

Residents turn out to ask about building

From "ASK," Page 1

"A private entity wouldn't want to spend a lot of money (to fix it since), the chances of getting it back out are pretty remote," he said.

Another audience member asked if the county could buy additional land south of the jail to expand the current building or build in the current location rather than buying five to six acres somewhere else in the county and building a brand new building there.

"It's always a possibility," Strait said.

Some at the meeting expressed concern the new building would not be as nice to look at as the existing courthouse. Strait said features like a clock tower or ornate architecture similar to the historic courthouse are not in his budget, but he wants the building to be "more than a box."

Steele said nobody looks at clock towers any more, and he thinks the county's younger residents are less concerned about losing the current courthouse.

"The older folk who have lived in this county for a long time like the exterior of this building," he said. "The younger folk probably don't have such an attachment."

Many people asked the cost to build a new facility. One woman said the county should consider how they are going to pay for this building if the economy goes bad because of a long-term drought.

County Clerk Shelly Harms asked how the county would pay for the \$11,350,500 complex.

Strait said he knows of a group that would pay for the building costs and lease the building back to the county via a lease-purchase agreement. The county would still pay the full cost, but might not have to borrow the money up front to fund it.

However, the commissioners have not said how they plan to fund the demolition costs for the old courthouse or the costs to furnish a new building.

"We should pay for this with a sales tax," Steele said, adding that he thought the county would need a 1 percent sales tax over 15 to 20 years to do that.

Steele said the county spent about \$46,000 last year, not

including transportation costs, to house prisoners elsewhere, a cost that would be cut by having a larger jail.

However, Steele discovered at the commissioners' meeting today this number is closer to \$42,000 and varies greatly between years. In 2011, the county paid around \$20,000. Steele asked Sheriff Rod Taylor to help him calculate the actual costs for each year including transportation expenses.

"We need to make a reasonable effort at accuracy," Steele said at Monday's meeting.

The county would have to hire two or three new jailers to staff the facility, said Under-sheriff Marc Finley, and that would likely eliminate much of the savings.

At the meeting May 31, one man said the county should just close the jail since it looks to be cheaper to house inmates elsewhere.

Finley said it might cost less to house inmates elsewhere, but the county remains responsible for them and any problems they have. He said safety concerns at the current jail could force the county to pay money in lawsuits it could have spent on a new jail.

Finley said prisoners would have to be double-bunked in the proposed new jail since the plan does not provide enough space for the current inmate population otherwise. On the day of the meeting, Finley said, the county had about 22 inmates in custody.

In 2012, Thomas County averaged 15.5 inmates per day, according to Taylor, including inmates who are booked in and immediately released into someone else's care.

Finley said the new jail would provide a much safer facility for inmates and officers. It will be safer to transport the inmates directly from the jail to the courthouse in the new facility than it is to transport them now across an open parking lot, he said.

"I think the (proposed) judicial complex will increase the safety of the court, inmates, employees and the public," he said.

Finley said he invites people to come take a tour of the courthouse and jail to see what the county's current facilities are like.

Experience says buy seed where it is

Someone asked me the other day where I bought my garden seed. My answer was that I normally buy my seed from J.W. Jung or Burpee.

And my friend said "Why?" And I said that a lot of the reason for buying where I do was force of habit. I grew up in a family that nearly always ordered from Burpee in the 1940s, so, through the years, the Burpee name stayed with me. Then I discovered the Jung catalog and the largest part of my purchases went to them because their catalog was so well organized, and prices, while not the lowest, were less than some companies, including Burpee's.

As I think back over that conversation, it occurred to me that the top priority for placing my seed order each year is not necessarily the price, or the beauty of the catalog. My first consideration is to buy from the company that sells the variety of the vegetable or flower that I have proven to myself to be the best producer. If Burpee doesn't offer Mirai sweet corn, and they don't, then I will order from Jung, who does. If Jung doesn't sell Northern Exposure tomato seed, then I'll buy from Burpee, who does. And so on.

Therefore, my seed purchases, which seem to average in the \$75 range over the years, have always gone to the people who offer the variety of seed I prefer. When I buy seed, variety trumps price every time! If I have to, I'll pay a little more to get what works best for me.

You know what? I notice that many times in the seed catalog, the price of my choice is less than the others on the page. The cost of a packet of Ambrosia cantaloupe, my favorite, is about the same as



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

the other varieties.

Then there is the question about buying seeds and plants from your hometown dealer. There again, the variety I prefer trumps the availability of any other consideration.

I raise nearly all my own plants. If I didn't do that, I would absolutely buy tomato, pepper, cabbage and broccoli plants from my friends at the garden center. But probably not unless they offered the ones I feel I must have. That's how strongly I feel about variety.

But my guarantee to my hometown seed and plant dealer is that I will always buy the needed garden products from them, like fertilizer, insect sprays, weed killers and tools. Those items will always total up to be much greater than seed packets and tomato plants.

