



County board continues talk on Village

By Karen Krien

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Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, presented the commissioners with a private financial list on Thursday during the regular meeting. He also showed a survey of the Good Samaritan Village campus.

He said the budget was set on the occupancy of 28 patients. If the census is 30 patients, the nursing home would break even. Today (Thursday), he said, we have 33 residents. However, the first three weeks, the facility only had 23 patients.

If we can stay at 30 or more patients, we should be able to meet all obligations.

He noted that he had talked with the hospital about coordinating its physical therapy department personnel with the nursing home.

Karan Thadani, county attorney, said he had asked Randy Fitzgerald, Good Samaritan Society director of operations, for some specific information requested by the

commissioners. His response, Mr. Thadani said, was frustrating. He said we needed to get this contract done.

It has been the society that has drug it's feet, Mr. Thadani said. Why the push now?

Mr. Thadani told Mr. Paulsen that he had asked for a specific breakdown of Medicare and Medicaid monthly payments in the last two years. Mr. Paulsen said he could get Mr. Thadani that information.

Brett Poling, commissioner, asked Mr. Paulsen what the Society knows about Obama Care and what they plan to do. Are they going to take away payments?" he asked.

Everyone wants to know that," Mr. Paulsen said. No one can really predict what the government is going to do.

Mr. Paulsen said his goal is to have the nursing home be free standing. He added that if there was an assisted care facility, 10 to 12 beds could probably be filled.



ST. FRANCIS FOURTH grade boys are waiting their turn to perform their ho-down dancing during the Kansas Day celebration in Bird City. Pictured, left to right, are Garin Cooper, Keigan Taylor, Jesse Baxter, Shadryan Blanka and Kobe Tice.

Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez

Food pantry needs new coordinator

Cheyenne County Food Pantry needs a coordinator. Candi Douthit has been the coordinator for the last 10 years and said with the birth of her daughter Olivia and the workload at the hospital, she doesn't feel that she was keeping up with the manner that it should be.

The coordinator is a volunteer position and takes approximately 5 to 10 hours per month. They coordinate ordering and distribution of monthly food supplies from the Kansas Food Bank and local resources to ensure food security for needing

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Monday is deadline for casting votes

By Karen Krien

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The Valentine Contest to pick two special couples will end on Monday morning, Feb. 11, when the ballots will be counted and the winners announced in next week's Herald.

People are urged to clip their ballots or pick up a ballot at any of the participating businesses

and fill them out.

Two deserving couples will be honored with bouquets furnished by The Classic Rose and The Flower Shop. The winning couples will be awarded a bouquet from the floral shops, photographed and featured in *The Herald*.

Last year's winners were Ruben and Berniece Bandel and Van

and Nola Burrus.

Rules are: 1) The couple must be married 50 or more years; 2) must live in Cheyenne County; and 3) previous winners are not eligible.

This is an easy contest. There are no essays to write, no mosh notes to print and it doesn't cost a thing. The participating merchants are taking care of that.

When taking the ballot into one of the stores, be sure and thank them.

Participating merchants are: Donna's Gift Palace, The Flower Shop, The Classic Rose, Sainty Liquor Store, Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, United Methodist Thrift Store and *The Saint Francis Herald*.

Congressman holds town meeting

By Karen Krien

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Congressman Tim Huelskamp was in St. Francis on Friday where he addressed over 30 people. He talked about what is going on in Washington, D.C., including the debt that is adding up to trillions of dollars a day.

It is a crushing burden of debt, he said, and, if it is bad today, it is going to be worse. Expect 10,000 retirees a day and that is how it will be for the next 10 years. Over 50 percent of our debt is owned by foreigners.

It is our debt but it is our children and grandchildren who will have to pay it back.

When, he asked, was the last time Washington actually had a real budget cut? When Eisenhower was in the White House, he said.

The senate, he said, hasn't passed the budget in two years but they spend money anyway. The budget hasn't balanced for 26 years.

In 2011, Mr. Huelskamp said, there were over 2,000 new regulations. Some were not necessary and others were like kids not wanting to work on the farm and that regulation was stopped. Another regulation is that community bankers are to be fingerprinted if they are going to loan money and the environmental protection agency wants to ban farm dust.

Among the questions asked included Ed Carson who asked Mr. Huelskamp about the terrorists groups practicing in the United States including those in New York and Colorado Springs?

You would know as much as I do about the terrorists groups, Mr. Huelskamp answered. We are not given information. The federal government sends our fighter planes to other countries who are terrorists countries - they just don't tell us anything!

Rodney Radcliff was concerned that Kansas is not participating in the affordable care act and where are the senior citizens participating supposed to sign up. He also wanted to know if there is a phar-



ED MARIN, St. Francis, talks to Congressman Tim Huelskamp, right, following the town hall meeting on Thursday.

Herald staff photo by Tim Burr

macy provision?

Mr. Huelskamp said he voted 35 times to repeal the president's health plan. Medicare, he said, will be cut. Another item on the Obama plan deals with medicare. Under the plan, there will be 15 people appointed to the independent panel and they will decide what cuts they are going to make - we need to pass a law to stop this board.

Mr. Huelskamp said that the farm bill was not debated because the speaker of the house stopped it. The bill was almost passed behind closed doors. I don't think the floor is open as much as it should be, he said, noting that Nancy Pelosi wouldn't let any debates be held.

What about the bills that would allow black-footed ferrets, prairie dogs and lesser prairie chickens, asked Dave Flemming.

Mr. Huelskamp said that prairie dogs have cost Logan County almost \$1 million. Those supporting endangered species will be coming after us to have lesser prairie chickens, ferrets and prairie dogs. Congress is trying to close down the matter.

Rowland Roelfs asked what congress is going to do about the gun laws?

I hope nothing, Mr. Huelskamp said. Kansas is the third state in the nation to be enforcing gun laws. There are some unconstitutional proposals being made such as having doctors ask patients

how many guns and ammunition they have and where are they kept. Then, they are to report the information to the feds.

He advised parents and grandparents against X-boxes and their violent games. They are teaching our children to be violent.

Louanne Isernhagen asked how to get off the list! She and Glenn are called quarterly from people wanting information for the census department. She told that they had tried to get off the calling list and then they received nasty letters. It is a terrible invasion of privacy, she said. Dale Patton said he also received the quarterly calls.

Mr. Huelskamp told them to give their names and phone num-

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LUCKY IS LUCKY - Jenny Stimbart takes her dog, Lucky, for a ride. Lucky, at 14 years, has lost one leg and is having trouble getting around. Jenny takes her dog practically everywhere. He loves riding and going to the park, she said.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien