

Moments With Mila

January is Radon Month

You can't see, smell or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers in America and claims the lives of about 20,000 Americans each year. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools, and other buildings for radon. Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk, and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family.

- Test your home for radon. It's easy and inexpensive.
- Fix your home if you have a radon level of 4 pCi/L or more.
- Call the National Radon Information Line: 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236)

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. While levels in outdoor air pose a relatively low threat to human health, radon can accumulate to dangerous levels inside buildings.

Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. No area of the country is free from risk. Indeed, two homes right next to each other can have vastly different radon levels. Just because your neighbor's house does not have an elevated level of radon does not mean that your house will have a low radon level. The only way to know if your home is under the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4 pCi/L is to test.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), a measurement of radioactivity. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that homes with radon levels at 4 pCi/L or higher should be fixed. Environmental Protection Agency also recommends that Americans consider fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. Based on a national residential radon survey completed in 1991; the average

indoor radon level is about 1.3 pCi/L in the United States. The average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/L.

High levels of radon in homes usually come from the surrounding soil. Radon gas enters through cracks and openings—such as sump pump lids and plumbing

features—on the lower levels of your home. Hot spots include basements, first-floor rooms, and garages, but radon can be found anywhere in your house. Start the New Year off with a Radon test!

Kits are available

Beginning Jan. 15 and running through March 15, the Kansas Radon Programs will be airing statewide on both radio and television, promoting statewide radon awareness and testing through the state radon hotline (800-693-5343) and the state radon website (www.kansasradonprogram.org).

For those of you who do not know, we do have radon test kits available at the Cheyenne County Extension Office for \$4.50 per kit. Please call for information at 785-332-3171.

Pratt man honored

Bill Keller, Pratt, was honored as the St. Francis City Council's choice in Spotlighting the Positive. The decision was made at the Jan. 11 council meeting.

Mr. Keller, a former St. Francis high school graduate, now with Stanion Electric, has helped the community in many ways from donating lights to fans and other electrical equipment.

Mr. Keller is the son of Rachael Keller and the late Dr. Ed Keller.



Keller

Company presents children's theater

The Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Company will present the melodrama, "Miss Clara's Classroom Calamity" in several area schools on today and Friday.

This melodrama by J.R. and Zoe Bell provides a taste of the popular entertainment in America before movies, radio, and television. People went to theaters to see live actors onstage; they applauded when they approved, and when the villain got mean, they booed and hissed to show their disapproval. They were also encouraged to sigh for the heroine and cheer for the hero. Followed by an olio of songs and jokes, they were lots of fun for everyone!

The Wichita Children's Theatre Professional Touring Company

performs from October through February in Kansas and area states. Since 1977, the company has provided performances and workshops for nearly two million people. Western Plains Arts Association season ticket holders are welcome to attend.

The schedule for performances is as follows: today, Quinter, 8:40 a.m.; Brewster, 11:30 a.m.; Wallace County schools, 2:15 p.m. mountain time; Friday, Hoxie, 9:30 a.m.; Triplains/Winona, 1 p.m.



CO-OP

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have also qualified for a \$25,000 government grant for the project.

Next year, the Equity will replace the dry fertilizer Air Ship with a newer unit along with a newer tender truck to support the investment. Six new larger-capacity anhydrous tanks will be purchased and the roof and siding on the Haigler building will be upgraded.

Last year, the Equity handled:

- 1,082,000 bushels of wheat and 700,000 bushel of corn.
- 479,814 gallons of gas.
- 688,652 gallons of diesel.
- 269,690 gallons of propane.

The Equity hosted educational events for grain marketing, crop production and a livestock show clinic, just to name a few and sponsored belt buckles for the county fair's Round Robin contest.

Mr. Yost recognized Ms. Lohman and employees for their hard

work and congratulated them for a successful year.

There was one position up for election on the board. Elton Keller, spokesman for the Nominating Committee, said Dale Rath's position was up for election and he had agreed to serve another term

on the Equity board. Nominations ceased and Mr. Rath was elected unanimously.

The evening ended with the drawing of tickets for gift certificates at the Equity. As people filed out, they were also able to pick up the patronage checks.

BREAKS

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The deep ravines and gullies are a marked contrast to the plains generally associated with the area.

A driving tour takes visitors past the location of the Cherry Creek Encampment and other sites associated with the Sand Creek Massacre, rural schools, cemeteries and post offices.

Tobe Zwegardt, St. Francis, is the ultimate guide of the Arikaree Breaks. Mr. Zwegardt is 94-years-old and knows the area, giving tours with reservations.

Where are The Breaks

To reach The Breaks, head north from the Benton and Washington intersection in St. Francis, cross the Republican River bridge, and turn right at the first fork. Traveling north on Road 15, watch for the numbered red-disk signs. One of the most outstanding views is about 14 miles north of St. Francis.

Self-guided driving tour brochure can be picked up at the Cheyenne County Museum.

For more information contact: clerk@cityofstfrancis.net.

Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

This year may be especially difficult for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with *part* of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants. CCEAP Applications will be available starting Monday, January 11, 2010 at the following locations:

- St. Francis - Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office
City Office
St. Francis Equity Co-Op
BANKWEST, First National Bank and Western State Bank
- Bird City - City Office
Frontier Ag
First National Bank
- SRS Agents - Goodland and Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P. O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

PROGRAM SPONSORED BY
Priority Oil & Gas LLC
&
Energy Outreach Colorado



Congratulations are now in order



Alexis Faith

was born at 11:14 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 13. Congratulations to her parents, Clay and Erika Zimbelman

FREE Subscription to: **The Saint Francis Herald**

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Cheyenne County Hospital
Happy Birthday to the 2009 First Baby, Amy Dianne and congratulations to her parents Viviana and Juan Yanez
cheyennecountyhospital.com
(Log on to see pictures of the babies)



Viviana, Amy Dianne, Juan and Vivian Yanez