

## Council gets tough on graffiti

Two of outgoing Ward 2 City Councilor David Gill's key concerns were addressed Tuesday when the City Council approved "emergency" ordinances strengthening the city's parking and graffiti laws.

Gill had championed the two measures in council study sessions, asking whether parents could be held responsible for a juvenile's actions when property damage was involved.

The new ordinance addresses that concern, allowing the city to take action against parents to pay when the child doesn't.

The law also requires quicker removal of graffiti, seven days instead of 15, and it requires operators of businesses who sell graffiti materials

(spray paint and permanent markers) to take responsibility to prevent sales to minors.

This is only one piece of the puzzle, though, Police Chief Clint Blackhurst told the council. The department also recently purchased through a grant a motion-sensitive camera that can catch taggers in the act – as well as dummy cameras, which will deter vandals who won't know real from fake. Another step is that a team of police officers is examining graffiti for common traits to try to narrow down the suspects.

Blackhurst cited yet another effective deterrent: Alert residents. He said Ward 2 Councilor Cynthia Martinez and her husband, Brad, contacted

police when they noticed a group of people one evening carrying spray cans. Officers responded and caught them in the act.

The new parking ordinance prohibits residents from parking cars in front or visible side yards on anything but a hard surface. Gill also had asked for that ordinance, noting that cars parked on lawns created an eyesore.

Another City Councilor's concern was addressed through an ordinance as well: Ward 3 Councilor Wayne Scott inspired a new ethics policy that prevents the city entering contracts for outside services with City Council members, the city manager, municipal judges or the city attorney or their immediate families. Scott had told the

council during a study session that it is a matter of trust among citizens that council members and other city officials avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

The council approved, on first reading, a \$48 million operating budget for 2010. City Manager Manuel Esquibel noted it was about a 1.35 percent increase over the 2009 budget.

Gill and Ward 2 Councilor Cynthia Martinez opposed the passage because it calls for two furlough days for city employees to maintain services and avoid tapping into the city's reserves. Gill suggested elimination of some council member trips to avoid at least one of the remaining furlough days.

## Election '09:

### City Council Ward 3

If you have a question both candidates can address, submit it by e-mail to [ask@brightonbanner.com](mailto:ask@brightonbanner.com)

#### Wayne Scott

**Age:** 54  
**Address:** 274 S. Third Avenue  
**Family:** Wife Brenda, daughter Sophia, two grandsons, Jordan and Jay.



**Public experience:** Four years on the City Council, Ward 3; was on the Beebe Draw panel and Historic Preservation Commission, now an alternate; North Area Transportation Committee; South Adams Water Quality Board; and (formerly) Brighton Housing Authority.

**Why are you running?**

The first time I thought the city was going in the right direction and wanted to keep it that way: downtown redevelopment was beginning

#### Gloria Venegas

Did not participate



and Prairie Center was developing. I was looking at jobs as an issue. Now I think the city needs some adjusting.

**What do you bring to the table?**

In Ward 3, I know the ward better than most: I have lived on the east and west sides of the highway, lived in a home and in apartments and I've operated a business in Ward 3.

**What are the key issues for the city and your ward and how would you address**

See **Scott**, Page 3



Bryan Long, left, and Nathan Leitner of DaVinci Sign Systems put the final touches on the signs for the Donor Wall at the Brighton Armory.

Banner photo

More on Armory: Brighton Banter, Page 2; schedule, Page 3

## Armory again a treasure

By Tonja Castaneda for The Banner

A diamond in the rough is how the Armory building could be described. After a nearly two-year cleanup and renovation effort, the building looks polished inside and out.

And Friday everyone can see it shine when it reopens as part of the Brighton Cultural Center, sharing center stage with the recently opened Brighton Anythink Library as downtown Brighton's newest gems.

Bright and shiny couldn't be any farther from the way the building looked at the start of the restoration. The exterior of the building had broken windows and the facade was crumbling. That wasn't the worst of it.

