

Meeting set with nursing home director

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners met with two Good Samaritan Village Advisory Board members and the Village administrator on Tuesday. The discussion found several questions unanswered and a meeting was set up with the Good Samaritan Society's operational director.

The nursing home has been under construction and renovation since the October 2010 fire. It is nearing completion and the Society has suggested selling the facility plus the apartments to the county for \$1. The renovations are almost complete and the Society has said they would run it for a year and then, if the commissioners agree, it would be taken over by the county.

Glenn Isernhagen and Ken Quigley, Village advisory board members, and Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, asked the commissioners if they had thought about lease contracts and a process to develop a plan for future needs. Mr. Isernhagen said he was concerned that the Dec. 31 deadline would be here and there would be no plan.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operations, had presented a preliminary contract but there were several questions. This matter, he said, will have a dynamic effect on the county and the people. There was also the question as to when in the year the Society would run the facility. Was it one year starting at the beginning of the year or one

year after the renovations are completed?

But, Mr. Isernhagen was pressing the fact that he felt there needed to be some start on the plans soon, if not now.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said it was the commissioners understanding after one of Mr. Fitzgerald's visits that, in order for the facility to be turned over to the county, there had to be the added assisted living and, if the county wasn't going to add it, then the Society wouldn't turn it over.

Mr. Paulsen said that was not his perception.

If the assisted living (Phase 3) were not in place, Mr. Beikman said, then, I didn't think we could get all that done.

There are too many questions, he said, and we need to get the details down so we are all on the same page.

I am not comfortable with the answers we are getting from Randy, Andy said. When he leaves, it seems like there are questions that are beat round the bush and not answered.

There will be an open house to show the improvements of the Village on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. Mr. Fitzgerald will be there so a meeting with the commissioners has been set up following the open house.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, asked if the boiler at the Village had been taken care of? Mr. Paulsen said the Society had taken care of it and it had cost \$24,000.



COUNTY SPELLING BEE HELD. Alex Hazuk (l) and Bob Havel (r) made it to the final rounds of the spelling bee.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Hospital has new director of nursing

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The Cheyenne County Hospital has a new director of nursing.

Judy Rockwood joined the hospital staff as the director of nursing on Jan. 18.

Ms. Rockwood comes to the hospital with a great deal of experience, having recently been in nursing administration at West Virginia University Hospital in Morgantown, W.Va. Before that, she was the director of nursing at Rice County Hospital in Lyons, and then went to Cheyenne, Wyo., where she was the director of the Children's Hospital.

Even though it is smaller, she said she is glad to be at the Cheyenne County Hospital.

"Being here is almost like coming home," she said, having come from the small Kansas town of Little River.

"People have no idea the blessing the hospital is to the people," she said.

She named the different services, such as the outpatient services, MRIs, mammography, chemo therapy, antibiotic and wound care, lab, X-ray and CT.

People, she said, don't have to travel three hours to get these services because they are right here.

The staff members, she said, are wonderful to work with and are well educated, from the floor, to trauma, to obstetrics. They go above what is asked of them.

Ms. Rockwood said she became a nurse because two of her favorite aunts were nurses. I admired and respected them, she said. Also, having grown up on a farm with baby calves, colts and lambs, she had wanted to take care of them so, nursing people just came naturally.

Following graduation from high school, she went to Kansas State where she earned her undergraduate requirements. She received her diploma in nursing from Wesley School of Nursing and then on to Fort Hays State University where she received her bachelor's degree in nursing. She is now working on her master's in nursing from Fort Hays State University.



Judy Rockwood

As a director of nursing, her list of duties is long. Some of her duties finds her working quality assurance making sure the hospital is meeting the quality standards, doing scheduling, administrative duties and organization. She also works with doctors, physician assistants and staff.

"I have an open door policy," she said. "I am here at 7 a.m. and leave around 5:30 or 6 p.m. and I welcome anyone, including staff and visitors to stop in."

I like working with people, she said. As I get to know them, I see where their strengths are and then, build on those strengths.

