

Group meets to discuss nursing home

By Karen Krien
karen.k@nwkansas.com

The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with members of city councils and other entities at the Monday meeting. The reason for this meeting was to discuss what could be done to hasten the opening of the Good Samaritan Village which was closed after a fire on Oct. 19. Consequently, residents were moved to surrounding towns and many of the staff were left without jobs.

Meeting with the commissioners were St. Francis and Bird City council members, Village advisory board members, Les Lacy, hospital administrator; Tom Keller, St. Francis Foundation member, and Sherry Carmichael, representing Bird City Century II along with several others.

Mr. Keller was the primary spokesperson, noting that the group had decided to meet with the commissioners to brainstorm and form a task force to independently study the county's options. However, it was noted until more is known about what the Good Samaritan Society is going to do, it was impossible to make many plans. The fire investigation team will meet on Dec. 6 for interpretation of the prior investigations and, at that time, the Society may be able to better determine their course.

Mr. Keller said he had received an e-mail from Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, telling that the Society had instructed Service Master, a cleaning business, to begin cleaning the kitchen, dining and lounge areas located on the east side of the facility where there was mostly smoke and water damage.

Service Master, he said, is authorized to clean out the east-west hallway in the burned area. The company will then cleanup the west wing. The beds, cabinets and wardrobes will be removed for salvage resale by Travelers, the Society's insurance company. This action is to begin in 10 to 14 days.

The Society is coordinating with the state about regulations to reopen the west wing with food service from the kitchen and until this information is available, it is difficult to know how much time it will take. Some of the known requirements that must be in place are the sprinkler system, remote sensor monitoring and the call-light system.

A skeleton staff will remain based in the home health office from Nov. 28.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he would like to see the nursing home facility reopened as soon as possible with the consideration of improved service. In other words, get the facility up and running, then look at other options such as assisted living. He also thought that any potential ownership of the facility should be at the county level and there should be an action committee to work with the society and the governing board.

If the county had a committee in place which had studied the county's options, and the Society did turn over the facility to a county entity, time in reopening the facility could be shortened.

Throughout the discussion, there were negative as well as positive comments. Kevin Berens, member

of the Village advisory board, took the floor. He said he had talked to Mr. Fitzgerald before the meeting. We need to get rid of our assumptions, he said.

Mr. Fitzgerald had told him that he is willing to work with anyone of the entities (cities and county). We don't want to cut out the Society who has been working in the county for many years, Mr. Berens said. Some people have invested their lives with the Society.

Overall, it is important to keep the people in the community. Be active, be smart and temper with some patience.

We don't want to see Good Samaritan leave, said Dr. Mary Beth Miller. She added that she would like to see the committee to research the options. There is merit, she said, in owning the facility and having Good Samaritan manage it.

Scott Schultz, St. Francis mayor, suggested that there needed to be communication with Mr. Fitzgerald and the Society. He would like to see if their insurance would replace the burned area, then talk about bigger and better. In the southeast corner of the lot, he said, there is room for an assisted living facility. The bottom line for the present is to get the facility up and running, get the residents back and get the staff back to work.

Mr. Lacy suggested that the committee be a transparent group, bringing accurate information and options. For-profit groups, he said, are going to see the same demographics that Good Sam did. We need to work together with Good Sam for the best solutions to get the facility operating.

Roger Jensen, St. Francis City Councilman, cautioned that the group needed to be patient. This is an opportunity to do something really right but it can't be done overnight.

It was noted that Sharon Springs/Wallace County had just passed a bond to build a nursing home but it took two years. Did Cheyenne County have two years?

Mr. Berens said Mr. Fitzgerald was already exploring the options, looking into state regulations, serving meals... there are just a whole lot of regulations. Then there is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that will need to determine what can be used for the nursing home.

It will be three weeks until the investigation team meets and the Society has more facts, said Andy Beikman, commissioner. And, we have three weeks to gather information. We need to give Good Samaritan the first chance, then go from there.

Mr. Lacy said he would be going to Topeka and would make contacts in the Department of Health and Environment. He said he will gather as much information as possible.

Everyone was encouraged to talk to people who might have information on nursing homes, including talking or going to Sharon Springs to visit with those commissioners.

As the discussion ended, it was agreed that each of the entities should appoint a person to work on the committee and report the name to Terry Miller, county clerk, before the next commissioners' meeting on Nov. 29.



SAVING HIS SOUL — Arvide Abernathy (Jessie Smith) and Sarah Brown (Nakita Schneider), directors of Save the Soul Salvation Mission, work their blessings on Sky Masterson (Craig Busse) during the dinner theater.