"There were horrible conditions inside," said James Vigesaa of Bleeker-Vigesaa General

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## Inside The Banner this week

### 'Wild' nice

It was feared that Spike Jonze might mishandle Marice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, but the tales message survives. Page 7

### BHS makes tourney

The Brighton High School softball team is seeded sev-

enth in the 16-team state tournament, starting Friday in Aurora. Page 8

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Antique swan-back chair at New to You. Page 6

Don't miss the chance to sing along: Page 4

## Letters

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led or participated in many different organizations, such as the Lions Club, church committees, employee groups, child-advocacy non-profits and school district committees. She applies herself to worthwhile organizations with a sincere need. This passion to serve led her to a 33-year career as an award-winning classroom teacher. She believes every child can learn and grow; and she refuses to give up on any of them. Joan understands the challenges in the classroom because she is in the schools throughout the school year, and staff members trust her enough to honestly voice their comments/concerns. Her diligence in life accentuates her sense of justice, which is expressed in a positive uplifting personality. Joan also possesses an Olympian sense of competition. This character trait drives her to make School District 27J the best it can be.

Joan Kniss leads with integrity, which makes her our community's most effective leader. I hope you will join me in voting for her to serve our children in 27J.

**Todd Cordrey, President  
Board of Education  
School District 27J**

### Vote for Kniss best gift for kids

To all 27-J voters:

The best gift you can give your children is to re-elect Joan Kniss to the 27-J school board. As a master teacher, she has devoted herself to addressing each student's needs in the classroom. She has always had high expectations, and her students have risen to her high goals. She has the same aspirations for her community, and a vote for Joan will be a vote for continued focus upon developing our precious students in our schools.

Please be aware of your choices and definitely vote for Joan Kniss for 27-J school board.

**Ruth Dunnell**

### Young adult says re-elect Rose

To the editor:

I turned 18 this year, registered so that I could be part of the voting process. I have heard Mrs. (Wilma) Rose speak and talked with others about her and believe she should be re-elected. As a young adult I am very concerned about my future as well as my family here in Brighton and believe she understands the needs of Brighton and its citizens. Please re-elect Wilma Rose to the Brighton City Council.

**Samantha Thompson**



As members of the Platte Valley Players get used to the extended stage, center, artist Judy Dickinson and husband Gary collect artwork for the show that will run through November at the Armory at Brighton Cultural Center. The renovated 1921-vintage building will reopen Friday.  
*Banner photo*

## Antiques surfaced as cleanup efforts progressed

**Armory, from page 1**

Contractors. Vigesaa, a Brighton resident who has worked to restore many other buildings, said conditions at the Armory were the worst he had ever seen. Many factors, including flooding and animals living in the building, led to the decline of structure.

"There was an animal infestation in the building, and the crawl-space windows were knocked out, so the building flooded at times with water and mud," said Vigesaa. "In some places, we cleaned up 10 inches of mud from the basement."

All sorts of animals inhabited the building, including a dozen cats, bats and bees. "A month ago we were still chasing bats out of the Armory," said Bret Mader of Bleeker Vigesaa in September. "They lived in the basement and hung out on a pipe during the day. We started doing the demolition and found there were about 200 bats living in the ceiling."

A beekeeper also was hired.

"We started noticing that a lot of bees were traveling through the building, so we brought in a beekeeper who said there were up to 55 gallons of honeycomb in the walls," Mader said. The beekeeper smoked the bees out of the walls to capture the Queen Bee and have the rest of bees follow into a trap. Three bee colonies were relocated and released.

During the cleanup process, crews did find some antique items.

"There was some stuff we did salvage out of the building, like older desks, a basketball scoreboard with a Brighton team name, and

an envelope of documents from 1943," Vigesaa said. They turned the historical documents, including the 1943 boiler inspection certificate, over to the Brighton Historic Preservation Commission. "When we took our electrical engineer to the building he found the original 1922 fuse box. To an electrical engineer it was a true thrill to find it."

