



RELAY FOR LIFE cancer survivors' made their way around Sawhill Park Friday evening. Carrying the banner are Krista Pummer, Bill Carmichael, and Althea Lebow. Herald staff photo by Lezlie McCormick

Special election set for Tuesday

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkanssas.com
A special election will be held on Tuesday. Voters will be marking their ballot either "yes" or "no" for having tax money used for subsidizing the expenses and upkeep of the Good Samaritan Village. The question asked is "Shall the county of Cheyenne County levy a tax not to exceed 6 mills for

a home for the aged?" The advanced voting booth is up in the clerk's office in the courthouse. As of Tuesday, there had been 51 people voting. In the resolution which ran the same time as the question in the May 19 *Saint Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times*, essentially, it gives the commissioners control to make the best decisions for the county.

They pointed out that, with the Village making a profit, which it was during May, there would probably never be the need to use the full 6 mills but it was put there as a safety measure. If the vote is "yes," then the Good Samaritan Society has indicated they will sell the nursing home and apartments including surrounding property to the county

for \$1. However, the Aug. 2 special election has nothing to do with ownership or additional building. In last week's *Herald* and *Times* article, Kari Gilliland, county attorney, said the proposal is a vote for having long-term care in the county. If the vote passes, the commissioners will then need to make the decision of owning the nursing

home but, because of inadequate information from the Society, they need to be able to address the needs of the Village one step at a time. There were two public meetings this week. One on Monday in Bird City, and the other on Tuesday in St. Francis. Both meetings were well attended and the Community Builders, who organized the meetings, hoped the people received

the needed information to make an informed decision on voting in the special election. A followup of the Bird City meeting is located elsewhere in this issue. The meeting in St. Francis on Tuesday evening was after the papers had been put to bed. We hope everyone comes out to vote, said Tom Keller, Foundation chairman.

Long-term care meeting well attended in Bird City

The Community Builders hosted the first of two forums in Bird City Monday evening, regarding long-term care, prior to the special election on Aug. 2. About 40 people were in attendance to hear presentations from eight people and ask questions and make statements. Randy Fitzgerald of the Good Samaritan Society, spoke first and gave facts and figures to answer many questions being asked by county residents. He stated that the total calculated insurance loss following the fire at the Village in October was \$678,000. After a deductible of \$100,000 and other depreciation adjustments, the in-

urance payout was \$485,000. Last fall, following the fire, the Good Samaritan Society paid \$250,000 to Village employees due to the loss of their jobs. Following the public forum last fall, he was impressed with the county's interest in getting the displaced residents back to St. Francis and the employees back to work as quickly as possible. He convinced the corporate office in Sioux Falls, S.D., to work with Cheyenne County to achieve that goal in spite of the fact that some executives of the Good Samaritan Society were ready to close the facility after the fire. The renovation of the exist-

ing west wing cost the Society \$82,000. Luckily the kitchen was undamaged and was fully operational. The estimated cost to restore the damaged east/west corridor is \$491,000. That construction is in progress and plans are to have it completed by the end of the year. Mr. Fitzgerald had previously stated and again stated the society would continue as they had for 50 years to own and operate the facility for a year following the completion of the renovations. Stage 2 renovations are planned to be completed by Dec. 31. As of June of this year the society See CARE on Page 9A



GETTING READY for the fair is Linda Ketzner, left, and her granddaughter, Joslyn Ketzner, have been getting the 4-H Council food booth ready for opening day on Wednesday.

New manager organizes 4-H Council food booth

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkanssas.com
The sights, the sounds and the smells of the fairgrounds during the Cheyenne County Fair are memorable. The clatter of the carnival rides, the sounds of contented cattle, the entertainment in front of the grandstands, whether it be music or derby bashes, all mixed with the smell of a cheeseburger coming from the 4-H food booths are remembered as soon as a foot is set on the grounds.

To some, coming to eat at the fair is a once-a-year tradition; to others, it is the convenience of having something to eat between the sheep show and the cow show. The 4-H food booths are a necessity to people who are participating because they cannot get home or to a restaurant to eat. Organizing and running the 4-H Council food booth this year is Linda Ketzner. Linda has years of experience in the food business

including being an executive chef. She has organized kitchens and cooking to serve up to 700 people three times a day. For years, her children were in 4-H and now, she is giving back to the 4-H'ers and communities by running the food stand. Not only will there be better organization but there will be a whole new menu. "It is exciting and I'm looking forward to working with the kids," See FOOD on Page 9A



HOBO SNACK SHACK, owned and operated by Jim and Pam Bolin, is frequently seen at different events including the 4-H horse show. Echoe Lennox had just bought a hamburger. See Page 8 for complete details and more photos. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien