

Nursing home plans told

By Karen Krien
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It has been over four months since the Good Samaritan Village fire. At the Monday meeting of the Cheyenne County Commissioners, answers and information concerning what the Good Samaritan Society plans to do was revealed.

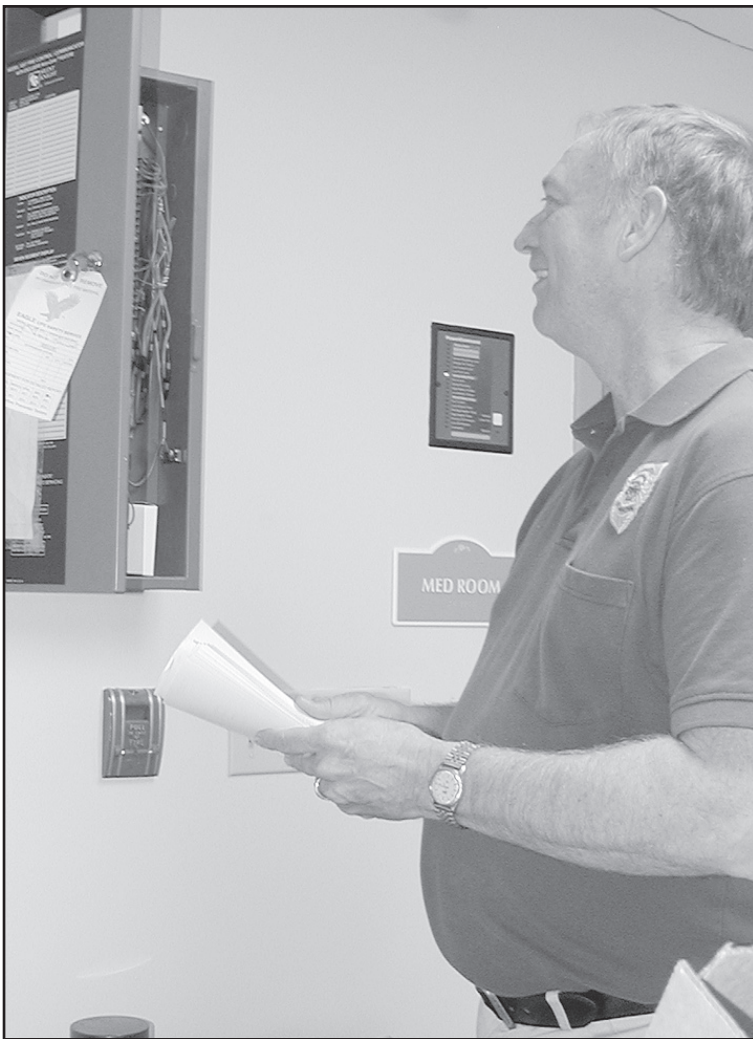
Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations, was at the meeting along with Greg Hensley, Altman Charter, an architect firm; Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator; Kevin Berens, Village advisory board member and chairman of the Long Term Care task force. Also present was James Foster, Department of Commerce, Colby.

Mr. Fitzgerald read a statement he had prepared, starting off by commending the Village staff and members of the community. His mission and goal, he said, has been to figure out a way to re-open the Village as soon as possible.

To date, he said, the total property loss has been \$667,260. The Society had a \$100,000 deductible on their insurance policy and a \$94,512 depreciation cost.

So far, the Society has received \$472,748 from the insurance carrier to cover property losses. The Society has also been reimbursed \$578,000 to cover inventory and equipment losses.

The Society has invested close to \$100,000 to make the Village west wing more modern and appealing to the residents, family members and the community. Mr. Paulsen estimated that so far, the entire renovation costs have been \$250,000. Mr. Berens pointed out that the Society had covered the cost of one and a half months payroll for the staff which amounted to around \$150,000 which was paid out of the insurance money.



FIRE MARSHAL, Ron Adams, checked the electrical box during his inspection of the Village. He reported that there were some minor things that would need fixed.

