1

performance of deferred maintenance items." They also assessed the roof framing, interior masonry and floor framing, noting some areas in need of maintenance.

Limestone at the tops of the building's chimneys needs to be removed right away, the report says, because it is flaking and could fall.

The engineers suggested repointing areas of the masonry exterior, a process that replaces old mortar. Repointing typically lasts 25 to 50 years, said Blank, and the courthouse's last repointing was in the early 1970s.

The building's integrated copper gutters should be fixed, Blank said, because joints are leaking and are likely causing water to drip down into the walls. Unlike many gutters, he said, these are integrated into the wall, so when they leak, they leak into the wall.

Areas of the cornice should also be repaired, Blank suggested, as a few pieces are loose and simply need to be reattached.

The engineers divided their suggested repairs into four categories: immediate, required, recommended and optional.

Immediate repairs included removing the loose overhead limestone from the chimney exterior, repairing the base of a fire escape column that has rusted due to salting the nearby steps, repairing two truss bearings that appear to have shifted from their original position, shoring up the roof framing until permanent repairs can be made and having an engineer perform a detailed analysis of the roof framing.

Blank strongly recommended addressing the immediate repairs over the next few months.

Required repairs included partial reconstruction of the masonry "knee" walls in the attic, repair the roof framing, repointing deteriorated mortar on about 25 percent of the building's exterior, replacing sealant with mortar in limestone joints, repairing the gutter seams and modifying the gutter system.

Recommended repairs were: repoint mortar joints on the remainder of the exterior, clean and paint cornice and lintels, replace sealant around the windows, replace limestone patches, replace limestone units at the tops of the chimneys and replace a damaged slab at one basement entry.

The only optional repair suggested was replac-

ing existing windows with more efficient, more historically accurate ones.

The engineers estimate the immediate repairs could be completed for \$75,000 to \$100,000. Their estimate for all immediate, required and recommended repairs was \$475,000 to \$675,000.

Their firm does not perform the work, but can create construction plans for the repair companies, the engineers said.

"You don't have a building that, globally, is coming out from under you or is dangerous," Hose said.

The engineers said they did not look at replacing nonstructural aspects of the building, such as plumbing or electrical work.

After people finished asking questions of the engineers, the commissioners briefly discussed their jail construction plans, indicating the previous draft plans that incorporated a new administrative center and court complex were likely to change.

Commissioner Mike Baughn said he wants to look at other options, including a jail and court combination or a jail built where the road and bridge department office now sits, attaching the jail to the current courthouse with a walkway.

"We're at the point that we need to do something and not just talk about it," said Baughn.

The commissioners discussed putting a planning committee together to get community and stakeholder input on a new design.

Commissioner Paul Steele said he expected to receive a list of suggested committee members from the court, and the commissioners planned to address the committee again.

The commissioners adjourned the meeting without addressing the immediate repairs recommended by the engineers but reconvened a short while later to create a plan.

Baughn asked the engineers, who were called back to the commission chambers, to provide a list of contractors who could fix the immediate problems, particularly the loose chimney limestone.

Blank said she would send a list along with a few pages to help contractors understand the work that needs to be done. She also offered to put together a proposal for their firm's services to perform the suggested additional analysis.

The engineers' report is available through the county clerk's office. Call 460-4500.



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Blustery, with a northeast wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming light and variable.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west after midnight.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37. North wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 32.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 9.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 15.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 49.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

Wednesday: High, 75; Low 29
Precip: Wednesday None

Month: 0.02 inches
Year: 14.46 inches

Normal: 20.86 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 8:00 a.m. 5:24 p.m.

Moon: waning, 90 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

New county jail 'No. 1 need'

From "JAIL," Page 1

and officers remove the prisoner from the vehicle in a secure environment. Sally ports reduce the risk of escape and interference and allow a search before the inmate comes inside the jail, says the report.

Within the jail, the cell doors have a "serious security problem," says the report, though the exact problem is not detailed in the report because of security concerns.

In the existing jail, kitchen, laundry and dishwashing functions are all combined in one converted cell, which Beck's report says is "far too small for the number of functions it contains."

The exposed conduit through-

out the room also poses a security problem, says the report.

The utility chase, which houses most of the jail's plumbing, air conditioning and heating systems, doubles as a mechanical room.

Beck's report says the area is cramped, with poor access to plumbing. The jail's plumbing has been a problem in the past due to design errors and inmate

misconduct.

Many areas of the jail, including the visitation room, don't comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, says the report. This presents problems when disabled persons are arrested.

Finley invites the public to come view the jail and its security problems first-hand. Call the department at 460-4570, he said.

