

CARE

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has incurred an operating loss of \$235,000 since it reopened in March of 2011, even though the month of May showed a slight profit. Mr. Fitzgerald believes the facility will be operating in the black once the Stage 2 renovation is completed with 35-beds.

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the Good Samaritan Society does not wish to continue to own the Cheyenne County facility with a predominance of double-occupancy rooms, as residents now and in the future are requesting and expecting single occupancy rooms with up-to-date amenities.

Good Samaritan Society's business expertise is focused on resident care, personnel management and keeping up-to-date with all the government and health regulations.

However, Cheyenne County, with its vested interest in its future, can obtain the existing facility with out-of-pocket, no-capital expenditure and could renovate and add to it in the future depending on the needs of the aged.

If the vote on Aug. 2 is favorable, by a simple majority, our elected county commissioners will have the authority to negotiate a 5-year lease with the Good Samaritan Society. Negotiations can begin after the election and must be completed before December 2012, a period of approximately 16 months. When and if a lease is signed, the Society will give to the county the property for \$1. That property consists of the long-term care facility, equipment and furnishings, the apartments and surrounding acreage all valued at about \$2 million.

The ballot on Aug. 2 states: "Shall the County of Cheyenne County, Kansas, levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills for a home for the aged?" An affirmative vote allows the county commissioners to negotiate a favorable lease for the county. If a lease cannot be negotiated with the Society, then the commissioners have not bound the county to any financial obligation to the Good Samaritan Society. Other options would then be pursued.

Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he expected one of the negotiation points to be profit sharing between the Society and the county. He stated that is a negotiable point.

If the vote passes and if a lease contract is negotiated, then the county's responsibilities will be to maintain the buildings, and grounds and make any physical improvements deemed necessary by the county.

Mr. Fitzgerald reminded those present that the gifting of a \$2 million asset to the county was contingent on the signing of a lease document with the Good Samaritan Society.

The county commissioners and Mr. Fitzgerald were questioned whether any third parties had made inquiries regarding purchasing the facility or building a new facility. Both replied that they have received no such inquiries.

Also speaking to the group on Monday evening were Dr. Mary Beth Miller, Mike Bandel, Troy Hilt, Rod Klepper, Lynn Glasco, Ernie Ketzner, Dale Patton and Les Lacy. All their comments related to the fact that by obtaining ownership of the Village financial obligation will be incurred, but the investment in the future will insure our ability to keep our family members at home in Cheyenne County. Sustaining long-term care is vital to the viability of the hospital, medical clinic, downtown businesses, schools and essentially a way of life we enjoy in this corner of the Kansas frontier.

A few questions were asked and answered. The commissioners stated that money is tight but they do their best to allocate the money given them by the taxpayers, in the best interest of the entire county.

It was explained by all the presenters that a favorable vote on Aug. 2 puts Cheyenne County in control of their future in regards to continuum care for the elderly. A no vote leaves the county's future in the hands of the Good Samaritan Society with the present facilities, or whatever is to follow.

Fair board makes plans for grounds cleanup



By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Fair Board met at the fairgrounds Thursday evening. Dick Bursch, board president, reported that lots of work needed to be done before the Aug. 3-6 fair.

However, Marty Fear, county agent, said the 4-H'ers have set a list of jobs and workers for cleanup on Tuesday. That, Mr. Bursch said, will help immensely. Fair board members will be needed to supervise and help with the cleanup.

There are still areas where weeds are almost out of control. Every year, board members are asked to bring mowers and weed whips down to help with grounds. Many are reluctant as it is hard on the mowers.

Mr. Bursch said he had been at Goodland Greenline in Wheeler and there were several used heavy-duty mowers. One in particular was listed at \$1,500. Owner, Ron Lucas, agreed to give the board the mower for \$1,200.

The mower, after the fair, will be locked in Jenkins Hall and not loaned out.

Last year, the board bought "rain insurance" for the night of the demolition derby. The derby is the event that brings in the most money during the fair.

The insurance will cost \$748 but guarantees \$17,000 if there is rain between 4 and 7 p.m. on Saturday night. Some of the members questioned that they needed the insurance. One of the board members suggested, that if it were rained out, the derby could be held on Sunday. Board member agreed that, when the fair was over, they were done! In the end, they voted to purchase the insurance and not take the chance of losing the derby income because of rain.

During the fair, Mr. Bursch said, there are certain bills which needs to be paid. Clay Zimbleman, board member, as long as there was a \$500 cap, he was in favor of the treasurer paying bills that needed to be paid immediately.