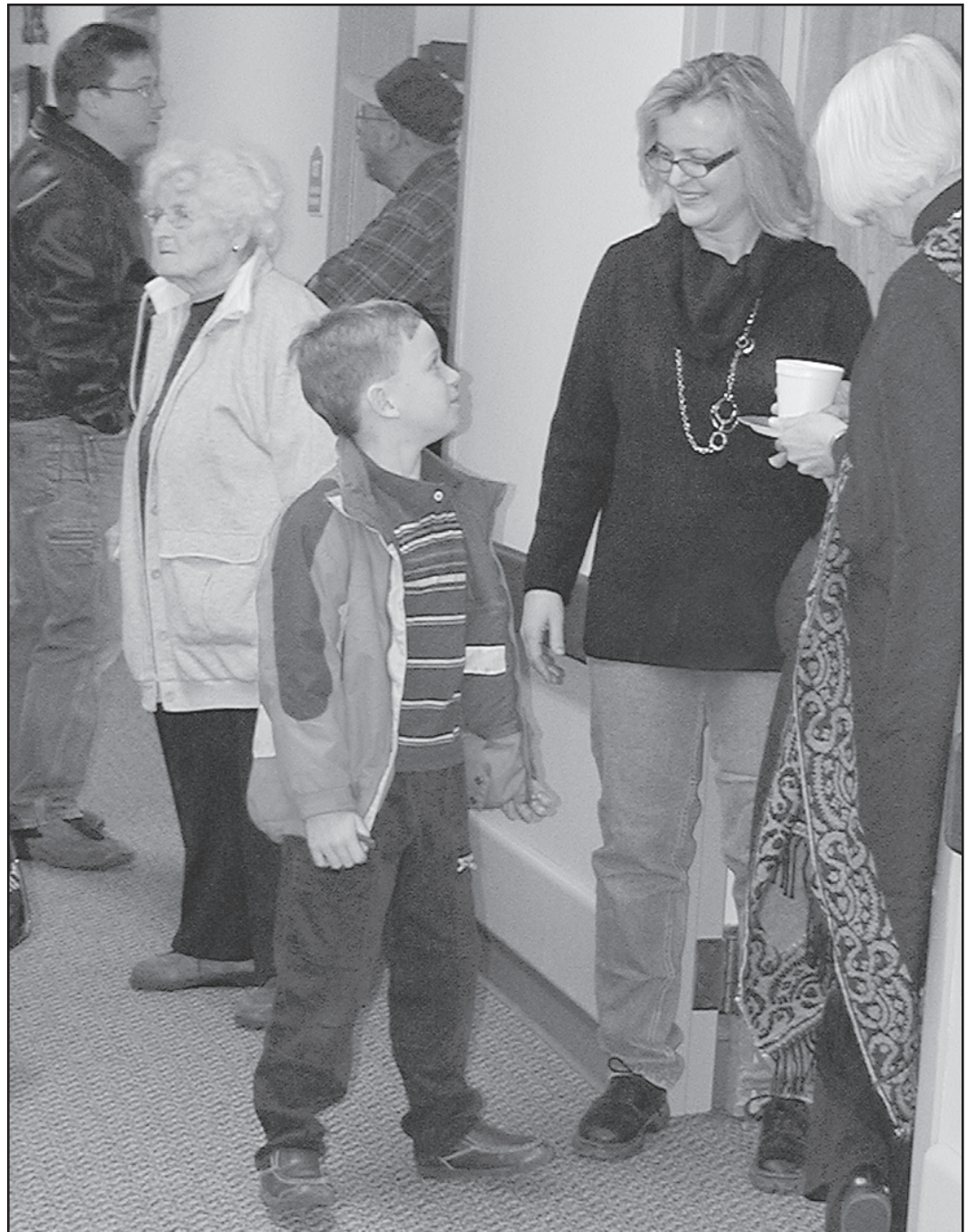
By March 7, the Society plans to have 22 beds available for residents and they will be moving back from the different nursing homes they were taken to after the fire. Renovating the west wing, kitchen and lounge marks the end of Phase 1.

Phase 2 will include putting in an 8-foot wide corridor through the north side of the middle wing

which had the majority of the fire damage. There will also be a dining area on the west end of this wing.

After these projects are finished, the rooms in the west wing that were converted to a temporary kitchen, dining, therapy and office, will house 10 more patients, bring the total to 32.

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THE VILLAGE RENOVATION open house was attended by around 250 people Sunday afternoon. Picture (l to r) are Kevin Berens, Dorothy Orth, Dale Patton (background), Joshua and Angie Berens and Carol Redding. Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

Sirens to sound statewide



Next week, March 7-11, has been designated as Severe Weather Awareness Week. The statewide tornado drill with siren will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday in both St. Francis and Bird City.