Fed will reduce bond buys

By Martin Crutsinger

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve says it will reduce its \$85 billion a month in bond purchases by \$10 billion starting in January, citing a stronger U.S. job market. And it

says it will take further steps to reduce the pace of purchases if that improvement continues.

The reduction is a signal that Fed policymakers are ready to ease their massive support for the economy provided since the Great Recession.



Saturday Evening December 21, 2013

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Dog for Christmas	S.H.I.E.L.D.		Castle			Local			
KBSL/CBS	Two Men Two Men	Hawaii Five-0		48 Hours			Local			
KSNK/NBC	The Sing-Off			Saturday Night Live			Local	Saturday Night Live		
KSAS/FOX	Almost Human	Bones		Local			Animation Domination	Local		
Cable Channels										
A & E	Bonnie & Clyde			Bonnie & Clyde				Bonnie & Clyde		
AMC	Jack Frost			Jack Frost						
ANIM	Too Cute!	Too Cute!		Too Cute!		Too Cute!		Too Cute!		
BRAVO	Bee Movie			Bee Movie						
CMT	The Marine	Swamp Pawn		Swamp Pawn			Cable Guy's Christmas	Luau	Cops Rel.	
CNN	CNN Special	Anthony Bourd.					CNN Special		Anthony Bourd.	
COMEDY	Scott Pilgrim			Scary Movie					Daniel	
DISC	Yukon Men	Whale Wars					Whale Wars			
DISN	Despicable Me			Lab Rats	Mighty	Jessie	ANT Farm	Austin	Gravity	
E!	My Best Friend's			The Break-Up				Kardashian		
ESPN	College Football	College Football							SportCtr	
ESPN2	College Basketball	Wm. Volleyball					College Basketball			
FAM	The Santa Clause 2			Santa Clause 3				The Mistle-Tones		
FOOD	Chopped	Chopped		Chopped			On the Rocks		Chopped	
FX	X-Men: First Class	Thor					Green Lantern			
HGTV	Love It or List It	Love It or List It		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Love It or List It		

AmericanProfile // CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT //

HIST	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn	Pawn Stars
LIFE	Twelve Trees		Christmas Bay				Twelve Trees
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Jackass: The Movie				MTV Special
NICK	Sam & Cat	Hathaways	Thunder	Awesome	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends
SCI	The Faculty		Pitch Black				28 Days Later
SPIKE	Cops	Cops	GLORY 13: Tokyo			Cops	Cops
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Ground	Trust Me
TCM	Auntie Mame					Christmas Eve	All Mine
TLC	Here Comes Honey	Long Island Medium	Medium	Cake Boss	Here Comes Honey	Long Island Medium	
TNT	The Wizard of Oz		The Wizard of Oz			Fred Claus	
TOON	Shrek	Regular	Adventure	King/Hill	King/Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy
TRAV	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures	Ghost Adventures
TV LAND	Brady	Brady	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	The King of Queens
USA	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Fast Five
VH1	40-Year-Old Vir					Beverly Hills Cop	
WGN	NBA Basketball			News/Nine	How I Met	Rules	Rules
Premium Channels							
HBO	Broken City		24/7 Red Wings/Maple	Fight	Ted		
MAX	Magic Mike		Argo				Carnal Awakening
SHOW	Rolling Stones	Seven Psychopaths		Another Day, Another Time	Llewyn		

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

Methodists plan potluck on Christmas Day

The Colby United Methodist Church plans a Christmas potluck meal and fellowship at noon next Wednesday. Everyone is invited to bring a Christmas dish to share, along with a favorite board or card game. For information, call Kim Barnett at the church, 460-2761.

Living Nativity scheduled for this weekend

A Living Nativity Scene in memory of Theron Johnson will be staged from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Jane Johnson Ranch, 2626 K-25, at the intersection with County Road Z. Hot cider and cookies will be provided and donations will be accepted for the Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Cade Carter at 462-7525.

Trash crew off Christmas, Christmas Eve

Colby city offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Tuesday and Wednesday, and city workers will be off. The residential trash route for Tuesday will be picked up on Monday. The Wednesday route will be collected on Thursday.

The city sanitation trucks will not be running on New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, either. Residential trash will be picked up on Thursday, Jan. 2. For information, contact Omar Weber at the Public Works Department, 460-4420.

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Tuesday and next Wednesday for Christmas Eve and Christmas, reopening at 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 26. For information, call Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

Tree of Hope supports area animal shelter

A Tree of Hope supporting the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter is at the Farmers and Merchants Bank. For a donation of \$10 toward providing homeless animals with food and shelter this winter, your pet or loved one's name can be on a keepsake magnet displayed on the tree. Call Angie Harris at 460-1078 for information.

