

By Karen Krien
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The county commissioners, at the Friday meeting, received the monthly budget report from the Good Samaritan Village given by the administrator.

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, reported that they now had 30 residents. Two more people are training to be certified nurses aides and we will be able to admit more residents, he said.

He said the figures were still showing the nursing home in the red but that was because the Good Samaritan Society had taken out the \$10,000 funded depreciation for June when they still owned the facility. This is the last time the Society will take funded depreciation, Mr. Paulsen said.

They talked about what was the property of the Society and what was the property of the county. Dale Patton, commissioner, said he had talked to Kelly Frewen, one of the companies handling the county's insurance. We need clarification on what needs to be covered by the county, he said.

Mr. Paulsen said that the electronics such as the

computers, printers, copiers... those types of electronics... are leased by the Society so they are responsible for insuring those. Everything else in the facility is the county's. There is a complete list at the office, he said.

Brett Poling, commissioner, asked about the billing saying that the commissioners didn't want to outsource the billing to the Society. Now that we own both the nursing home and the hospital, we would like to see one locally-based company do the billing for both.

The hospital's billing costs are outrageous, said Ernie Ketzner, commissioner.

Mr. Paulsen said the billing is part of the management agreement.

There are several repair and/or replacement items needed at the Village. At the top of the list was an ice maker which will cost about \$1,800. The staff is buying ice but it is costing about \$60 per week. The commissioners agreed that this was equipment that was needed now.

The second item on the list is the asphalt paving especially on the west side where there is

not only parking but also a road which leads to the airport. Mr. Paulsen said there are cracks and he wanted to know how the commissioners planned to handle this job.

The commissioners said this project had not been budgeted for. This fall, there will be a contractor doing similar work at the airport. Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, said he planned to have the company fill cracks on some of the county's asphalt roads. The commissioners will look into having the company fill the asphalt cracks at the Village.

The west entrance to the nursing home needs work, Mr. Paulsen said. The staff has raised money to have a design drawn up. Karan Thadani, county attorney, said if the staff was paying for the drawing, it was OK to have it done without advertising for bids. However, the work done on the project, which will be paid for by the county, will need to be advertised.

The Village lift van needs tires. Mr. Paulsen was asked to get bids from county businesses selling tires and submit them to

the commissioners. Mr. Paulsen said the commissioners probably needed to be thinking about purchasing a van in the next couple of years.

Mr. Paulsen said they would be switching to a different physical therapy company.

The commissioners agreed to purchase kick plate covers and wall guards for the nursing home. We own the building, Mr. Patton said, we want to prevent tearing it up.

Mr. Flemming said snow removing sweeps to fit on the Village's skidsteer would cost \$4,500. He would have to see if the sweeps would fit on that skidsteer. If not, the commissioners talked about using the county's new skidsteer purchased for the road and bridge department and the landfill to remove snow at the Village.

There are a number of dead trees at the Village. Mr. Paulsen said he had been told that the county has large equipment that could handle cutting down the trees and hauling them off. No decision was made.

Lady celebrates her 88th birthday

Vergie Walz celebrated her 88th birthday on Wednesday, Sept. 4. Her family is asking that cards be sent to her at 508 S. Denison St., St. Francis, KS 67756.



Walz



Reunion held at Beecher Island

The 114th annual Beecher Island Reunion will be held Sept. 14 and 15 at the battleground. To reach the location, go west from St. Francis on U.S. 36, crossing the Colorado-Kansas line to County Road 12, then continue north for about 8 miles.

The event is held to remember the battle between the Forsythe scouts and the native American Dog Soldiers which took place on Sept. 16 and 17, 1868. It is called

a reunion because it began when the scouts who fought reunited on the night of the battle to reminisce about their experiences.

There are two full days of activities planned. (See ad elsewhere in this issue). There is also plenty of room for camping overnight or setting up just for the day. Check next week for more information about happenings during the reunion.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

A United States Supreme Court Ruling, referred to as the Alleyne Decision, is threatening to invalidate the Kansas "Hard 50" punishment law. When Kansas enacted a "Hard 40" sentencing law in 1990, the precursor to today's Hard 50 law, it used such a system where the jury that found a defendant guilty of first-degree murder would determine whether to impose a "Hard 40" sentence. The state later turned the decision of whether to impose "Hard 50" sentences over to judges rather than the Jury. The Alleyne Decision says

that increasing the sentence for a crime to the "Hard 50" must be made by a jury, not a judge.

There are approximately 30 cases state wide that could be impacted by the Alleyne Decision. That is to say, criminals could be eligible for parole in 25 years, rather than 50 years.

The criminals serving the Hard 50 sentences are among the worst murderers in the state. They pose a serious threat to everyone, if released. The Governor called for the emergency Special Session to insure the Hard 50 sentencing

law can continue. We want to insure the Hard 50 sentencing rule can be used by Kansas prosecutors to protect Kansans.