Ryan Murray, emergency manager, and Jen Padgett, communication director, are concerned about the sirens working and that residents will understand emergency situations.

The purpose of the St. Francis and Bird City emergency siren systems, Mr. Murray said, is to alert the residents of the cities. To insure proper functioning of the emergency sirens, they will be conduct-

ing monthly tests. These tests will determine if there are any malfunctions which need to be corrected.

The tests will be held at 11:45 on the first Wednesday of each month during the severe weather months (March through August). However, there are exceptions: 1) if there is a severe storm watch or warning in place; and 2), if there is the appearance of threatening weather. If the warning test is canceled on the first Wednesday, it will be held the following Wednesday.

In Bird City, the fire department will activate the siren; in St. Francis, the com-

munication center staff will activate the siren for one minute. The "all clear" will follow each siren test.

If there is severe weather...

Mr. Murray asks that county residents take note of precautions and report damage during a tornado or severe storms. Some of the reports he would like to receive include:

- Report to the sheriff's office or emergency management office, all storm damages such as down power lines, building

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Meet the legislators!

The area's state legislators plan to be in St. Francis on Saturday to talk with voters and taxpayers at a "town hall" meeting.

Rep. Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, plan to be at Main Street Java from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The meeting, which everyone is encouraged to attend, will give the two Republicans a chance to talk about what's going on in Topeka and for people to ask questions.

Rep. Cassidy is serving his first term

in the House of Representatives, 120th District. He serves on the Education, Education Budget and Corrections and Juvenile Justice committees.

Sen. Ostmeyer, who has served since 2005, is the chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and a member of Federal and State Affairs, Agriculture, Local Government, Energy and Environmental Policy and Reapportionment committees, and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

Theater scheduled to show 3D movie this weekend

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It's here! The Cheyenne Theater, St. Francis, will be showing the "Gnomeo and Juliet" movie in 3D Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The screen was installed on Monday. The rest of the week was spent removing the old projector and installing the new equipment.

In honor of the digital premiere and to thank the many donors who gave to make the new equipment possible, the Theater Committee will be giving free popcorn all three evenings.

Several months ago, the Theater Committee began raising money to purchase the equipment which was estimated to cost around \$95,000. The city of St. Francis had budgeted to help with the purchase but would take several years before there would be enough money. Mr. Grace thought it was important to purchase the equipment sooner as, in the future, there might be a high demand.

Robert Grace, committee member, said \$41,000 had been donated and, with the city's budgeted amount of \$12,500, the necessary 50 percent of purchase price for the digital equipment could be See MOVIES on Page 7



WORKING ON ELECTRICAL boxes was necessary before Dennis Murphy, Claco employee, could start installing the digital equipment. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



COMPARING ENTRIES - Seniors Aubree Schlepp, Mikaela Grace, Zach Zweygardt and Sarah Trembly compare their regional entries. All four students place at regional journalism over the weekend and will compete at state journalism in May. Herald photo by Brenda Day

Journalists take first place

St. Francis high school journalists attended the Regional Journalism Contest held in Hays on Thursday.

St. Francis placed first in the 1A-2A division with 59 points. Sweepstakes awards are no longer presented at regionals.

"I am so proud of all our student journalists for their fine work," said adviser, Brenda Day. "They represented their school, their community and themselves well."

Regional Placers included: Aubree Schlepp, Theme Development, first place; Yearbook Copy, first place; Mikaela Grace, Editing, first place; Yearbook Layout, second place; Hayley Brown, News-writing, first place; Clarice Neitzel, Yearbook Sports Writing, first place; and Shelby Cassaw, Editorial Writing, first place.

Tilyn Bell, Editing, second place; Trista Orth, News-writing, second place; Casey Keller, Theme Devel-

opment, second place; Jalyn McCauley, Yearbook Sports Writing, third place; Ross Nicklos, Outline Writing (captions), third place

Honorable mentions: Sarah Trembly, Infographics; Zach Zweygardt, Photo Illustration; Allison Grice, Yearbook Layout; Jandy Dunn, Newspaper Design; Ally Northrup, Editorial Writing; Dylan Wolaver, Advertising; Aly Schlepp, Feature Writing; Jon Butler, Newspaper Sports Writing.