Library will take food to pay your fines

The Pioneer Memorial Library will continue its annual Christmas "Foods for Fines" campaign through Monday. Bring canned or packaged food for Genesis to pay your fines. For information, call 460-4470.

Mingo church plans Christmas Eve service

The Mingo Bible Church will have its first Christmas Eve candlelight communion service at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. It is open to everyone. For information, call Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2992.

Church women selling nuts for holidays

The women of Ascension Episcopal Church are selling fresh holiday nuts, including pecans, walnuts, cashews and variety packs. For delivery, call Martha Hullett at 462-2505, or pick some up at Colby Canvas.

Tickets still on sale for Hope benefit

Tickets are on sale for the Northwest Kansas Foundation for Hope's annual New Year's Eve banquet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the City Limits Convention Center. Tickets are \$40 each or \$280 for an eight-person table, including a social hour, dinner, auction and dance. Contact Pat Sloan at 443-3261. Tickets normally sell out, so get yours early.

Foster parenting classes set for January

Foster parenting classes by TFI Family Services will begin Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Colby, with the time and location to be determined by interested families' schedules. Immediate training also is available. Call Vicki Beiser at (785) 443-0650 or (800) 279-9914.

Wellness Challenge to kick off next month

Dr. Doug Gruenbacher, a Quinter physician, will speak at the kickoff for the Thomas County Wellness Challenge at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the multipurpose room at the Colby Community College Student Union. Blood will be drawn for lab tests from 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday to Saturday, Jan. 9 to 11, and Monday, Jan. 13, in the front lobby of Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. The Challenge itself begins Monday, Jan. 13. For information, call the county Health Department at (785) 460-4596.

Fifth graders to sing during program Jan. 28

The Colby Grade School fifth graders will present a free musical production "On the Radio," at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the school auditorium. Everyone is invited. For information, call teacher Jennifer Otten at 460-5100.

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Sunday Evening December 22, 2013

	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	The Sound of Music						Local			
KBSL/CBS	60 Min.	The Good Wife		The Mentalist		NCIS		Local		
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football					Local	Dateline NBC		
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Simpsons	Fam. Guy	Animation	Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck Dynasty		Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.
AMC	Home Alone						Home Alone 2			
ANIM	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman	Beaver	Wildman	Wildman	Wildman
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.	Thicker Than Water		Housewives/Atl.		Happens	Fashion	Housewives/Atl.		
CMT	Die Hard	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Most Amazing Videos		
CNN	Anthony Bourd.	Anthony Bourd.		CNN Special		Anthony Bourd.		Anthony Bourd.		
COMEDY	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Kevin Hart		Kevin Hart: Laugh		Tosh.0	Tosh.0	Brody Stevens	
DISC	Alaska: The Last Fro	Last Frontier		Dude, You're Screwed		Last Frontier		Dude, You're Screwed		
DISN	Liv-Mad.	Dog	Good Luck Jes.		ANT Farm	Dog	Gravity	Jessie	Good Luck	Good Luck
E!	I Am Britney Jean			I Am Britney Jean			Total Divas		I Am Britney Jean	
ESPN	SportsCenter		30 for 30				SportsCenter		SportCtr	
ESPN2	World Series		World Series		World Series		World Series		ESPN FC	
FAM	Dr. Seuss' How-Grinch			Dr. Seuss'				J. Osteen	J. Meyer	
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games	Chopped		Cutthroat Kitchen		Restaurant: Im.		Chopped		
FX	Iron Man 2					Iron Man 2				
HGTV	Beach	Beach	Hawaii	Hawaii	House Hunters Reno		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hawaii	Hawaii
HIST	Ax Men		Ax Men		Shelby's Hits		American Jungle		Ax Men	
LIFE	Dear Santa		Christmas City				Dear Santa			
MTV	MTV Special				8 Mile				Ridic.	
NICK	See Dad	Instant	A Fairly Odd Christmas		Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends		
SCI	Pitch Black		The Matrix						The Devil's Advocate	
SPIKE	The Expendables					Day-Tomorrow				
TBS	Anchorman				Hot Tub Time Machine				Talladega Nights:	
TCM	Shop Around Corner				In Summertime				Ben-Hur: Tale	
TLC	Long Island Medium	Long Island Medium		Breaking the Faith		Long Island Medium		Breaking the Faith		
TNT	Four Christmases			Four Christmases					Mob City	
TOON	Shrek 2			Amer. Dad	Burgers	Family Guy		Rick	Boondocks	
TRAV	Don't Drive Here		Mysteries-Museum		America Declassified		America Declassified		Mysteries-Museum	
TV LAND	Roseanne	Roseanne	Golden							