

Village plans discussed at meeting

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners, at the Thursday meeting, met with representatives from the Good Samaritan Society and Village concerning the future plans for the facility.

Randy Fitzgerald, operational manager for Good Samaritan Society, and Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, wanted to know what the commissioners were expecting from them and what the plans were for the future.

At the Aug. 2 election, the people voted to support the facility up to 6 mills with tax money. In the meantime, the Good Samaritan Society is continuing to run the nursing home but, it is running at a loss of about \$25,000 a month.

They said Phase 2 of the Society's plan is to be done by December. Work has begun on the middle section which will include a hallway, three private rooms and three offices. When this phase is completed, there will be room for 35 residents.

We are committed here, said Mr. Fitzgerald. We have lost \$250,000 this year but we are committed to rebuilding. I want to work with you guys.

They talked about the lease with the Society. Mr. Fitzgerald said the lease calls for 5 percent of the gross and includes a variety of services. They estimated that would be about \$85,000. The administrator and staff wages would be paid out of the operating expenses. As the revenue increases the amount of the 5 percent will also increase.

The facility and everything it contains would be given to the county for \$1. However, the county will be responsible for repairs and replacements. The Society would take care of mowing, snow removal and other such maintenance.

The county will support operational losses such as Medicaid cuts, capital improvements, etc. The Society has already agreed to

run the facility through 2012.

In the future, there will need to be upgrades to the air conditioning and heating systems but there were no estimates on the cost. The middle wing will have a new heating and air conditioning system.

It as noted that Home Health is separate from the nursing home and will not be given to the county.

Mr. Fitzgerald, at an earlier meeting, had given the commissioners a sample lease. Andy Beikman, commissioner, asked if the Society would give the commissioners figures of what general maintenance cost in the last few years. We know it will vary from year to year, but we need to have an idea of what it will cost.

The lease, Mr. Fitzgerald said, is pretty standard. The Society takes care of lawsuits, employee issues and other matters that might come up. The insurance for the facility is in the lease.

In the end, the Society is wanting to see if the county will be building on to the facility. Earlier plans had 12 additional rooms and either eight or 10 assisted living apartments. This would call for around \$3.5 million which would probably need to be raised through bonds. It would also call for another election.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the Society was not going to abandon the community but it is important that this phase of the Village be completed.

The commissioners, along with the county attorney, Kari Gilliland, agreed that they will go through the lease, paragraph by paragraph, to come up with a lease that will work with the county. Mr. Fitzgerald said he is available almost any time they need to visit with him.

Mr. Paulsen said that, once the facility is filled to the full capacity (35 people) in March (the completion of Phase 3), there will be more accurate figures.

The commissioners will be going over the lease in the future.

Homecoming week starts on Monday

Next week, Sept. 26-30, is Homecoming Week.

On Monday everyone will be dressed in their PJs, robe, and slippers. They will party on in their PJ's all day long. The required dress codes still apply, so it has to be appropriate dress.

Tuesday everyone will be dressed mismatched. It might be two different sox, different colors, anything will fit right in. The

key is that nothing will match.

Wednesday is the day everyone will wear their favorite college team jersey, team T-shirt, or hat. It has to have a college logo to count.

The Rock Stars will appear on Thursday for "Wanna Rock Day." Rock on with the Cougars Thursday night! Homecoming Coronation/Spirit Fest 2011 starts at 7 p.m. at Cougar Field.

Church celebrates 125-years Sunday

By Jane Brubaker

Her faithful 125-year-young voice continues to sing "And Are We Yet Alive" with gratitude to Jesus who gives his almighty grace! Her name is Immanuel United Methodist Church. She thrives in Bird City, still making disciples and singing praises for her sustained Godly perseverance through 125 years of crop failures, farm losses, membership fluctuations and pastorate changes.

