

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis City Council, at the Monday, March 14, meeting, decided to have the swimming pool open and the log siding on the Scout Hut by Memorial weekend.

Scott Schultz, mayor, and Roger Jensen, councilman, had been to the Scout Hut the day of the meeting and decided that when the bids are let for putting the log siding on the Hut, the bidder should also include the other materials necessary. They also noticed that the eaves needed painting.

Dale Weeks, councilman, said he thought that the siding and painting should be put together on one bid. There was talk of maybe boxing the eaves in but they were not sure if that would cost more money than they had. Besides, the councilmen thought that the eaves were in fairly good condition.

The council decided to send letters to licensed contractors and also put an ad in the newspaper, asking that they meet at the Scout Hut on

Monday, March 21, if they were interested in bidding on the project. The councilmen would like to have the bids in by March 28 in time for the council meeting.

Bruce Swihart, councilman, reported that a Swimming Pool Committee meeting had been held on March 3 and the same lifeguards as last year hired. They would be interviewing for managers before the next meeting. They decided to raise the returning guards to \$7.35. Andrea Holzwarth will be paid \$7.60 per hour because she is a swimming instructor.

Superintendent's report

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger reported that the roof on the band shell in the park seems to be OK. The crew had unplugged the gutter so it would drain properly.

He talked about the catalytic converters for the engines at the city power plant. He said one will cost around \$13,000 which is well below the price he thought it might be but the main engines will be more expensive. He will have prices on

them later.

The metering requirements for the city plant have yet to be received.

The signs for St. Francis have been applied for. The Chamber will pay for the project.

The survey for wells 10 and 11 has been completed. The company also surveyed the northwest corner of the Gun Club property. If there is a good survey, he said, an easement agreement will be made with a price of \$2,500.

He recommended that the city continue to replace the old water meters with remote-read meters. The cost for the next round of replacements is estimated to be \$10,000.

Building permits

The council approved building permits for: Jim Bolin carport; Dave Slate, curb and gutter; Shirley Watson, fence and enclosed front porch; Mike and Lacy Reed, move double wide; and Scott Northrup, to run concrete but with the following agreement: the project will be subject to city utilities and to revision if water runoff is changed or redirected to the detriment of adjoining properties. It was noted that the Ketzner property on College Street needs the hole filled.

Village long-term care

Mr. Swihart reported on the Good Samaritan Village long-term care meeting held March 10. He said the Village would be up and running soon and, that the Good Samaritan Society has said they will turn the facility over to the county July 2012. There will need to be a special election to see what the people of the county want. There is also the issue of whether or not the county wants to accept the responsibility and liability that goes with running the facility.

In other business

- In other business:
 - The deadline for Sherry Smith to clean up her property on East Emerson Street was the 15th. Mike Day, county attorney, said he would call her.
 - Solid Rock Baptist Church women fellowship had provided a plate of goodies thanking the council for their work.
 - Art Krueger, representing the senior center, reported on the condition of the center and what needs to be done. He thanked the council for giving the center \$5,000 again this year.
 - The council agreed to keep Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance as they have had it for the last few years and to keep the \$250,000 cap.
 - Paula Keller, councilwoman, said she would like the city attorney to continue to work on a definition of a contractor.
 - Mrs. Keller, speaking for the Theater Committee, asked the city superintendent to talk to Robert Grace about some improvements needed at the theater.



HURRY, HURRY — Jen Fritz helps team mate Mack Coon into his pajamas during the bed races. Others on the team are Kenny Felzien, James Coon and Brittany Lucas.

Obituary

Melva Jean Brenner

May 24, 1931 - March 18, 2011

Melva Jean Brenner, 79, died on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Grace Manor Care Center in Burlington, Colo. She was born on May 24, 1931, near St. Francis, Kan., the daughter of James and Viola (Heinrich) Cook.



Brenner

She attended country schools until the eighth grade and then graduated from St. Francis High School in 1947. She married Harvey Brenner of Idalia, Colo., in Denver on Sept. 9, 1948, and they made their home on the farm south and east of Idalia. Four children were born to their union: Sharilyn Kay, Teresa Jean, Vickie Ann, and Dennis Franz.

Jean worked at several jobs in the Idalia community: driving a school bus, Unit 8, for District RJ-2 and as a cook at the marina at Bonny Dam. After Harvey's retirement from the Colorado Division of Wildlife in 1985, Harvey and Jean managed the Super 8 Motel in Burlington for several years and later Jean became the Senior Citizen Coordinator in Burlington. Jean then worked part-time at the Legacy in Burlington.

Jean was a member of the St. John United Church of Christ near Idalia, Colo., and was active in the ladies guild for several years.

She is survived by her sister, Rita Helen Schuricht of Beaverton, Ore., and her brother, Keith Wilfred Cook of Goodland; her

four children: Sharilyn and Gary Mansfield of Wray, Colo.; Teresa and Clyde Schaal of Burlington; Vickie and Bill Benson of Sterling, Colo.; and Dennis Brenner of Colorado Springs, Colo. She is survived by her nine grandchildren: Jennifer and Todd Novak of Golden, Colo.; Jeanne and Ron Jackson of Greeley, Colo.; and Jill and Ron Scott of Greeley; Brian and Melissa Lewis of Brighton, Colo.; Craig and Candice Schaal of Burlington; and Braden Schaal and fiancé, Jenny Coppel of Burlington; Lindsay Benson and Emily Benson of Sterling; and Dawson Brenner of Colorado Springs. She is also survived by her 10 great-grandchildren: Cade and Brittany Novak, Jake and Raygan Jackson, and Braxton Scott; Porter, Payton, and Terrin Lewis; and Thomas and Weston Schaal. Others surviving Jean are numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

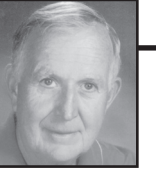
Preceding Jean were her husband Harvey Brenner on July 11, 1996; her parents; her two brothers, Klifton and Kendall Cook.