Some graffiti was scrawled inside the building, and the roof leaked, so large patches of the wooden floor were ruined by water damage.

Construction crews found a surprise in the basement when they discovered one of the walls was built directly on dirt, with no concrete slab. They braced up the stairway, cut the bottom off the wall, put in a concrete slab and build up the wall again, Vigesaa said.

Like any cleanup, it was not long before the building's character started to shine. Crews began cleaning up the Armory in spring 2008. New construction started in January.

The construction and renovation gradually moved along ahead of schedule.

"That job is as close to perfect as a job can go," Vigesaa said a month ago. "We have a great architect (This Place in Time), the Brighton Urban Renewal Authority and construction crews all working as a team and transforming it to what it looks like today."

As the building takes its new place in history in Brighton, people have started coming by the Armory to tell stories about the building's past. Mader said: "There's a lot of history with it and that's why we wanted to restore it."

## Hospital restricts young visitors

Platte Valley Medical Center announced last week that it has changed its visitor policy to protect patients, visitors and staffers from 2009 H1N1 and seasonal flu.

The policy change comes as a result of guidelines recommended by the Colorado Department of Public Health. All hospitals in Colorado have changed their visitor policies and as influenza continues to spread, restrictions are likely to change. Restrictions are expected to remain in place through April 2010, or when the influenza season subsides (whichever is longer).

"We are asking for our

community's help to follow this important policy change," said PVMC Vice President of Nursing Kurt Gensert, in a news release. "We are urging ill visitors to stay home and no visitors under age 18. Children under age 18 are highly susceptible to carrying the 2009 H1N1 flu virus and may unknowingly spread the virus because they can be contagious prior to showing symptoms.

"We understand this is an inconvenience to our community," he said, "but we are doing everything possible to help reduce the spread of these viruses."

Platte Valley Medical

Center has set up a blog and is using its Facebook and Twitter social media tools to communicate updates as they become available.

The entire visitor policy is located on the hospital's Web site. To find the links, visit the news section on the home page at [pvmc.org](http://pvmc.org).

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment also has set up a phone line to handle calls related to this year's 2009-2010 influenza season.

If you have general influenza questions, call: 1-877-462-2911. To reach Platte Valley Medical Center, call 303-498-1600.

## Election '09:

**Scott, from page 1**

them?

We need to pay more attention to boards and commissions, looking at policies and rules, and taking into account what they do, the way they do it and who sits on it (each board). A couple of years ago the Brighton Housing Authority Board and the Historic Preservation Commission were in disarray. They have improved, but there are other boards to look at. I am also concerned with passage of a new ethics policy (approved Tuesday), doing away with City Council members doing (contract) work for the city. We have to hold ourselves to a higher ethical standard.

Downtown won't be successful until we can bring in more jobs to our daytime businesses.

The key issue in Ward 3 is connecting South Main Street back to Bromley Lane. I think it has to be done and we need to find a way to do it. Ray Gonzales (Economic Development executive director) is trying to find out if we can use money that (former Congressman Bob) Beauprez had earmarked for the intersection of U.S. 85 and Bromley for Main Street.

And we've got to get Ken Mitchell Park open - with fishing piers and an amphitheater. I think it would be wonderful for the neighborhood and for the city. Vestas is fantastic as is the new Urban Renewal Authority area around it.

We have got to find a way to get not just 1,500 to 2,000 new jobs, but build on the new energy economy to gain 5,000 jobs.

There's also a lot to be said about sustainable economy and having fresh foods that are grown locally. We have to save the farms.

**Why should people vote for you?**

I get things done because I listen to all voices before I make any decisions, and I try to make those decisions in the best interest of the city and my ward.

**What music are you listening to?**

Nothing but island music: Jimmy Buffett.

**What are you reading?**

*The Brothers*, about the Kennedys.

**Who do you admire in politics or life/who inspired you?**

The most influential politician in my life was Ted Kennedy. He got things done. If Jack was Camelot and Bobby was hope and passion, Ted was the worker.