



OVER 300 CONCERNED RESIDENTS attended the public hearing which was held to discuss what was going to be done about the Good Samaritan Village after the fire.

FORUM

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people can get along on their own.

3) Assisted living is where the patient is somewhat independent but needs help with medicines, meals and other services.

4) The nursing home. When we redo the nursing home, she said, we want every level of care. It will be a draw for people who want to move here.

Troy Hilt, member of the Village advisory board, talked about the huge impact that the Village has on the county. The 50-bed facility, he said, had a 96.7 percent average of being full and had a \$1.5 million payroll per year.

Now, residents have been relocated miles away so many of the staff are without jobs, they cannot make their payments and may have to move to find employment. This will cause a population loss, revenue loss and businesses will suffer. Mr. Hilt noted there are 11 students in the schools whose parents were employed at the Village.

He pointed out the building had an outdated design with a poor layout, small rooms and inadequate bathrooms and bathing facilities.

Bird City farmer, Lynn Glasco, told about how his father had been relocated to Colby. The care at the Village, he said, was a blessing for his father as well as his mother who could travel 30 miles round trip to see him. Now, he said, she must travel 120 miles round trip. I don't feel comfortable sending my 90-year-old mother on this trip by herself.

Mr. Glasco said he hopes there will be a long-term facility again. He noted that, yes, some will return, some won't but there will be some new ones who need the facility.

Village advisory board member, Glenn Isernhagen, St. Francis, talked about his mother, Alice,



LYNN GLASCO talked about how the Village's fire affected his family.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

who had also been a resident. My mother, he said, started working at the Village 45 years ago where she was a head cook. She was a resident in the Village when the fire started and the Isernhagens were out of town. Mom, he said, was in good hands, she was fed, warmed with a blanket and taken good care of. The staff was kind and helpful. He told about the importance of a kind and helpful staff. One time, he walked through the Village hall and in a room, the staff was present repeating the Lord's prayer. He said it was like Mother Teresa said, they should die like angels - wanted and loved.

Mrs. Isernhagen was moved to Goodland to the Good Samaritan

Home but it has been upsetting to her.

Mike Bandel, St. Francis, reported the demographics and showed how the population is declining in the county. In 1930, the population was 6,948; in 1960, the population was 4,700; in 2007, the estimated population was 2,800. The long-range population for 2030 is 1,951.

Les Lacy, hospital administrator, said the hospital and clinic provides an array of service from babies, to the old and older adults. All parts of this care is important, he said.

We need to do whatever is necessary to get the nursing home facility up and going, he said.

VILLAGE

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facilities and around a 100 much like that in St. Francis.

He did mention Sharon Springs, which has a nursing home owned by the county but leased by the Society. The commissioners worked until they had enough support to build a new facility. They got the vote to float a bond for \$3.5 million in February and the new facility has still not been started. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that it could take 1.5 years to 2 years to get the facility up and running.

The west wing of the home was not burned but there is considerable smoke damage. The kitchen, dining room and lounge also had smoke damage. It appeared that these could possibly be cleaned up and opened to give some patient care but there was the matter of getting the food to the patients or the patients to the dining room as the burned wing was used to take patients to eat. This area has been partitioned off.

There was even the brief mention of opening the kitchen/dining area as a restaurant with the name "Granny's kitchen." This would give jobs to the nursing home cooks as well as providing income for the Society.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the staff would receive two additional weeks of pay and benefits ending on Nov. 13. Some of the staff had been working in area Society nurs-

ing homes and were still receiving benefits.

Many people were wanting the facility to be rebuilt to include assisted care and possibly an Alzheimer's wing. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that the Society would probably not go in that direction.

It is possible that the Society might deed the land and facilities to the county or cities. There is a much better chance of getting grants and loans in these areas where there are none or few for privately-owned businesses.

The issue is to provide quality care in a quality facility. People, he said, may need to come up with creative ideas and make a "jewel on the prairie."

Several of those present were recognized with questions and/or comments. Washington resident, Bill Smull, whose mother, Beryl, has been in the St. Francis facility for years, said he and his wife, who is a registered nurse, talked about moving Mrs. Smull to Washington but they recognized that she would not get the care out there that she has gotten in the St. Francis Village.

