

OUR TOWNS

Cedar County

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Holy Trinity Begins Quest For New Rectory

Old 1913 Structure Is Demolished; Plans Under Way For Its Replacement

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HARTINGTON, Neb. — The land on which Hartington's Holy Trinity Catholic Church is built has a bare space this week.

That's because last Tuesday, the parish's rectory — built in 1913 — was demolished. A new rectory is set to be built on the same site.

The demolition was a long time in coming, the Rev. Jeff Loseke said.

"There were some interior problems that were starting to come up that we noticed," he said. "First of all, we had an infestation of bats in the attic, and the bats were bringing in their ticks and their bugs, and those had gotten in the walls, and they were coming out of the outlets all throughout the (living area). I was finding critters everywhere."

An exterminator told Loseke that the bats could not be gotten rid of easily, as there were so many holes in the roof.

"It was one thing after the next," Loseke said. "To repair the

roof would have been a major process, and when that can of worms was opened, we began then looking at what else this building would need to really bring it up to the 21st century."

The brickwork was crumbling, as was the plaster on the porches, he said. Added to this, there was no central air, and the boiler was as old as the building itself.

To repair all of this would have run the parish approximately \$100,000-\$120,000.

"When that was brought forward, we decided, 'You know what? We've kept the building on life support long enough. It's time to lay it to rest and move forward,'" Loseke said.

An architect from RVW Inc. of Columbus, Neb., was hired, and plans were made to take everything out of the old rectory in time for the new school year, which commences this week.

"July was a hectic month of starting to pack everything up, sorting through years and years of history," Loseke said. "(The building) was almost 5,000 square feet. It was a huge build-



Caution tape surrounds the site where Hartington's Holy Trinity Rectory once stood. Built in 1913, the rectory was demolished last week after it was determined building a new facility would cost less than repairing the old one.

ing, on several levels. So there were a lot of things that accumulated."

Those items have been stored in two places: The basement of Loseke's new living quarters and at Holy Trinity Preschool.

The parish is now progressing toward a final design for the

new rectory, which Loseke said will be "very different" than the old one.

"We're going to have a one-level building," he said. "What's important for us is, we want the offices together on one side of the building, and then it'll be a private residence attached — but separate, so that the resi-

dence for the priest and the offices are under one roof, but they are two separate spaces."

There will also be a full basement for storage purposes.

When a design is finalized, the parish must then petition the archdiocese of Omaha to move ahead with the project.

"Once that is done, we will be

able to put the bid up for contractors, and once that's finished we'll be ready to go," Loseke said. "I think our goal would be to have a basement dug and perhaps have cement poured before the snow falls. That would be ideal."

He added that the parish hopes to have the building completed by the end of next summer.

"Overall, the general consensus is it's sad to see the (old) building go, because it has such a long history," Loseke said. "It is always tough to take down an old building, just because they're charming and they have such nostalgia attached to them. But I would say most people recognize that it was just going to cost too much to preserve it or save it or update it."

This marks the first time since the mid-1960s since the parish has undertaken a construction project of this size, which Loseke sees as a positive indicator of the church's status.

"I think it's a sign that the parish is vibrant, that it's growing, that there is a desire to constantly be moving ahead and looking at our future, that we're really for what the modern era will bring," he said.

SCHOOL

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even kindergarten and first grades," Struck said. "When we call the parents, we are getting answers like, 'What do you want me to do? They won't get out of bed.' ... We also have issues of the parents pulling kids out of school for a variety of reasons, from going garage sale shopping in Sioux Falls to getting haircuts."

Struck added that there is no way for those students who are missing school days to make up what they have missed in terms of socialization, group projects or smart-board work.

Kindle said the proposed changes make sure that students are getting the best education possible. A cooperative group formed of teachers, the district attorney, school board and administrative personnel came up with the proposed new rules. He added that the group sought opinions of parents and business people in the community to make sure that the policies

established were in line of what was needed.

"We have a lot of parents who find a lot of reasons for their children to not be in school," he said. "I know parents want to be supportive of their kids; we understand that. But we have a responsibility to the students to provide them the best education possible. When you have some students who are picking and choosing which classes to attend and missing other classes 42 or 50 times, they are not learning. Our hands are just tied and we have not been able to do anything."

Under the new proposed policy, any student who amasses 10 absences will have written notification from the school sent to the parent/guardian. After 15 absences, the school will notify the Yankton County State's Attorney's Office regarding additional truancy concerns. After 20 absences, the school will request prosecution due to truancy.

Beyond the proposed policy change, the group also submitted three new procedures to address the policy at each level: pre-k-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

"Because the issues faced at the different levels while similar

do vary, we felt we needed to address each level separately," Kindle said. "This gives us a set procedure to follow and assures that we are being consistent from student to student."

After hearing testimony regarding the need for the change in the policy, the board took Kindle's recommendations and will allow the group to make changes based on suggestions from the hearing and resubmit them at the September meeting for final approval.

Other business included:

- hearing a report on the district's student achievement test results and annual yearly progress under No Child Left Behind;

- setting a tentative date for the district's annual strategic planning review for Monday, Sept. 20; and,
- hearing an update on the district's website, including the newly updated alumni/foundation page.

It was also announced that the monthly school board meetings are being moved to the second Monday of every month. They will still be held at 5:30 p.m. but instead of being held at the Technical Education Center, they will now be held in the meeting room of the new administration building. The next meeting of the Yankton School Board will be Monday, Sept. 13.

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Archery Tournament Set For Sunday

HARTINGTON, Neb. — The Northeast Nebraska Archers and the Shannon Trail are offering the third annual Adult-Youth 3-D Archery Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 22, at the Hartington Outdoor Archery Range, located one mile east of Hartington. Recycling. The event starts at 8 a.m. and is open until 2 p.m.

First division is adult with youth age 8-12. Second division is adult with youth age 13-15. A 40-target course will be set up, one arrow per target. Concessions will be available on the grounds.

For more information, contact Kevin Millikan Bloomfield 402-373-2713.

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