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Director gives draft lease for Village

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with the Good Samaritan Society's director of operations and members of the community at the Friday meeting. While there was a lot of discussion, no lease was signed.

Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations, along with Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, Kevin

Berens, chairman of the Good Samaritan Village Board, and Tom Keller, member of the Long Term Care Task Force were present for the meeting. Others in attendance were Diane Kribs, Linda Rogers and Gloria Bracelin.

Mr. Fitzgerald handed the commissioners a letter which outlined the Good Samaritan Society's plans for the St. Francis nursing home. Since the fire on Oct. 19,

the Society remodeled the west wing of the home which had little damage and Mr. Fitzgerald said 22 residents now call the Village home.

He said there was a delay because of issues with the roof on the middle section which had been badly damaged. Completion of the Society's phase two plans will start this summer and plans are to be completed in four months,

hopefully in the fall.

While it will take a little longer than expected, the results will find space for 35 residents instead of 32 as originally planned.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the Society plans to lose around \$250,000 to \$300,000 the first year of operation. But, with 35 residents, he believed that Administrator Paulsen

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Before the Village meeting

By Karen Krien

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Before the commissioners met with Randy Fitzgerald, Good Samaritan Society director of operations, they talked with county attorney, Kari Gilliland about how the question

on the ballot would read in a special election. Mrs. Gilliland had a prior appointment and was unable to attend the meeting with Mr. Fitzgerald but cautioned them to not sign the lease at the meeting.

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Almost 80 people attend meeting

There were 79 people attending the Kansas Rural Health Works education program held Thursday at Riverside Recreation. Following a meal, Dr. John Leatherman, director of the Kansas Rural Health Option Project, explained the program, noting the importance of the health care sector to the economy in the county.

Dr. Leatherman, before the meeting, expected only 30 to 40 people at the most so was surprised at the outstanding attendance.

We should never be surprised by the interest of Cheyenne County residents in the welfare of their county, said Tom Keller, one of the coordinators of the event. The attendance at the noon meeting is yet another example of their support of their county.

The meeting was the first of five meetings with the next meeting to be held at noon on Thursday, May 12, at the Legion hall in Bird City. The health service directory for Cheyenne County will be discussed. Additional meetings are planned for May 26, June 23, and July 13.

Study shows health care impact
"A good local health care system may itself be part of the prescription for maintaining a healthy rural economy."

That was the bottom line from a study of the economic contribution of Cheyenne County's health care system produced by researchers at K-State Research and Extension.

The study is part of a state-wide initiative called the Kansas Rural



DR. JOHN LEATHERMAN explains the purpose of the five meetings.

Health Works program sponsored by the Kansas Rural Health Options Project. As part of the program, a county-level analysis of the economic impacts and potential of the local health care sector on the economies of each of the state's 97 most rural counties has been generated.

According to the report, the health care sector accounted for

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DANCE RANCH STUDENTS will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the high school auditorium in St. Francis. Practicing are (l to r) Elizabeth Barbenberg, Jessica Confer and Lindsey Johnson.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Utility late fees go up

By Karen Krien

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At the Monday, April 25 St. Francis City Council meeting, Mary Lampe, city clerk, said there is an increased problem of people not paying their utility bills on time or late to the extent that their utilities are shut off.

In April, she said, there were 78 late notices. That number is compared to 30 to 40 late notices. There were seven residences that were actually shut off that day.

During the winter months, we make sure that we are not turning off the heat, she said. We refer them to places that help with utilities.

Mrs. Lampe noted that they make efforts to remind people. Jen Hoffman, who works in the city office, makes call to some residents who, she realizes, might have forgotten to pay their bill.

It should be noted that city utility bills are not mailed to residents. Some people have their bills automatically withdrawn but otherwise, people need to remember their bill is due by the 15th of each month. People can also call the office and ask what their bill is.