Mark Mills, board member, thought that the board members

should meet early each morning of the fair to take care of the bills as well as any problems that needed to be taken care of.

The board agreed that the treasurer pay bills up to \$500.

Booths

Mr. Zimbleman reported that he had two inquiries concerning having booths at the fair. Several years ago, the board agreed that booths that would compete with the 4-H food booths would not be allowed. One of the inquiries would serve smoothies and the 4-H booths did not sell smoothies.

The other inquiry was someone wanting to sell food in the pit area during the derby. This brought a great deal of discussion as there is no food in this area and many of those in the pit don't want to walk as far as the 4-H booths. They also didn't want 4-H'ers selling food in the pit area. No decision was made.

Extension agent's report

Agent Fear asked about a key to the rest rooms when the rifle shooting sport is held each Sunday. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that one of the board members or extension staff will open the door to the building where the rest rooms are located.

The judges, he said, had been hired.

Linda Ketzner had been hired as the 4-H food stand coordinator. A committee of Tammy Grice, Christy Wurm and Shawna Blanka was formed to help Ms. Ketzner if there were questions or requests.

Marty said next year, those showing goats will be required to pre-registered. As it is, there is no way of knowing how many pens will be needed this year.

Letters to trophy sponsors were sent earlier and most had been returned along with the money to sponsor the trophies. The trophies have been ordered.

Mr. Bursch told Mr. Fear that the state has mandated that social security numbers be included with the 4-H entries for the premium sale. He also said that the board owns only the buildings, not any of the appliances in the kitchens. All repairs or replacements are the

responsibilities of the 4-H clubs or council.

Mr. Fear said that 4-H'ers have T-shirts that they are required to wear while showing their projects, whether it be livestock or during the premium sale. This rule is also written in the fair books.

No charge to 4-H'ers

At the last meeting, the board discussed the matter of the 4-H'ers charge of \$11 for the gas used during a 4-H activity. Not only did they think they should not be charged for the event but thought they were going to be charged to use the arena which was incorrect.

The commissioners had instructed the board to charge for utilities. Schools, hospital and any other tax supported entity was not to be charged rent but they asked that they pay for the gas used to heat the building.

After the ruckus, the commissioners told Mr. Bursch, that even though the \$11 had not been paid, that the 4-H'ers were not to be billed.

In other business

In other business:

- The board discussed help at the premium sale on Friday night. Agent Fear said the extension office has a computer program which will be used at the fair and could help the board at the sale. They will look further into the computer program.

- Help at the gates at the shows is still needed.

- Brian Hobrock, board member, reported that the stock contractor had been contacted and will haul the cattle for the roping on Wednesday night. We are expecting a big turnout, he said.

- Arm bands for the derby pit area will be ordered. They will be checked out and the money collected during the derby will be compared with the number of bands given out.

FOOD

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she said. "It is an opportunity to teach the kids safety as well as sanitation."

The day starts early for many of the 4-H'ers, their families and other people entering items. Opening at 7 a.m., there will be a speciality breakfast burrito made with fried potatoes, Italian sausage, sauté peppers and onions, scrambled eggs and cheese. This speciality breakfast can be enjoyed not only by fairgoers but by the public is looking for a different place to have breakfast.

When she was planning the menu, she asked her mother, Dottie Schnieder, who ran restaurants in the area most of her life, what would be a special item. Dottie immediately said, why not the Woodshed hamburger which includes sauté onions and pizza cheese. Also from her mother's menu will be her potato salad and macaroni salad.

Other items on the menu are a variety of hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, double whoppers, walking tacos, sausage on a stick, chicken noodle soup, chicken wings, cowboy beans, homemade pies, triple chocolate cookies, carrot cake, brewed iced tea and frozen lemonade.

Linda has donated the industrial stove and Riverside Recreation is loaning a steam table. Rod Klepper donated a sink but lacking time

to remodel, it will be put in next year. Linda and her granddaughter, Joslyn Ketzner, cleaned the entire area and have been stocking the kitchen with supplies.

Ms. Ketzner donated two awnings, one which will be over the walk-up window on the east side of the building. This will give quick service to those wanting beverages and appetizers.

The stand will be open 7 a.m. to closing time on Wednesday through Friday. On Saturday, the stand opens at 4:30 p.m. to closing.