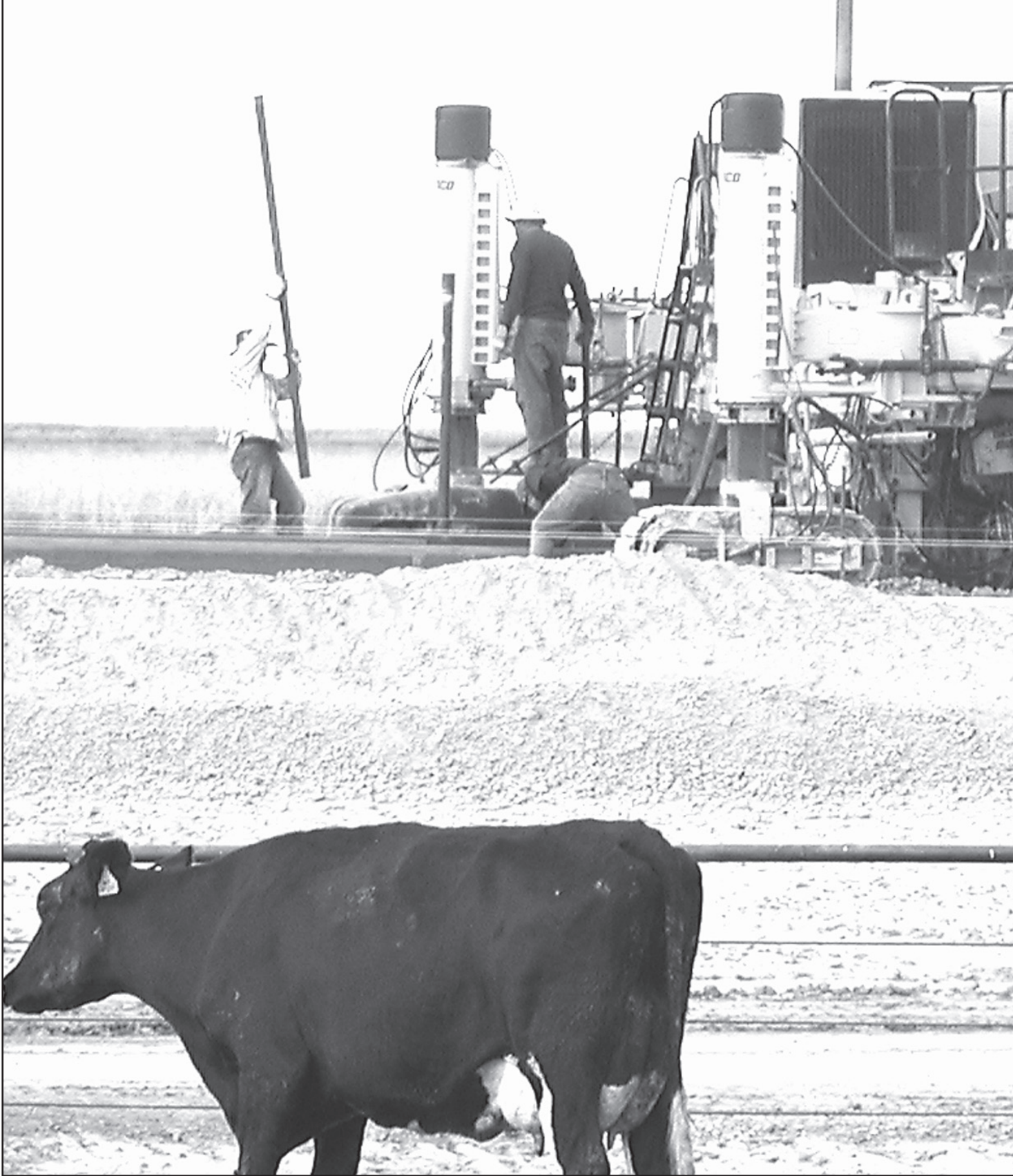
On Sept. 25, Immanuel United Methodist Church will celebrate its 125th birthday with a special worship service of hymns and recognition of its proud history that was chartered on Sept. 30, 1886.

The earliest Methodists in Bird City met in an upstairs room of the F & W Hardware Store. The

charter stated, "This corporation is formed for the purpose of maintaining divine worship according to the requirements of the discipline and usage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and may hold property to the amount of \$1 million for the benefit and use of the same; at present, it has no property except a subscription to build a house of worship."

The Methodists later bought the Congregational Church building in 1889 valued at \$200-a huge investment at that time. By 1892, there were 62 members. In 1920, a brick church was completed for \$17,006 and the following year the current parsonage was completed. The present church was consecrated in May of 1973.

Construction begins at dairy



Workers at the Bird City Dairy have been busy preparing the dirt for an addition of 1,000 new cows. The cement trucks are there this week getting things finished off to be ready for unloading cows the first week in November.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS study during class. Pictured left to right are: Daniela Possami, from Italy, Roberto Ponce, who recently passed his test to become a U.S. Citizen; Marlene Dehn, from Denmark.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Exchange students attending classes

By Norma Martinez

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The Cheylin High School started the year off with several new students including one who has recently passed the U.S. citizenship test. The sophomore class picked up a student from Denmark and the juniors gained a foreign exchange student from Italy.

Marlene Dehn

Marlene Dehn, who is in 10th grade, has seen a lot of the United States. On six occasions she and her parents, Steen and Jette Dehn, took three-week vacations touring in the U.S. As a tourist she has had the opportunity to see New York,

Niagara Falls and lots of things most of her classmates have not seen. This time in the states is a new experience for her as she is here for the full 2011-2012 school term at Cheylin as a foreign exchange student.

Four years ago, her sister was a foreign exchange student in Mississippi and she decided she wanted to gain the same experience in a small town. She selected Bird City as it is a small town, and she wanted to learn about the American way of life. She is used to seeing cows in the city as most people in Denmark have a cow. Here she can learn about the cows

and experience the ways of country living.

Her American family is Sylvia and Dave Hubbard.

"I have a great family," she said. "They take good care of me and I have a good host sister Shayla Hubbard. They have a farm so they have shown me the cows and goats."

She said she likes the Cheylin School much better than the European schools, as here everyone attends different classrooms; there they only have one classroom.

Marlene speaks very good English as she has studied English since third grade. In Denmark all

schools require learning either English or German as they are the only people who speak Danish. She studied German but doesn't speak it as well as English.

She lives in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, so she takes a bus or rides her bike to school. Everyone rides bikes for transportation or they can take a train. There are very few cars.

In America, she said, everyone has cars. The country kids can drive at age 14. In Denmark, they have to be 18 years old to obtain a driver's license.

Being a dairy country, Denmark

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