

Emergency building now occupied

By Karen Krien

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Early in 2004, the St. Francis Firemen went to a city council meeting with the proposal of building a new building to house their equipment. They knew about a KanStep grant which, if the city were to get it, would pay for all the material. The labor would be donated.

It wasn't until fall of 2006 that the first work began on the new St. Francis Emergency Building. There were people doing the labor but, there were also numerous people who were running after supplies, furnishing food and there were even some who were supporters on the sidelines.

The plans for the building had changed some because of the amount of money available but, the 80 by 140-foot building now included a bay for the ambulances, offices for the ambulance director, fire chief and emergency manager as well as a meeting room.

As the walls went up, it appeared that St. Francis would have a new emergency building in just months. However, cold weather and other snags slowed the work down. Roger Jensen had volunteered his shop so the partitions could be built and moved up to the building when the roof was on. When the roof was on, the windows were installed, the partitions moved in and sheet rock was nailed on. The staircases were built and the cable wire put in.

Most of those volunteering their labor also had regular jobs so work days and evenings were scheduled. Many spent their weekends there trying to get it done.

At the turn of 2009, five years after the building was first proposed, the emergency equipment was moved in and people were occupying their offices. The building's facade of native rock coordinates with the museum which is just west. It shows a sign of progressiveness for this small community.

An open house is planned for later. However, people are welcome to stop by the building when it is open and there will probably be someone to give a guided tour.



FIRE TRUCKS are in their new home and ready to roll when a call comes in. The firemen, emergency medical service and emergency director moved in right after the first of the year.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sainty coach moves on

St. Francis' coach, Tim Lambert, has announced that he will be leaving at the end of the school year. He has taken a job in Concordia, a 4A school, where he will be the head football coach and will teach physical education.

"This was not an easy decision," he said. "In no shape or form do we think we are going to a better place. A lot of factors were weighed before making the decision to move on."

"We are all sad to see him go," said Scott Carmichael, principal. "Mr. Lambert has done a wonderful job in the school and community and I wish him well."

Mr. Carmichael went on to say that, in Coach Lambert's time in St. Francis, he has been the most

successful football coach the school has ever had.

Mr. Lambert came to St. Francis in the fall of 1992. He taught physical education and was the assistant football coach along with being the coach for junior high boys' basketball and track. The next year, he assumed the head football coach position.

This year, he taught weight lifting and was monitor for two Spanish classes. He was also the head football and track coach and an



Lambert

athletic director.

Throughout his football coaching career, he has a 129 win and 46 loss record.

We have no misconceptions of the blessings we have received in St. Francis, he said, adding that he and his family have appreciated the positive support of the community. "It will be like leaving home," he said.

Mr. Lambert and his wife, Roxie, have five children, Ashlynn, Katie, Maggie, Timmy and Gracie.

Mr. Carmichael said that the administration will probably be advertising for a new teacher and coach in the future but, the final decision will be up to the board of education.

Fireman retires after 43 years

By Karen Krien

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He was 22 when he joined the St. Francis Fire Department. Now, 43 years later, he is retiring.

Gary Rogers said he took his father-in-law, Louie Ross', place in the department. The department was chartered in 1923 and Mr. Rogers said he felt privileged to have served several of the charter members.

Through the years, Mr. Rogers said he has seen many changes, especially in the line of equipment.

In 1966, firemen wore a rain coat and hat for protection. They furnished their own boots and other clothing. However, more than once, they were called out wearing their dress clothes.

We ruined more shoes and dress pants going to fires, he said.

Today, the firemen are furnished with bunker gear which includes full "turnout gear." The gear includes Nomex fire retardant treated coats, pants, hoods, gloves, boots and helmets. He said the hoods and gloves are Nomex fire retardant equipment. Each of the 18 volunteer firemen have their own locker where their equipment is kept.



GARY ROGERS PUTS AWAY his bunker gear for the last time. Mr. Rogers has been a fireman for 43 years.

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SALE BARN was a busy place on Wednesday. Dwen DeGood, left, was bringing in some cows and Troy Burr was checking them in.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Sale brings in \$1 million

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Wednesday, Jan. 14, over 1,600 cattle went through the St. Francis sale barn, bringing in \$1,001,000. "The market was steady from start to finish," said Lloyd Wilson, manager/operator. "There was good buyer attendance and cattle went to Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas." The sale took only four hours

but that was due to the outside crew that did a good job in making it happen, Mr. Wilson said. The consigners also got to the sale early so the cattle could be unloaded and sorted in good time.

Mr. Wilson said many farmers keep their cattle to sell after the first of the year. Since the Stock Show is going on in Denver, he calls this sale the "Stock Show

Special." There are normally several other large calf and yearling sales in the fall.

"We really appreciated the great support of the buyers and consigners," he said.

Livestock sales are held every Wednesday throughout the fall, winter and spring and bring in buyers and cattle from the surrounding tri-state area.

Kansas Day celebrated in Bird City on Jan. 29

Every year, Bird City and Topeka hold a Kansas Day celebration. This year is no exception.

The Bird City Legion Hall will be the site of the celebration. Registration begins at 10:30 and a potluck meal follows at noon. Entertainment will include performances by Cheylin and St. Francis students, the St. Francis Singers and the Swingin' Seniors.

The highlight of the day will be when Dr. Arnold Schofield, Kansas historian, speaks.

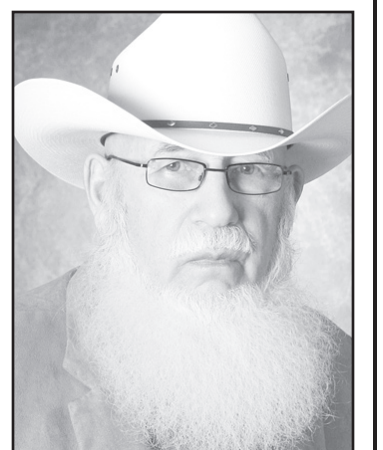
For those who might miss Kansas Day activities, he will also be at Ye Olde Country Church, St. Francis, that evening at 7. Dr. Schofield will speak at the Historical Society about the Kidder Massacre and Fort Wallace. Everyone See **KANSAS** on Page 10A

Historian speaks

2009 Kansas Day Speaker, Arnold Schofield

Arnold W. Schofield, Kansas historian, will be the guest speaker at Cheyenne County's 80th Kansas Day observance in Bird City on Thursday, Jan. 29. He will also make presentations at local schools and at Ye Olde Country Church, St. Francis, for the Historical Society that same day.

Dr. Schofield was raised in Newton Upper Falls, Mass. He served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1966, and See **SPEAKER** on Page 10A



Dr. Schofield