



ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS STOOD at attention as the flag was raised during a Veterans Day program on Thursday.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Village's future - a county concern

By Karen Krien

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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 au-

thorized 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.

It was noted that Randy Fitzgerald, representative of the Society, had said that the Society may want to relinquish ownership and lease the nursing home, but, Mr. Patton said, they have not relinquished their ownership.

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.

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CRUISER CLUB MEMBERS raised the new flag at the cemetery on Thursday, Veterans Day.

## Members raise flag on Vets Day

On Thursday, Veterans Day, the Cheyenne County Cruisers car club members flew the large 5- by 8-foot flag on the new pole at the St. Francis Cemetery. It will have a light so the flag can fly at night.

The members also had the six 3-by 5-foot flags flying on their designated poles. It was an impressive sight to all those present.

The members are now planning another step forward by adding more new all-weather flags. These flags, said Scott Schultz, president of the club, will not will bleed like the standard cotton flags.

Each time a person who was in the military is buried at the cemetery, the members plan to have the flags flying.

To put new flags on the other poles, the club will need 21 3- by

5-foot all-weather flags. They will cost \$30 to \$35 each. The goal is to have all the flags purchased and ready to hang by Memorial Day.

This fall, the Cruisers held a poker run which brought in around \$550 to purchase the new 25-foot pole and the large flag. At that time, they also put new rope on the old poles at the cemetery and had them ready for the next time the flags would be flown. There was a little money left over so they decided a decorative railing should be put around the area where the large flag pole is located.

However, there isn't enough money to buy all the new flags so the members are asking for donations. Anyone wanting to donate can contact Scott Schultz or Kent Kechter.



'QUIET!' SAYS the jester played by Brandon Keeker. The villain, Ross Nicklos sneaks up behind.

## Players ready for dinner-theater

Travel back to the 16th century England with the St. Francis High School music department as they present "Medieval Merriment" on Tuesday. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

King Henry VIII is inviting

the "good lords and ladies of St. Francis" to his castle for feasting and entertainment. Guests will be treated to a four-course banquet including wassail, salad, soup, bread and cheese, roasted fowl on wild rice, steamed vegetables and

blackbird pie.

The Advanced Music, vocal and band students will entertain guests with a variety of festive music. The Jester will delight all with his tales of his quest for a maiden and two knights. The colorful décor

and delicious food are certain to put guests in the holiday spirit.

Tickets for "Medieval Merriment" may be purchased at First National Bank or Bankwest to reserve your place at the royal table. Seating is limited.