Visitation is on Thursday, March 24, from 1 to 8 p.m. at the Love Funeral Home in Burlington. Burial will be at sunset on Friday, March 25, at the St. John Cemetery, Idalia. Memorial services for Jean will be held on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. at the St. John United Church of Christ, Idalia, with Pastor Charles Wright officiating.

Memorials may be made in Jean's name to the St. John United Church of Christ and may be left at or sent to the Frontier Bank in Burlington.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



State Representative 120th District

The bill raising the speed limit on four-lane highways passed the House 95 to 23. I voted for it. My only question is that I now drive 75 mph from Goodland to Topeka. Will I be able to drive 80 mph in the future? The reasoning for a higher speed limit is that Kansas is losing business to Nebraska because they already have the higher interstate speed limit.

At calendar this morning, we were told of a procedure that could come into play in the final weeks of the session. It is referred to as the "Call of the House." If a legislator is not present for a Final Action vote, members can request a "Call of the House" to hold the vote until the absent legislator arrives to cast his or her vote. If 10 members of the House raise their hands during Final Action, a Call of the House is in order. During a "Call of the House," the doors are shut and members cannot leave unless excused by the Speaker. A close vote on a contentious issue can cause a "Call of the House" that lasts hours. Last year the House sat for several hours waiting for the arrival of a legislator. I hope I am never in St. Francis when that would occur as they would have a long wait. I would need the higher speed limit for sure.

I am very frustrated with the arguing between the House and Senate on the Governor's rescission bill. I never realized how different the two bodies are and that their agendas are so political.

The idea of everyone working together to make a better state is in ideal only. Since the two bodies could not agree, the Governor had to make allotments to end the fiscal year 2010 budget. The balance is

zero and not the \$35 million reduction the House was hoping to get.

It appears that SB 55 will pass both houses and be signed into law. The bills makes it possible for law enforcement to charge individuals who send harassing text messages of obscene pictures by a telecommunications device. This problem has been common place among younger teens and hopefully will result in fewer occurrences, once they learn they can be prosecuted.

I listened to the secretary of the Department of Labor release the new figures on the unemployment rate in Kansas. The secretary, Karen Brownlee, said that the true unemployment rate in Kansas, when adding those that have given up looking, is over 12 percent. This number is staggering and unlike recessions we have seen in the past. I feel we must continue to trim spending to be in line with revenue. Our economy does have some positive signs, but this isn't the time to increase state spending financed by tax payers who are already struggling. This is the time for reform.

Some tips for our local economy: think about which three independently-owned stores you would miss most if they were gone. Stop in, say hello, and pick up a little something. That is how they stay around. For every \$100 spent in independently-owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures. Spend that money on-line and nothing comes home.

The House voted earlier in the session on HB 2014. It passed 81 to 40 and I voted for it. The bill will eliminate 2,000 open full-time equivalent (FTE) positions ensur-

ing that state agencies do not receive funding for employees who are not working. This will insure agencies are not able to inflate their budgets with unfilled positions.

The House and the Governor have worked together to push several Executive Reorganization Orders (EROs) to eliminate eight government organizations. By eliminating or reorganizing these eight agencies, the state would save approximately \$92 million. The Senate this week has voted to keep the Arts Organization in tact. We will see how this turns out in the weeks ahead.

I was in the committee that had a hearing on dropping the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents. The proposal is to make their duties a secretary position under the Governor. I don't believe it will develop this year but the bill has stirred many e-mails to my office.

Kansas Public Employes Retirement System (KPERS) concerns are now my leading e-mail question. I will keep everyone posted as this develops further.

Thursday, March 17, I got my first taste of long debates on the floor. There are many tax issues and the House is divided as to what is the best direction to grow our economy. My colleagues in the House refer to this as March Madness and I can see why.

My web site www.wardcassidy.com has all my contact information and a questionnaire that will give me some input on important issues. The questions will change next week.

Cliff Dweller's Acting and Singing Society of Wray

"Faith County"

by Mark Landon Smith
Produced by special arrangement with Baker's Plays



Friday & Saturday April 1 & 2, 2011 - 7:30 pm
Sunday April 3, 2011 - 2:00 pm
Adults - \$7.50 Children (12 & Under) - \$5.00
Kitzmiller Auditorium
Wray, CO 80758

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Zambia, Africa

Sunday evening, March 27 at 6 p.m.

The team that went to Zambia, Africa will be sharing experiences and showing pictures at the Wesleyan Community Church West Hwy 36, Bird City.

Food will be provided

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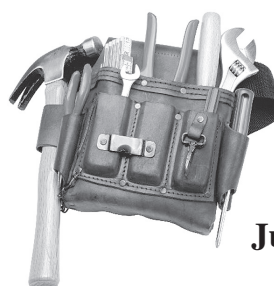
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