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Storage wars

Council mulls Mr. Storage building code

BY ELAINE LORING
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During Monday evening's Iowa Falls City Council meeting Chris Gardner, owner of Mr. Storage, a new storage facility to be built at 509 Depot, addressed the council regarding frost depth footings on his new buildings.

The Board of Appeals had made the decision that Gardner would be required to place the footings at their recent meeting.

"He is in the process of tearing down the old storage facilities that were there and building new," said Iowa Falls' Director of Building and Zoning Teresa Lancaster. "He moved forward and has two pads he was intending to pour and wasn't able to pour one of them."

Lancaster visited the site and noticed that he wasn't using the frost depth footings, which is required by city code if a facility is 600 square foot or larger. She spoke with the building's salesman and contacted Gardner before taking the information to the city's Board of Appeals.

"They recommended that we move forward per the code," she said.

"I apologize I got this far without the approvals," Gardner said. "I personally built 1,000 units across central Iowa, and not one of my sites required frost footing."

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Movin' On

PHOTOS BY MARISSA VANWINGEN AND COREY MEINTS/TIMES CITIZEN

South Hardin and ECC hold graduations ceremonies

Commencement is the culmination of the past, present and start of the future. Forty-five South Hardin High School seniors received their diplomas at the annual commencement ceremony on Sunday. Two – Katelyn Braga and McKenzie Runyon – were co-valedictorians and were the student speakers. English teacher, Jessica Below, also addressed the graduates.

Ellsworth Community College hosted their graduation on Friday afternoon with 166 crossing the stage at Martin Dittmer Gymnasium. Iowa Falls resident Darwin Miller received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Education. Isaiah Laguna received the Panther Service Award and presented the commencement address. ■

* See more photos from both ceremonies online: timescitizen.com



Death snatched from Iowa Falls fire

Pets saved, house suffers extensive damage

BY COREY MEINTS
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The Iowa Falls fire and police departments responded to a fire at 1806 Custer St. in Iowa Falls Monday afternoon. While the fire was being put out relatively quickly, the call included the rescue of two pets. Both the cat – named Lewie, and dog – named Death were safe, though Lewie received some oxygen.

Cole Brannick has lived at the residence for about 13 years. He and fiancée Ashley Ward had just left the house to grab lunch. Upon his return, his main concern was for his pets. Death was saved even before Brannick arrived, but it took firefighters about 30 minutes to find Lewie.

The irony of his dog's name was not lost as Brannick watched firefighters work on his house looking for hot spots.

"The first thing I thought when somebody called me was my cat and dog," Brannick said. "Our dog was born in a litter of four and we named them after the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, so she's Death. Today it's an ironic name."

As soon as Brannick said that, a firefighter came out with Lewie. Brannick added that the couple's two kids were in school at the time and there was nobody other than their pets in the house. He also added he has no idea what could have caused the blaze.

According to IFFD Chief Scott Eisentrager, the house suffered extensive smoke damage but the flames were limited to a bedroom on the back side of the house. Responders, including Iowa Falls Ambulance, were on scene for roughly an hour. ■



COREY MEINTS / TIMES CITIZEN

Oxygen is administered by Iowa Falls EMS member Donnie Badger to Lewie the cat, held by owner Cole Brannick, after he was rescued from a house fire on Custer Street Monday afternoon. No people were injured in the blaze, which is still under investigation.

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