



Commissioners in favor of sustaining long term care

Letter to the Editor:

There has been some confusion concerning the future of long-term care in Cheyenne County. At this point in time, the existing long-term care facility known as the Good Samaritan Village is privately owned and operated by the Good Samaritan Society.

Unfortunately, the continued ownership and operation of the facility has come into question. As such, the question of how to sustain this service within Cheyenne County has been posed to the commissioners.

Due to the fact that the Good Samaritan Village is still privately owned and operated, the commissioners do not have any control regarding ownership and operation of the facility. However, it appears that the option of some form of ownership may be presented to the commissioners at some point in the future.

Therefore, after a great deal of discussion, we, the commissioners

— Letters to the Editor —

determined that it was necessary to find out IF ownership and/or control of the facility would become an option for Cheyenne County, THEN would the Cheyenne County taxpayers be in favor of sustaining this service?

We feel that this question needs to be presented to the Cheyenne County taxpayers due to the long-term effect loss of the service would have on the county as a whole. Some of the long-term effects would include job loss, loss of not only long-term care residents, but also loss of population, negative economic impact on all business aspects throughout the county as well as loss of youth in the schools.

We commissioners are united in support for sustaining some form of long-term care in Cheyenne County. However, the question of whether or not the taxpayers of Cheyenne

County are willing to support a possible increase in tax should some form of ownership or operation of the long-term care facility be presented to us in the future, must first be answered.

The remaining questions such as who will operate the facility, when will funds be needed to sustain the facility and whether or not there will continue to be a long term care facility in Cheyenne County cannot be answered until the initial question is answered.

Again, we, the commissioners, are supportive of sustaining long-term care in Cheyenne County. Please cast your vote at the upcoming special election so that we will know if the taxpayers are in agreement with them.

Andy Beikman, commissioner
Ernie Ketzner, commissioner
Dale Patton, commissioner



Local shares Village experience

To the Editor:

Recently I had to spend almost eight weeks as a resident of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village due to a very badly broken ankle. It had to be put back together with plates and screws and I had to be totally non-weight bearing on my right leg.

Our home is not suitable for

a wheelchair and with my wife working nights and sleeping during the day, I asked her to find out about nursing home availability. Thankfully the St. Francis home was reopening and had room for me.

I can not praise the staff and facilities enough. I saw how well the staff cared for me and the

other residents and how much the residents cared for each other and the staff. Both groups did their best to make my stay as pleasant as possible.

I hope that the issue before the voters in August is decided with an overwhelming yes vote.

Dick Rohweder
St. Francis

Concerns shared about Village

Letter to the Editor:

Please carefully consider the implications of the Aug. 2 vote to subsidize the Good Samaritan Society of Sioux Falls, S.D. I am 100 percent supportive of maintaining a nursing facility in Cheyenne County. Yet, here are a few of my concerns: First, I think we have the cart before the horse. Is there anything in writing that assures us that Good Samaritan Society will sell the county the facility for \$1 if the levy passes? I understand there is not. Due to the lack of accountability and in my opinion, integrity, from Good Samaritan Society how do we have assurance of the reliability of their statements thus far? We don't. The news from corporate headquarters has continuously changed throughout this incident.

Second, is there a time limit and/or dollar limit on levying the 6 mills? Is it forever? Is it when \$1 million is raised? Is it when \$100 million is raised? I would fully support this levy if it were for the county to build a new building from the ground up. In the current scenario we are subsidizing a dilapidated building, which, at the time of the fire, was without air conditioning in the west wing; quite uncomfortable for our loved ones and staff.

Sharon Springs is currently build-

ing a beautiful new facility with 24 spacious resident rooms; each with its own shower, toilet, and lavatory, and six assisted living rooms. They will have a highly efficient building with lower utilities, warranties on new equipment, less maintenance costs for many years to come, and many more benefits. The bids were opened on July 17 and the lowest bid was \$3,489,000. Not too bad.

Third, how long are we committed to a management contract with Good Samaritan Society? Currently it's 5 years? Good Samaritan Society is a powerful, large corporation. We've already seen how they operate; that their "word" isn't trustworthy. There are a number of nursing facility management companies willing to come to Cheyenne County who, according to my research, charge significantly less than we fork over to Good Samaritan Society.