Ms. Rockwood has three children; Sadie, lives in West Virginia and works at Quantico where she runs the FBI arson and bomb lab; Clay, is an engineer and lives in Nashville, Tenn.; and Elsie lives in Logan where she and her husband farm and have a harvest crew. Elsie also has two of the reasons Judy moved to Kansas - grandsons, Case, 3.5-years-old, and Gunnar, 3-months-old. I didn't want to miss out on being a grandma, she said.

Ms. Rockwood has lived in St. Francis less than a month but said she has met some wonderful people and has good neighbors. She enjoys walking her dog as well as sewing, quilting, gardening and cooking.

"St. Francis has some of the nicest people!" she said.

Spelling bee held in St. Francis

By Karen Krien

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A St. Francis eighth grader won the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Austin Patton won the spelling bee for the third time, having won the first contest in 2009 when he was a fifth grader. He won the contest for the second time in 2010 but, in 2011, he and Jude Faulkender battled it out and Austin took second place.

This year, he and Sydney Sundstrom, St. Francis eighth grader, were the only students left standing. Sydney had the word, "interpret" which she misspelled. Austin then correctly spelled "defiantly" then, as the rules stated, he had to

correctly spell the next word which was "laboriously."

All 27 contestants were in the running when the first round ended but the second round found six contestants taking their seats in the audience. The contest ended with eight rounds.

Some of the words used in the contest included marshmallow, echoed, airborne, antelope, ingredient, perturbed and imitate.

Pronouncer was Bruce Swihart, St. Francis junior high teacher. Judges were Jan Busse, Robin Petersen and Scott Carmichael.

Students ranged from grades fourth to eighth.

Cheylin students competing were:

Fourth grade: Kaylynn Hendricks and Miguel Gonzalez.

Fifth grade: Jessie Frisbie, Bob Havel and Kevin Castillo.

Sixth grade: Jordan Janicke, Rachel Keltz and Alex Hazuka.

Seventh grade: Haleigh Rucker, Bergan Bock and C.J. Antholz.

Eighth grade: Devon Janicke, Kelsey Miller and Elizabeth Keltz.

Those students competing from St. Francis were:

Fourth grade: Dakota Morris, Aaron White and Hannah Zimbal.

Fifth grade: Draven Houtman, Shelby Wolff and Shalyn Zweygardt.

Sixth grade: Reagan Beims, Devin Patton and Zoe Sundstrom.

Seventh grade: Taryn Zweygardt

(Ryan Grover was absent).

Eighth grade: Jude Faulkender, Austin Patton and Sidney Sundstrom.

Austin will be traveling to Great Bend for the state spelling bee contest on March 17. In the event he would not be able to go, Sydney would take his place.

"All students, teachers and parents should be proud of their respective sons and daughters for being selected and participating in our local spelling bee," said Scott Carmichael, St. Francis schools principal. "We are all proud of Austin and Sydney' performances and wish Austin all the luck as he travels to Great Bend to compete at the state level."

Families honored at conservation meeting

By Karen Krien

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The 62nd annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Conservation District was held Monday, Jan. 30. There were four awards presented to those who have been outstanding in their farming practices.

Three awards, The Soil Conservation Award, Water Conservation Award and the Wildlife Award were considered Kansas Bankers Awards. Tim and Robyn Raile took home the Soil Conservation Award; Clint and Kayla Bursch, the Water Conservation Award; and Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen, the Wildlife Award. The Cheyenne County Conservation District presented the Grassland Award and the winner was the Stevens Ranch, Tom and Donna Stevens and Shawn and Shawna Blanka.

The awards were presented after those present enjoyed a dinner provided by the Cheyenne County banks and the winners of the poster contest were announced (see related article). Following the presentation of the bankers and conservation awards, Bernadette Luncsford, district conservationist, and Cale Rieger, conservation technician, recognized many volunteers who have helped with the different programs.

During the meeting, Roger Orth gave the report of last year's happening in the district. There were 5,631 containerized, pasture dug and bare-root trees distributed.

The profits from the sale of trees, weed barrier, drip irrigation and other such sales were used to fund education activities. They also planted four Hackberry trees that were donated and planted at the fairgrounds. The office staff took care of the watering of the trees throughout the year.