Mrs. Lampe suggested the council raise the costs of penalties. The penalty for not paying the utility bill by the 15th has been \$10 and the cost of reinstating the utilities

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Happy Mother's Day —



STUDENTS CHEERED when Cassidy Busse won the Mother's Day card contest. She was presented the candy by Jenni Cravens from The Flower Show. Pictured, back row (l to r) Audrey Meyer, Christina Stafford, Seth Hilt, Marlo Jensen, Isaiah Lee, Brady Dinkel, Kaitlin Patton, Alondra Gomez, Sandy Smull, teacher; front row: Seth Mills, Zach Koger, Karly Bandel, Aaron White, Perla Yanez.

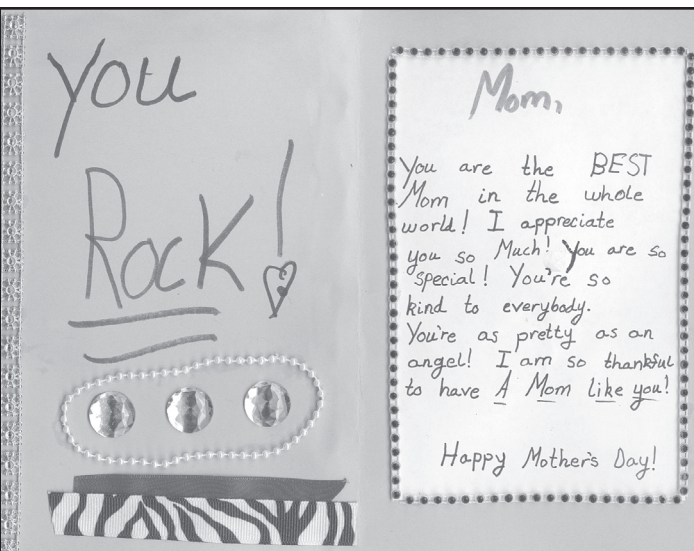
Student wins while honoring Mom

Sandy Smull's third grade reading students have been having fun creating special cards for their mothers for Mother's Day. To inspire the students, The Flower Shop sponsored a card contest with the winning designer receiving a box of chocolates and fresh flowers as a gift for their mother.

The cards were judged by some of Mary Beikman art class high school students. Each child brought their own decorating sup-

plies from home and wrote a personal message to their mother inside the card. The cards were not signed so the winner was anonymous until the announcement was made by Penny Krien and Jenni Cravens from The Flower Shop.

The winner was Cassidy Busse who was excited that she had won the gifts for her mother. The cards will be on display at Krien Pharmacy this week including Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.



Cassidy Busse's card she made for her mother, Jenny.

Mother's Day celebration set for Sunday

Sunday, everyone is urged to take their mother, mother-in-law and wife to the outdoor concert and barbecue at the band shell in Sawhill Park. The activities start at 5 p.m. with a meal, then a concert following.

The "Mother's Day Concert in the Park" event is hosted by St. Francis Community Church. The awesome outdoor concert, said Pastor David Butler, is centered around lifting up the name of Jesus.

"Eternity Focus" will be the featured guest for the concert. The musicians have traveled the coun-

try, won national awards for their music, but above all, they simply live what they sing. Mom's will truly be blessed! said Pastor Butler.

The meal includes a grilled dinner consisting of burgers, brats and all the trimmings for everyone attending. All the ministers of the area churches will be serving the food.

There will be a free-will offering taken to supplement the cost of the concert and food.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be in the high school auditorium.

Music students receive I rating

Two St. Francis Community High School students earned I ratings on instrumental solos at the 2A State Music Festival held in Salina on Saturday. Logan Whitmore, junior, earned a I rating on his trumpet solo, and Sarah Whitmore, sophomore, earned her I rating on a flute solo.

Also performing well at the State Festival were vocalists Jacquelyn Ketzner and Stephanie Perry. They received II ratings on their solos.

The 2A State Music Festival was held at Kansas Wesleyan University.

"I was proud of the performanc-



L. Whitmore



S. Whitmore

es these soloists presented," said Debbie Fiala, St. Francis Community High School music instructor. "They represented St. Francis very well."