Shopping seed catalogs and in-store seed racks can be an interesting process if price is your main seed buying objective. Seed packets are usually sold by weight, not the number of seeds. An ounce of seed will likely mean a whole lot less seeds of one species than another. Most seed catalogs now tell you how many seeds in a packet. But not all.

And if you have noticed that some of the more than 300 mail-order seed companies seem to charge more per packet, it's probably with good reason. They either go to greater extremes to prepare an eye catching, colorful, easy to read publication, or they mail their catalogs to many more gardening households than the others. Or both.

Selden graduate recognized

Fort Hays State University's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, welcomed 16 new members in the spring 2013 semester, including Isaac Broeckelman of Selden.

Broeckelman is a junior majoring in health and human performance.

Omicron Delta Kappa, founded

in 1914, recognizes outstanding leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities as well as academic achievement.

"We look for people who are active in different organizations or other activities such as sports or journalism," said chapter president Allison Gough.

Deaths

Marvin E. McKinney

Marvin E. McKinney, 90, Menlo, died Monday, June 10, 2013, at the Sheridan County Health Complex in Hoxie.

Services are pending with the Kersensbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, 462-7979.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 31 members and guests Ward Cassidy, Sheila Frahm and Sally Toth.

The monthly collection for Thomas County Genesis was taken.

President Melany Wilks thanked Michelle Spence, Jeff Dennis, Nick Wells, Pat Sloan and Joyce Washburn for serving on the Rotary-Chamber Golf Tournament Committee. The tournament was May 31 with 25 teams participating.

Christy Rocca had the program. Her guest was Kansas Rep. Ward

Cassidy of the 120th District. Cassidy provided an update of recent legislative happenings at the state level.

Cassidy said he will continue to be an advocate for northwest Kansas and encouraged members to contact him if they have issues or concerns. Cassidy serves on the appropriations committee and as the chair of the education budget committee.

Nancy LePell won Roto-Lotto. Rotary meets each Tuesday in Room 106 of the Student Union.

— Relda Gall

Daughters of Isabella

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle of the Daughters of Isabella met May 2 for the last regular meeting until September.

Regent Charlene Barnett conducted the meeting.

A note was read concerning Father Dana's sister, Annette Clark, who died the week before, and the circle decided to send a card and donation to Father Dana.

A thank you note from Ruby Brungardt was read.

A mass for Melissa Augustine was to be said on May 9.

Rhonda Rogers, Donna Juenemann and Fritz Ryan helped Fawna McFee with her estate sale the weekend before the meeting.

Joan Albers and Pat Mumm visited Mary Helen Bixenman at the Prairie Senior Living Complex.

Albers reported 878 known saved babies in the spring Relay for Life campaign.

Juenemann reported there were over 500 volunteers who helped pack 210,000 meals as part of the Feed the Starving Children project. The circle had donated \$20 to

the cause, and Donna and Kevin Juenemann and Rick and Alex Williams worked two-hour shifts packing meals.

Barnett reported the circle's basket brought \$115 at the conference auction in Russell.

At the conference, Barnett reported, the attendees said a living rosary remembering the seven sorrows of Mary. Candles were held by the people who volunteered to say a scripture with each Hail Mary. A quartet of gospel singers sang after the Saturday night meal and Father Jeff Ernst, acting chaplain, played his guitar for a Friday-night sing along. About 30 kids from the Catholic Youth Organization served the meal. Next year's convention will be March 21 to 23 in Salina.

Rosemary Bange, Louise Dougherty and Margaret Denneler formed a committee to find someone to be the vice regent for the circle next year.

A strawberry dessert was served for the time of fellowship.

— Margaret Denneler

Markets

	Quotes as of close of previous business day	Hi-Plains Co-op
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.10	
Corn (bushel)	\$7.08	
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.04	
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.77	

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Town honors injured dog

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Every dog has its day, but few canines get a motorcade on their return home.

Kabang, who lost half her face after jumping in front of a motorcycle to save the lives of two girls, received a rousing welcome Monday in Zamboanga, a city in the southern Philippines.

The mixed-breed came back from months-long treatment at the University of California, Davis, veterinary hospital, paid for with \$27,000 in donations raised in the Philippines and abroad. She was reunited with her owner, Rudy Bunggal, and the girls she saved from the accident in December 2011 — the owner's daughter, Dina, and cousin Princess Di-ansang.

"She is not just my friend, she is like a part of our family," said 13-year-old Dina Bunggal. "I

am very thankful to her, because without her, maybe I will not be alive today."

Kabang and Rudy Bunggal rode in the back of a pickup truck festooned with yellow balloons to the Municipal Hall, where Mayor Celso Lobregat bestowed the title "Pride of Zamboanga" on the dog.

Motorcycles and cars took part in the motorcade that drove Kabang through the port city. Residents snapped photos of the dog and kids petted her. At the mayor's office, Kabang was given a bag of treats.

But all is not well in Kabang's household.

Rudy Bunggal, who told reporters he was struggling with drinking and financial problems, asked the veterinarian who had accompanied Kabang to the U.S., Anton Lim, to temporarily care for the dog.

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We appreciate you and thank you for your continued support!!!

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