The education of landowners, cooperators, youth and the general public is a high priority of the district board. Some of the activities they promoted included the conservation programs in both St. Francis and Cheylin schools, they also gave students a blue spruce tree and helped co-sponsor the Kids Conservation Roundup in Colby. They co-hosted an all-day conservation tour for sixth grade students.

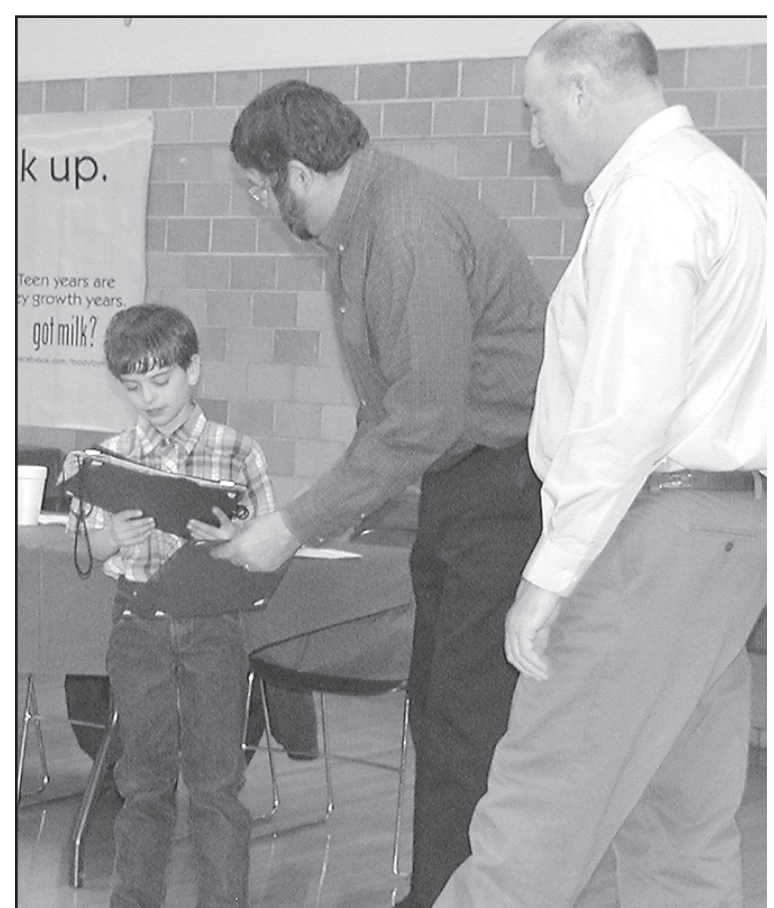
The terms of two board positions were up for election. Both Randy Rueb and Roger Orth were re-elected.

The board then handed out over \$400 in gift certificates and gift prizes that were table decorations.

Coloring contest winners

During the Cheyenne County District Conservation meeting on Monday, Jan. 30, students from St. Francis and Cheylin schools were named winners for their poster and coloring contests.

The first place winners were given a book bag. The other winners also received nice prizes. Kindergarten coloring contest winners were: Rhonald Neitzel, first; Holly Herrera, second; Con-



DYLAN KETZNER receives a book bag for his first place finish in the coloring contest.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

nor Hathaway, third; Nate Leibbrandt, honorable mention.

First grade coloring contest: Talexa Weeter, first; Preston Witzel, second; Molly Gilliland, third; Ellee Krien and Javier Yanez, honorable mention.

Second grade coloring contest: Dylan Ketzner, first; Kaden Lee, second; Audrey Moore, third; Kaily Robbins and McKenna Poling, honorable mention.

Third grade poster contest winners: Emma Johnson, first place; Jade Ketzner, second; Kar-

ely Chaparro, third; Kattie Wurm, honorable mention.

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade poster winners: Rachel Keltz, first place; Jessie Frisbie, second; Joslyn Ketzner, third; Kaylynn Hendricks, Alexandra Hazuka and Andy Miller, honorable mention.

Mini-power point contest winners were sixth graders: Emileigh Dinkel, first place; Erika Ramos, second place; Kenneth Adams, third; Hanna Bracelin, Matthisen Witzel and Madison Tice, honorable mention.