

90th birthday Oct. 30

A birthday celebration is being held to honor Mavern Gienger on her 90th birthday from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, at the St. Francis Senior Center.

Bring a card and jot down one of your fondest memories with Mavern. No gifts please.

If you are unable to attend, Mavern would still love to hear from you. Please mail your card to Mavern Gienger, Box 564, St. Francis, KS 67756.



Mavern Gienger

Radon Awareness Week in October

Radon, a leading cause of lung cancer, is a naturally occurring radon active element found in the soil; it's odorless and colorless, but can seep through gaps and cracks in a home's foundation, said Bruce Snead, Kansas State University Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

When tested, about one in four homes in Kansas will be found to have radon levels at or above four picocuries per liter of air (a scientific measurement), which is the Environmental Protection Agency's Action Level, he said.

Testing for radon is important because the radioactive substance is the second leading cause of lung cancer, he said.

Commercial testing kits are available for purchase at home and hardware stores, and Kansans also may buy a low-cost test kit at county and district K-State Research and Extension offices.

The tests are easy to complete, but it is important to follow the directions exactly, Snead said.

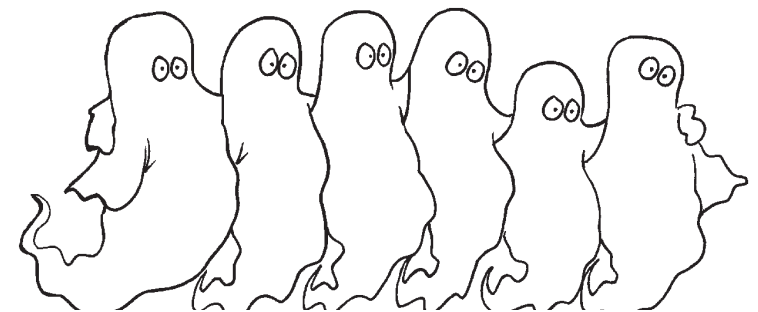
If radon is found, mitigation often can be accomplished in a day for less than \$1,200 to \$1,500, he added.

Radon testing is often requested by buyers prior to a real estate transaction, and the Surgeon General has recommended all homes be tested.

In the last year, K-State Research and Extension has become home to the National Radon Program Services for the Environment Protection Agent. The university operates a center for information; four toll-free help lines about radon (1-800-693-5343); sponsors a poster contest for nine to 14-year-olds, and serves in advisory capacity on legislation pertaining to radon.

More information is available at the Cheyenne County Extension Office 785-332-3171, by phone (1-800-693-5343) and online: www.kansasradonprogram.org.

Radon Test Kits can be purchased at the Cheyenne County Extension Office for \$4.50.



Two hospital board members leave

By Karen Krien

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Two hospital board members told the commissioners of their intentions to leave the board at the end of the year.

Joy Anderegg and Traci Neitzel, at the Friday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting, said they had both served two 4-year terms and were ready to let someone else sit on the board. They expressed appreciation for the commissioners' appointment.

My eight years on the board, said Mrs. Anderegg, has been a learning experience with challenges.

"Health care is very important," Mrs. Neitzel said. "We need to keep our health care in place."

Mrs. Anderegg said Les Lacy does an excellent job as administrator of the hospital.

Those wanting to serve on the hospital board will need to turn in their applications. Appointments will be made before the first of the year.

Mowing vs spraying

Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, talked about the work done the last month. The commissioners talked about mowing weeds vs spraying weeds. There are 1,100 miles of roads in the county but mowing each side means the county maintains 2,200 miles of roads.

The commissioners' main concern was the places where farmers had sprayed the ditches and roads with Round Up, thinking they were helping the county while keeping the weeds down.

What the farmers didn't realize, they said, was these ditches no longer have the ground cover to keep the roads from washing in a heavy rain. Mr. Flemming also noted that the next year, while no grass or weeds come back, the stickers do.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, would like to see noxious weeds sprayed at the same time they are mowed. Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, said he had seen a mower that also has a sprayer attached.

Mr. Beikman said that a sprayer and tank could also be attached to graders. We would be getting two jobs done on the same tank of gas, he said.

The commissioners asked Mr. Lohr, to figure the cost for him to spray weeds on 1 mile of county road. They also asked Mr. Flem-

ming to figure the cost of mowing 1 mile.

There will be more information at a later meeting.

Mr. Lohr told the commissioners about his plans to coordinate a noxious weed aerial weed spraying on Cherry Creek northwest of St. Francis. See related article.

Old hotel

Ross Manufacturing was given the old hotel on Main Street by the city council. Gordon Ross, owner, had told Andy Beikman, commissioner, that he did not want to fill up the landfill and suggested that he find a farmer with a gully or a hole who would allow him to dump the majority of the debris. The burnable material will be taken to the landfill.

The commissioners said they had no problem with his plan as long as the farmer and Mr. Ross were in agreement. They also appreciated that he had no intentions of dumping it in the landfill. Mrs. Gilliland will check into the legalities of the matter.

In other business

In other business:

• The commissioners recognized the fact that the department heads and staff were making a good effort in keeping expenses down.

• The commissioners had received a bid from Rosewood Resources to purchase the county's holdings of oil and gas leases. They said that, if they decided to sell, they would need to put it up for bids. However, the commissioners agreed that they were not in favor of selling.

• George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, had talked to Mr. Beikman earlier. He said the department had received a Forestry Grant to purchase six pagers. The city of St. Francis will pay for half and the county will pick up the rest. A total of \$1,300 is needed.