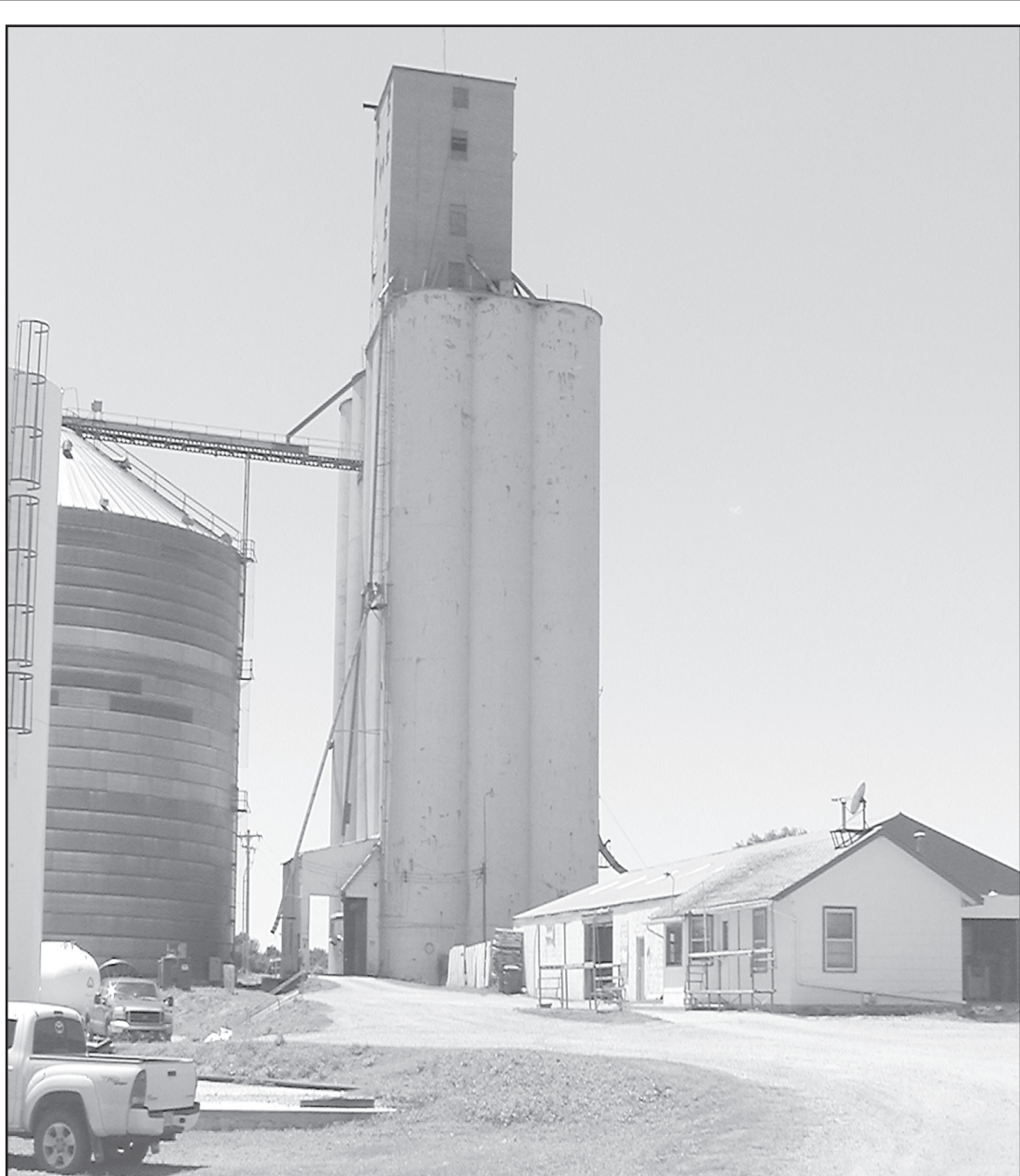
Lawn Ridge 4-H booth

Located to the west of the 4-H Council food booth is the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club booth. Lawn Ridge is known for its pork burgers and there is generally a line waiting for them.

Other items on the menu include hamburgers, hot dogs and brats, macaroni salad, baked beans and homemade pies.

Not only are 4-H'ers found working in the food booths, but entire families show up to work. In year's past, former 4-H'ers have also put in time, knowing how often extra help is needed.

The food booths are the main money maker for the year. Often the money is used for community services. The 4-H Council uses the money to help fund camps and trips as well as the Discovery Days event. This year, plans for recruiting 4-H'ers are in the air.



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