Music students entertain crowd

By Norma Martinez
normamartinez@wildblue.net

The Cheylin High School music department dinner-theater, produced and directed by Rose Hengen, music instructor, on Saturday re opened the closed-down Denver Country Dinner Theater. The students' performance of "Guys and Dolls" was outstanding.

The gymnasium was packed with only 10 empty seats remaining. The students seated and served the dinner guests. Cast members first offered coffee, iced tea or water, then served the meal, consisting of mandarin orange salad, followed by the main course of roast beef and gravy, parmesan potatoes, green beans and rolls. At intermission, brownies with ice cream was served by the cast.

The curtain opened in Broadway with the hustle and bustle of business by gamblers: Noah Jones as Nicely Johnson, Dalton Magnani as Benny Southstreet, and Danny Frisbie as Rusty Charlie arguing over which horse will win the next race. Band members of Save-a-Soul Mission, a local Salvation Army-like organization, pass by. The leader, Nakita Schneider as Sarah Brown, conducts a sermon encouraging them to repent of their drinking, lying and gambling. Adrian Garcia as Harry the Horse from Brooklyn,

is looking for some gambling action, Heath Antholz as Nathan Detroit bemoans his lot to his sidekicks; Ty Carmichael, Eddie Frisbie, Conner Huzuka, Walker Janicke, Austin Manners, Adam Orten, Wil Orten, Kenan Reeh, Grant Shrader and Casey Vandike. Ethan Young as Lt. Brannigan strolls along and puts a stop to their activity.

Teryn Carmichael as Miss Adelaide enters on her way to lunch with some chorus girls from her nightclub act; Manda Barnett, Forrest Burr, Stephanie Busse, Whitney Churchwell, Shayla Hubbard, Susannah Jones, Samantha Lampe, Ellie Pochop, Iliana Raynoso and Cassie Rucker. Craig Busse as Sky Masterson enters on his way to Havana and, on a bet, Antholz picks Nakita Schneider to go on a dinner date with him to Havana.

At the mission, Nakita and Jessie Smith as Arvide Abernathy fear the mission will be closed because they have not saved one person in the time they have been in operation in New York. The next day, Steven Pham as General Cartwright unexpectedly surprises the band at the mission by dropping in.

Groups of gamblers gather at the newsstand run by Josh Keltz as Angie the Ox are waiting to hear the location of the game when Garcia brings in Caleb Keltz as Big Jule, a hulking thug armed with a snub-nosed revolver and a short temper.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.

The accompanist was Janice Churchwell, stage crew were Mary Anne Orten, and Jared Cahoj, set was designed by Mike Boyson, and costumes were by Barbara Antholz, Joan Smith and Roseanna Underwood.



MISS ADELAIDE the leading lady (Teryn Carmichael) shows Agnes Reeh the program. Photos by Norma Martinez.

Motion for weight room rescinded for financial and regulatory considerations

By Norma Martinez
normamartinez@wildblue.net

The Cheylin School Board meeting on Nov. 8, started off by going into an executive session. After a brief recess, a great deal of discussion was involved in determining the following agenda.

It was moved and seconded to rescind the motion at the Oct. 11, board meeting to give permission to the construction class to construct a weight room on the present slab east of the blue building. The motion was rescinded due to financial and regulatory considerations.

Bruce Bolin, superintendent, brought up further discussion from last month's meeting on doing something special to show staff appreciation. It was decid-

ed the school board would find a special item to give along with a card as a token of appreciation at various times throughout the remainder of the school year.

The bid to install new windows in the district office plus nine additional windows was approved. This will help with the heating bill.

The board approved the suggestion for Cheylin to present a challenge at the Senior Citizens Center to ask them to contribute to the Cheylin Schools Endowment Funds/Gifts, also to advertise toward broadening public awareness of this endowment.

In all the years of sports attendance, Cheylin has never charged spectators to get into the games. It was discussed to follow the example of other

schools and start charging a sum such as \$2 for admittance to the junior high basketball games. Board members agreed that instead, Cheylin would place jars at the concession stand asking for donations.

Mr. Bolen brought up the concern on having an eighth grade promotion. It was decided to recognize this class briefly before the senior high school graduation. Staff members would issue eighth graders who were going into high school a certificate of promotion. They would be seated directly behind the senior graduates in the auditorium.

Action items
Motion was made and carried to approve the training rules for junior and senior high boys' and

girls' basketball, for this school year.

Supplemental contracts
Greg Jones was approved as the head high school girl's basketball coach for the 2010-2011 school year.

Audrey Vap was approved as the assistant high school girl's basketball coach for the school year. Laurie Leonard was approved as the assistant junior high girl's basketball coach and help with boys as needed for the school year.

A great deal of discussion was focused on brainstorming several other areas but no decisions were made.

The next school board meeting will be Dec. 13.