• The commissioners signed off on ambulance payment adjustments. The writeoff for August was \$2,854 and, in September, the amount was \$655. Janelle Bowers, emergency medical ser-

vice director, had called commissioner Ernie Ketzner and he had approved for her to purchase special batteries. She said they were needed and she had found some at a very good price.

Mrs. Bowers talked briefly about a negotiation process she is working on with an insurance company. She is hoping the company will settle for \$1,919. They refused \$2,019.

• Kari Gilliland, county attorney, recommended the commissioners sign the Southwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center propose. Mrs. Gilliland said that this is a service the county rarely needs but, if it is needed, it would be available.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners has been set for Friday, Oct. 29. Because there will be two of the commissioners unable to attend the meeting on Nov. 30, this meeting has been changed to Nov. 29.

Rate increase discussed

By Stacy Kaup

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Proposed utility rate increases for 2011 were again discussed at the St. Francis City Council meeting on Oct. 11.

There was quite a bit of discussion about whether or not to pass the ordinances. City council members will have another two weeks to think it over, and proposed ordinances will be drawn up and brought to the next meeting on Oct. 25.

Paula Keller, council member, stated she felt that it is just as important to be prudent with their budget as it would be to raise utility rates.

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent and council member, brought spreadsheets outlining the increases of those in town, and it shows an average increase of \$6 per month per household. Those homes outside of city limits would have different rates than those in town.

Property clean-up

The property at 318 Whittier was awarded to Roger McQuigg. Mr. McQuigg has agreed to remove

the garden structure, remove nuisance trees, cap the sewer, remove the basement house and concrete, and grade lot for proper drainage. Mr. McQuigg also thought he could have the property cleaned up in 45 days or less. The property is zoned as residential. Mike Day, attorney, will prepare the deed for property exchange to be signed at the Oct. 25 meeting.

Building permits

The following building permits were approved: Jerry Toler, fence; Tina Kehl, move trailer house; Larry Finley, porch.

Theater Committee

Paula Keller reported the theater would be purchasing a banner for the east side of the building. The committee is continuing in their efforts of fundraising.

Economic development

Carla Lampe, council member, stated that the Economic Development Committee has requested information for a city internet site. Current city employees plan to update the site. The theater might have a link on the site as well.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent Landenberger

stated two reservoir pumps were to be serviced the week of Oct. 12.

There will also be an inspection of the reservoir and water tower in November.

There has been some repairs made to the bridge at Keller Pond. Although there was no word on a grant as of yet, Mr. Landenberger plans to map out trails and fences.

Other business

In other business: • No decision has been received on the possible Kansas Department of Health and Environment's illegal dumpsite.

• Shane Guggenmos, chief of police, stated they had filled a felony warrant over the weekend of Oct. 9.

• Carla Lampe, stated there had been a lot of work and noticeable clean up efforts made all over town.

• Grant money may be available to cover 80 percent of the repairs needed for the band shell.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at city hall.

Cheyenne County Republican Committee

urges you to read the 2010 Kansas Republican platform

As the Republican GOP of Kansas, we support:**

1. **Embracing our Heritage** in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights
2. **Respect for the Constitution**
3. **Respect for Individual Freedoms**
4. **Upholding the Constitutional Right to Keep and Bear Arms**
5. **Promoting a Culture of Life** by valuing the life of the elderly and sick, the life of the young, and the life of the unborn
6. **Our Military**
7. **Immigration** by protecting the sovereignty of our country and securing our borders
8. **Healthcare** in gaining efficiency by focusing on the patient
9. **Growing the Economy** by opportunity and entrepreneurship
10. **Building the Knowledge of Students**--expanding academic knowledge from a core education
11. **Building Safer Communities**
12. **Preserving Traditional Marriage**
13. **Preserving the Heartland** by maintaining the rich heritage of our state in the wise use of all its natural resources

**Learn more about the Kansas GOP Platform at:

http://www.ksgop.org/site/c.4d1DILQjGa1SE/b.6196809/k.91C0/Kansas_Platform.htm

Computers are available at your local library.

✓ Sample ballots are available at the County Clerk's Office

✓ You may make application now for an absentee ballot

✓ You may vote now until Nov. 1st at the County Clerk's Office

✓ Vote Nov. 2nd at your polling place (Peace Lutheran Church or Bird City American Legion)

Cast an informed vote for . . .

Jerry Moran

U.S. Senate

Tim Huelskamp

U.S. Representative 101st District

Sam Brownback

Governor

Jeff Colyer

Lt. Governor

Kris Kobach

Secretary of State

Derek Schmidt

Attorney General

Ron Estes

State Treasurer

Sandy Praeger

Commissioner of Insurance

Ward Cassidy

120th State District Representative

Sally Cauble

5th District Board of Education

Pol. Adv. Pd by Cheyenne County Republican Committee, P. Keller, Treas.

What's That Smell?

While natural gas has an excellent safety record, it is possible to have a leak by accident or misuse. You can't see a leak, but you can smell it. We add a harmless odor to make sure you can. Many people compare it to **the smell of rotten eggs.**

If you think you smell natural gas, don't strike matches, switch lights on or off, use the telephone or ring the doorbell. Don't open any windows. Any of these can create a spark that could ignite the natural gas.

Leave the premises immediately. Leave the door open when you exit. Go to a neighbor's house and **call Black Hills Energy's emergency number, (800)-694-8989. Don't take chances!**

For more information on natural gas safety, our other services or your bill, visit www.blackhillsenergy.com or call Black Hills Energy Customer Service anytime at (888) 890-5554.