After the fire, folks were gathering funds to help the staff through Christmas. In lieu of a financial gift, Morris Plumbing donated one week of free labor and equipment. I was hoping to help get the facility back up and running more quickly. I was told that the insurance company required their own contractors. -30 years in the industry...I've never heard of such a thing!

Fourth, wouldn't it be nice at this

point to explain to the voters how the insurance money was applied? Yes, it is their company, it's their money. But the profits from the Good Samaritan Society Village all these years paid that premium. An early report was that Good Samaritan Society got \$1.2 million in insurance. Where is it? If Good Samaritan Society doesn't feel it's not our right to ask, then do we really want to go into business with them?

Fifth, let me see if I have this right...the taxpayers will subsidize Good Samaritan Society and the facility continues to pay a management fee from the profits? Nice move. If we build our own facility, then we, the taxpayers, get the profit and it gets reinvested in the county or the facility, not in South Dakota.

Sixth, if this passes then we need to push for creating a board of directors to directly oversee the financial reports of the facility. There needs to be full disclosure and transparency due to the involvement of taxpayer dollars.

Americans' current tax liability is 34 cents of each dollar. I hope to make it to the one public forum just days before the election, to answer my questions. However, to keep up with Uncle Sam, I have to work long hours and deal with a lot of doo.

Kelly Morris
St. Francis

Reader gets different versions

Letter to the-Editor:

From the feedback I've received from the last letter it seems there are three versions of what is going on with Good Sam. They will completely remodel and build assisted living and sell it to us for \$1. Please don't hold your breath! They will sell it to us for \$1 and we raise 15 million and build the assisted living units! Or as I hear from the County Commissioners, the 6 mills are to be used to subsidize the operation of the home and not take over running it! I think the wasting of tax money for a special election is very premature! This is one of Good Sam's better operations and it appears that with the Obama health care program coming down the pike they want the taxpayer to guarantee that they will remain profitable!

Maybe someone should check into the mess in Sharon Springs before we hold a vote anyway! What really bothers some of us is that the vast majority of these mills come from property tax, yet when we vote the people that pay property tax are probably out numbered and can be defeated by non-taxpayers! They will vote yes because it feels good and they don't care because it doesn't cost them anything! Everything else seems a little screwed up, so how about just the property taxpayers vote and not any of the non-taxpayers?

The county commissioners are always being exchanged in elections so there will be little continuity in the handling of these affairs and the value of the mill changes every year, so what you are hearing now prob-

ably won't be what you pay this fall! If profit from the hospital and Good Sam go to private enterprise then taxpayer money should not be used to subsidize either one of them, and Cheyenne County should not own either one of them as from what we see from the federal government, government can't and shouldn't try to run private enterprise! Read our Republic's constitution! We should not be raising taxes in this economy and Obama says Social Security checks may not go out and military may not get paid---Scare tactics? Not much different than "we will lose our hospital and Good Sam if we don't pay up---Scare tactics? How about they really tighten their belts like we taxpayers are having to?

Larry Wilson, St. Francis

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Citizens must move forward

To the editor,

I, along with many others, have been able to attend the meetings the Kansas Rural Health people have presented. These have shown the many aspects of the value of health care in Cheyenne County.

At the meeting last Wednesday there was some confusion because communication was breaking down. I could scarcely understand the wording of the proposition being put before the voters and the actual changes this proposition might bring. After attending the commissioners' meeting on Friday, I understand much more.

All of us regret there ever being a fire at our Good Samaritan Village and the changes that it has brought to us. I probably will never understand the thinking or some of the actions of Good Samaritan Society. The bottom line is that we, the citizens of Cheyenne County, must go forward with an affirmative vote which will give our commissioners the legal right to help provide resident care for our needy seniors and folks with great disabilities.

However, I fear we might easily fail to put a human face on this situation. The proposition

is more than abstract changes in management or future changes of brick and mortar. As I visit at least daily, as I hold Bible studies with residents, and as I just sit and visit with our residents, I see the human faces involved.

These are such wonderful people and the staff who wait on them show great love in their service. Never can we again go backward or fail to stand up to the challenge before us. We, the citizens of Cheyenne County, are just not that kind of people!

Norman Morrow
St. Francis

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GOD SAYS
Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse them not.
Romans 12:17

Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
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Weekday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion -
Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Glenn Isernhagen, Interim 332-2928
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
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Church Service 10:15 a.m.

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