



NATALIE BURSCH and Halle Antholz, right, are enjoying their snacks while listening to Dan Carson tell the group about King David during Bible school. Pastor Carson is portraying King David and after illustrating Psalm 23, Thou anointest my head with oil, he gave the crackers as snacks.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

## Director of operation brings signed lease agreement

By Karen Krien

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The Good Samaritan Society's director of operations was at the Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting on Wednesday, May 15, with the signed lease agreement. The commissioners also changed the name of the Good Samaritan Village.

Because the nursing home had the name "Village" for over 60 years, the commissioners agreed that the new name for the facility would be Cheyenne County Village. The name change will not be official until July 1.

Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations, brought the lease contract with the Society's official signatures. On July 1, the county will be the owner as \$1 is paid to the Society. With the purchase will come the nursing home and furniture—contents, apartments and some land surrounding the facilities. The home health care building on the northwest of the grounds will remain with the Society.

Mr. Fitzgerald also had a letter from Cynthia Moegenburg, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Society, recognizing Jeff Paulsen, Village

administrator, as well as the staff and advisory board, the community and the leaders and all the residents and their families who supported the center over the past 61 years, especially since the fire in October 2010.

Mr. Paulsen said there are several areas where he would like direction from the commissioners including physical therapy and certified nurse aides.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he had received some phone calls from some people who were wanting to put a family member in the nursing home. The nursing home

can keep up to 35 patients and, at that time, there were only 30 beds full.

"I know you had staffing issues," Mr. Patton said to Mr. Paulsen.

We could not take any more residents because we are short of certified nurse aides, Mr. Paulsen said. Our first concern is for the care and safety of the residents.

Mr. Paulsen went on to say that they had advertised for aides and they are even offering to train people so they are certified. We are paying well over minimum wage for a certified nurse aid.

Mr. Paulsen said he had given

a presentation to high school students encouraging them to look at the different jobs offered at the nursing home. There are opportunities for keeping people in the county, he said.

### Physical therapy

Mr. Paulsen said the nursing home and home health had been contracting with an outside therapy company for physical therapists. No only would he like to be working with the hospital's physical therapy staff but he felt that it would be less expensive. It would benefit both the hospital and the nursing home if we could work together, he said.

It would be a win-win situation, Mr. Patton said. The hospital wants revenue and the Village wants to reduce the expense.

Mr. Paulsen said he had talked to the hospital administrator and they seemed to be on board. He noted that the hospital offers only physical therapy. They would still need to go outside the hospital for occupational and speech therapy.

Mr. Patton said he would talk to Judy Rockwood, hospital administrator, to see what could be worked out. Karan Thadani, county attorney, offered to help wherever he was needed.

## New man hired on city crew

By Norma Martinez

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Robert Sharp was hired in March to work with Brad Schneider the city maintenance superintendent. Mr. Sharp grew up in St. Francis and graduated from St. Francis Community High School. His parents, Tom and Louis Sharp, live north of St. Francis.

After graduation Mr. Sharp worked in the Fort Morgan, Colo., area with handicapped children. He enjoyed working with the children, he said, and it was a rewarding experience for him. He recently married Jeannie Marie Verda of Bird City and he thought commuting from Fort Morgan was too hard to continue.

City maintenance, Mr. Sharp said, is a big change, but he enjoys the different type of work and working with adults.

"It is good to be working with a close knit and caring community," he said. "I am looking forward to getting to know the residents."

He said he plans on learning a lot through the years of service in his present position with Bird City. If you see him working stop and introduce yourself to him.

**CITY WORKER, Robert Sharp, was busy cleaning out the swimming pool getting it ready for opening this weekend and Memorial Day.**



## Post office makes carrier changes

Single-piece first-class mail volume has declined 37 percent in the last six years, and the postal service is currently losing \$25 million a day. The postal service must adapt to Americans changing mailing habits. Consequently, the post office service is looking into consolidating some of its carrier operations.

Following a feasibility study, the postal service has decided to consolidate carrier operations in Bird City into St. Francis. The two Bird City carriers will report to the St. Francis Post Office beginning June 1.

The change will be mostly transparent to customers, as all retail and post office boxes, and mail acceptance services will re-

main at each post office, including picking up notified packages. Customers will continue to use the same mailing address and ZIP Code. The carriers will deliver the same mail routes with some customers receiving their mail earlier in the day, some later, and some the same time.

Beginning June 1, the pick up time for mail going out of the Bird City Post Office will change from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

The postal service doesn't receive taxpayer dollars for operations, so it is doing everything within its authority to reduce costs, save money, and streamline operations while maintaining a high level of service. Business as usual is not an option.

## Memorial Day services scheduled

There will be a Memorial Day program at the Bird City Cemetery north of town on Monday. The program will start at 10 a.m. Joy Anderegg will be laying a wreath.

A potluck dinner will be held at the Bird City Senior Center following the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.



# Welcome Bird City Alumni

Legion Hall • 6:30 p.m. • Saturday