This will be the 22nd Special Session since Kansas became a state. The cost is estimated at \$30,000 a day - 165 legislators and very limited staff. The last Special Session was in 2005.

I have seen and support the legislation that will enable Kansas to continue the Hard 50 regulation. The Special Session should end in no more than two days, not the three allotted. Both the Speaker of the House and the

Club Clip

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club

July

The Lawn Ridge 4-H club met on Saturday, July 20 at the park in Bird City for hamburgers and hotdogs, swimming and the July monthly meeting. President Taylor Archibald called the meeting to order. The flag salute was led by Katie Wurm. Roll call was answered by nine members, Bailey Merklin read the minutes from the previous meeting. There was no treasurer's report. Club leader,

Lynn Laten reminded everyone to bring two pies this year to the fair. Under old business, the food booth was discussed and schedules were filled out for the club's stand and also the 4-H Council food stand. We talked about the final ideas for the fair booth and when we would set it up. All help would be greatly accepted.

The club then ate hamburgers and hot dogs, grilled potatoes, baked beans and desserts while

we had the video tour. Each family sent pictures of their fair projects and talked about them.

The 4-H pledge was led by Echo Lennox. The next meeting will be after the fair on Sunday, August 4. The meeting was adjourned.

All enjoyed swimming at the Bird City pool

Valerie Wurm, reporter

August

The meeting of the Lawn Ridge 4-H club was held on Sunday, Aug. 4 at the food stand. President Taylor Archibald called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Club leader Lynn Laten asked about when we thought we could go on our after fair fun trip. After

a long discussion, we decided we would check into going to Estes Park and would try to do it here real soon. Lynn will do some calling and get back with us all. She also was very proud of how the Lawn Ridge 4-Hers did during the fair. The food stand did great business this year with not much food left over. There was no new business, old business or program held. The 4-H Pledge was led by Jylian Laten. The meeting was adjourned.

The club enjoyed pork burgers, hamburgers, left over pie and macaroni salad. They then ventured out to clean the fairgrounds and put away tables and chairs.

Valerie Wurm, reporter

Weather

| Date | H | L | Prec. |
|--------|-----|----|-------|
| Aug 20 | 97 | 64 | |
| Aug 21 | 100 | 65 | |
| Aug 22 | 96 | 66 | |
| Aug 23 | 100 | 66 | |
| Aug 24 | 100 | 65 | |
| Aug 25 | 100 | 66 | |
| Aug 26 | 101 | 66 | |
| Aug 27 | 101 | 61 | |
| Aug 28 | 99 | 59 | |
| Aug 29 | 103 | 59 | |
| Aug 30 | 104 | 65 | |
| Aug 31 | 100 | 63 | .57 |
| Sept 1 | 84 | 58 | |
| Sept 2 | 91 | 65 | |

In Loving Memory of
Norman Haack
December 8, 1920 - September 4, 2003

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Back To School Meat Bundle Sale

The Uptown Market and Deli
(Downtown St. Francis)

Create your Bundle from the following items.

Choose only one or any combination.

Ground Beef 85/15 - \$3.69/lb. - 1, 1.5 or 2-lb. pack
Minimum Purchase - 20 lbs

Ground Chuck (Approx. 93/7) \$4.19/lb. - 1-lb. pack
Minimum Purchase - 10 lbs.

Beef Cube Steaks-USDA Choice - \$4.19/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 5 lbs. 2/pack

Boneless Rump or Eye of Round Roast - \$4.29/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 10 lbs.

Boneless Ribeye Steaks-USDA Choice - \$9.49/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 8 lbs. 2/pack

Boneless Beef Stew or Fajita Meat - \$4.19/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 8 lbs. - 1 lb. pack

Fresh-made Hamburger Patties

1/4 or 1/3 lb. -\$4.29/lbs.

(We use 85/15 ground beef for less shrinkage)

10 patties per pack, minimum purchase - 2 packs

Our Own Homemade Pork Sausage - \$2.99/lb.

(Mild breakfast style)

Minimum Purchase - 8 lbs.

Pork Cutlets - \$3.99/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 5 lbs. 2/pack

Boneless Pork Loin Roast - \$2.99/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 8 lbs.

Boneless Center Cut, Butterfly or Thin Cut Breakfast

Pork Chops - \$3.49/lb.

Minimum Purchase - 8 lbs.

Tyson Frozen Whole Chicken Fryer - \$1.39/lb.

Tyson Frozen Whole Cut Up Chicken Fryer - \$1.49/lb.

Tyson Frozen Chicken Drums or Thighs - \$1.29/lb.

Prices effective now through 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7th. Compare our quality and prices and then call 785-332-2774 or stop by Uptown to order. Cut and wrapped to your specifications.

Please allow 2-3 weeks for completed orders.