



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SIGNED the 5-year lease agreement with the Good Samaritan Society on Tuesday at their regular meeting. Pictured are (l to r) Brett Poling, Ernie Ketzner and Dale Patton. The transfer of the nursing home and apartments will take place on July 1.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Commissioners sign 5-year lease

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwksas.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners signed a 5-year lease agreement with the Good Samaritan Society at the Monday commissioners' meeting. With the signing of the lease comes the ownership of the nursing home and apartments for the cost of \$1.

All three commissioners, Dale Patton, Ernie Ketzner and Brett Poling, were present at the meeting. After a brief discussion and Mr. Patton, chairman, advising each commissioner to vote as they

thought best, Dr. Poling made the motion to sign the lease and Mr. Ketzner seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

I am in favor of the agreement going through, mainly, Mr. Ketzner said, because I want Good Sam to stay open. This could have been a negative thing for the community and, down the road, we will have some options. But, he said, at this point of time, we need to keep the facility open.

Had the facility closed, Dr. Poling said, it could have been a big impact on the community and county.

He also thanked Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, for the time he had taken in seeing that information was available. The other commissioners also thanked him.

Mr. Paulsen had several questions concerning the title insurance and warranty deed. The commissioners assured him that this was taken care of by Sondra Bracelin.

He also presented an accounting report for the last three months. It showed that the nursing home and apartments combined, had a profit of \$1,732. Mr. Paulsen

also confirmed that this profit was after the \$10,000 per month taken out for funded depreciation.

The acceptance of the facilities came with many months of studying what would be involved when and if the county would become the owners. It was a matter of "due diligence," Mr. Patton repeated numerous times.

Due diligence was not only referred to in making the right decisions but also in how the tax money was spent. The voters had agreed to have 6 mills or approximately \$200,000 levied yearly to be spent

to keep the doors of the nursing home open.

There had been questions as to who would have control of the money and how it was spent. In the end, the commissioners and the Society agreed that the county would have control of the money, allotting money to the Society as the monthly budget was presented. There will also need to be money available for necessary repairs and equipment.

Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for the Society, will be at the May 15 meeting for the official exchange.



Archibald



Whitmore



Merklin



Sundstrom

Sainty students place well at state music contest

Four soloists from the St. Francis Community High School music department performed at the 1A State Music Festival in Wichita on Saturday.

"All of the students turned in solid performances and did an excellent job of representing our

school," said Debbie Fiala, music instructor.

Earning medals for I ratings were Sarah Whitmore, senior, flute solo; Taylor Archibald, senior, vocal solo; and Bailey Merklin, junior, vocal solo. Sydney Sundstrom, freshman, re-

ceived a II rating on her trumpet solo.

City council continues to work on city-wide cleanup

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwksas.com

City cleanup was again on the agenda when the St. Francis City Council met Monday evening. At the last meeting on April 15, the city superintendent had asked that the council select five properties which they felt were at the top of the list for needing cleaned up.

Letters had been sent and Jerry Toler, whose property was fifth on the list, was present at the meeting. He told the council that he agreed that his property needed to be cleaned up but medical problems limited his ability to clean up and it was also a financial burden.

He had found one person who agreed to help him one day a week

and he had found a place outside the city limits to park his vehicles. His problem, he said, was cleaning up and moving vehicles within the 15 days stated in the letter. I am requesting more time - 35 to 40 days, he said. I will get it done for sure.

Mike Day, city attorney, said the letter read that he could request a hearing to visit the council, which he had done. J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, said that as long as there is obvious progress, the council will work with him. However, if he ran into trouble, Mr. Toler needs to let the council know.

Mr. Day reported on the Richers property. Kenny Richers had sold the property to Wayne Ritter who

had sold it to Timothy Stull. Mr. Stull lives in Colorado but has been working on the property, having emptied the contents of the house and removed shrubs.

Others in the top five included the Neitzel property on South River Street; the old Woodshed on Main Street and the Houtman properties on Main and Quincy streets.

Bud Houtman, when Scott Schultz, mayor, and the city superintendent had talked to him, said he had just gotten out of the hospital but would try to get the vehicles moved outside the city limits. There were no other responses from the owners of the other two properties.

Woman prisoner appears in Cheyenne County court

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwksas.com

A probable cause hearing for Leanna Windell was held on Wednesday, April 24, at 4:40 p.m. in Cheyenne County District Court. The hearing was held to determine the ability to hold Windell without filing formal charges.

Windell was arrested in connection with the death of 45-year-old Brad Figgins.

Nicole Romine, assistant attorney general working for the State Attorney General's Office, asked that she have seven days to gather the evidence.

Windell's court appointed lawyer, Charles Peckham, said it had already been three weeks since Figgins' death. That, he said, should be sufficient time to gather evidence.

The judge allowed the seven days requested by Romine. He set the first appearance date but later, the court date was changed

to Monday, May 6, at 10 a.m. in Cheyenne County District Court.

Bond for Windell was set at \$1 million. Her lawyer will be given the opportunity to present evidence to lower the bond at a separate hearing.

Judge Scott Showalter said after the first appearance, a preliminary hearing will be held. He said that normally it would be in 10 days but he thought, realistically, it may not be held for 90 to 100 days.



LONESTAR STORAGE recreational vehicle storage is already up and more storage is yet to come. Check the progress on College Street.

Storage business expands

Lonestar Storage is expanding.

Owner, Pastor David Butler, recently purchased the lot at 340 N. College, just north of Dr. Melvin Dunn's office. He is installing four recreational vehicle (RV) units as well as 23 storage units that are bigger than the units at his lot on West North Street.

When Pastor Butler built the first storage units 18 months ago, he thought that would be plenty. How-

ever, he said, those units are full and people have been calling wanting to rent another unit.

He also saw there was a need for recreational vehicle storage. These units on College Street, he said, will allow easy access.

Those wanting more information on the units can call him at 785-332-4345.