We have a facility here that no one else has, he said, and that is "we care!" We need to attract people from other areas to come to Cheyenne County for this kind of a facility and care.

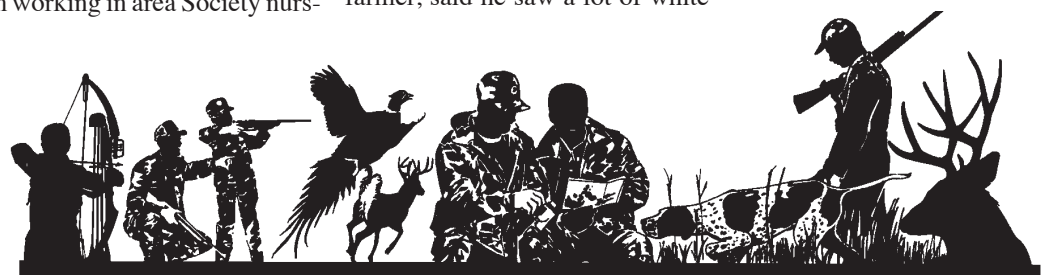
Tom Hnizdil, Cheyenne County farmer, said he saw a lot of white



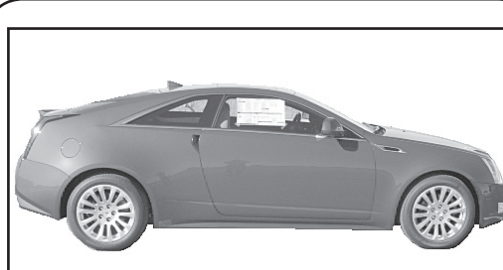
RANDY FITZGERALD talks about Village plans.

haired folks sitting in the audience. He said the people had voted down a new gym that would benefit a few but a new nursing home is different. Now we have a chance to build something that would be an investment.

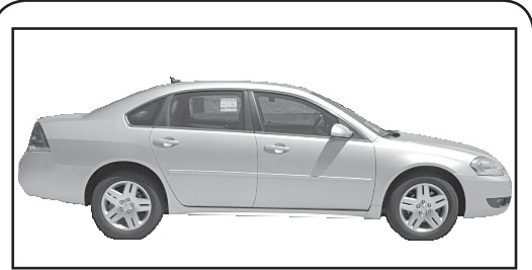
I would like to see us build the best facility money can buy, he said. I will vote to raise my taxes to do that.



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thought to ponder.. Can angels eat devils food cake?

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SEASON

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to keep track of the number of pheasant and quail they see during working hours, said Mr. Pitman. Each week, those numbers are turned in to him, and at the end of the survey, the numbers are compiled.

The figures are taken, he said, and standardized, then compared to what was seen the previous day. The survey also looks at the young per hen.

During the survey this year, observers counted 13.8 pheasant per day, he said. That's up from last year, when the average was 8.9 birds per day.

Pheasant numbers, he said, have actually been increasing every year since 2007 in northwest Kansas.

Quail numbers are also up compared to last year, he said, although the northwest part of the state is really on the edge of the quail region. The numbers won't ever be really high for those birds, he said.

Actually, he said, pheasant and quail numbers aren't the only ones that are up. The turkey population has shown an increase. The department had a Wildlife Commission meeting recently in

Goodland and some area people came in and asked about increasing the number of turkey permits allowed each year.

Mr. Pitman said he suspects that from numbers, the increases shown in the upland bird population mean more people from out of state coming into northwest Kansas to hunt, which means more money for businesses and farmers here.

Pheasant hunters mean millions of dollars for the Kansas economy each year, he said, and "We are expecting a great year."

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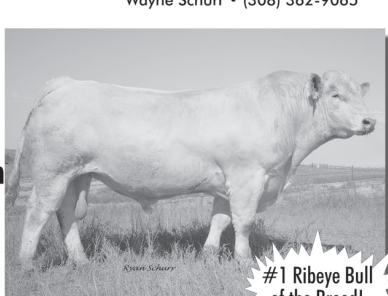
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