

Commissioners meet with several task force members

By Karen Krien

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Members of the Long Term Care Task Force, organized to study ways of continuing to have a nursing home in Cheyenne County, met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners at their regular meeting on Friday. There were also interested people attending.

Dale Patton, commissioner as well as a member of the task force, spoke for the group. There was the matter of the Good Samaritan Society selling the facility to the county for \$1. What would be the conditions of the contract? What would it take to

make the facility profitable? Would the people of the county agree to subsidizing it? If so, what kind of an election – polls or mail ballot – special or general election?

The task force had agreed that, having investigated the fact, for long-term care to be profitable, there needs to be a full continuum of care. This includes 42 to 45 beds and the apartments as well as assisted living.

Following the fire on Oct. 19, the Good Samaritan Society, the company which owns the facility, renovated the west wing and the kitchen so it was able to open and

take in 22 residents during March. The society planned to have an additional nine beds ready by June but has been rescheduled to July.

At this time, the society has not submitted any written contract to the county commissioners, however there has been a verbal commitment from Randy Fitzgerald, the Society's director of operation for the Village.

First, there needs to be an election to see if the people of the county want a nursing home. Terry Miller, election officer, said the cost for a mail ballot would be \$2,680 while a special election would cost \$1,950. The commissioners agreed that the election would be a special election. It will need to be held 90 days after a resolution is passed. The resolution will state that the commissioners want the residents to vote on the issue. The election will probably be held in August.

The society has stated that they will run the Village until July 1, 2012. While that seems like a long way off, Mr. Patton said, it will be here quicker than we anticipated. There will be a series of public meetings so people will be informed before going to the polls.

If the people decide they don't want to keep the nursing home here, then we are done, Mr. Patton said. However, he said, I think that the community wants our folks to be able to end their days in the community.

He pointed out that, after the fire, it was evident how important the nursing home was to the community and the hospital.

Tom Keller, member of the Community Builders, reported that a grant has been secured by Les Lacy, hospital administrator, (see related article). There will be meetings with county residents to determine what they see as the health and medical needs in the county.

Kevin Berens, Village Advisory Board spokesman, said he had talked to Mr. Fitzgerald and he is working on a proposal-contract. He added that the county cannot subsidize something it doesn't own.

Mr. Keller said the task force members have been approached by individuals looking at outside ownership of the facility. Right now, he said, Good Sam (Village) is not listed for sale.

Elton Keller asked if the society was going to finish the center section which had been destroyed in the fire? Mr. Patton answered, yes, the society has said they would finish that area as "phase two." That area, however, will not be finished as rooms for residents, but only as a dining area on the west end and a corridor from the west wing to the kitchen and dining room.

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, will have the resolution and the wording for the ballots ready at the next commissioners' meeting on April 29.

Those present for the part of the meeting concerning the Village were Kevin Berens, Art Krueger, Elton Keller, Tom Keller, Rick and Linda Rogers, Scott Schultz, Elmer Kellner, Eddy Schultz, Kelly Frewen, Ericka Zimbelman and Sondra Bracelin.



SARA WILSON takes Gaylord Krien's blood pressure at the Cheyenne County Health Fair held Wednesday, April 13.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Obituaries

Jack L. Rieb

Aug. 16, 1923 - April 7, 2011

Jack Lowell Rieb died on Thursday, April 7, 2011, in the Cheyenne County Hospital after a brief illness.



Rieb

Jack was born on Aug. 16, 1923, in St. Francis, Kan.,

to Dorothy and Rudy Rieb. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church in St. Francis, and he completed his elementary and high school education in St. Francis. After graduating from high school, he attended Kansas State College (now Kansas State University) in Manhattan, majoring in mechanical engineering. While at Kansas State, Jack was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

His college career was interrupted by service in the United States Army during World War II. He entered active service in the spring of 1943, following his sophomore year at Kansas State. After basic training and combat engineering training, Jack shipped out for England in November 1944. He served in England and France until the war ended in Europe and then left for the Pacific. His troop ship was passing through the Panama Canal when the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima. After service in the occupation force in Japan, Jack returned to the United States and was honorably discharged on Feb. 23, 1946, in Fort Logan, Colo.

In the spring of 1947, back at Kansas State, Jack met the love of his life, Beatrice Tuggle of Clay Center, who was studying home economics. Jack graduated from Kansas State in the spring of 1948 and returned to St. Francis to team up with his father at Rieb Motor Company, the local dealership for Minneapolis Moline farm machinery and Chrysler and Plymouth automobiles. In August 1948, Bea graduated from Kansas State, and the couple proceeded with their wedding plans. They were married Oct. 1, 1948, in the First Methodist Church in Clay

Center. After honeymooning in New Orleans, they settled into their home in St. Francis.

Jack remained at Rieb Motor Company until 1966, the year he opened the Rieb Skogmo dry goods store. With Bea's assistance, he managed that business until 1990, when he sold the store and retired.

Jack served a term on the St. Francis City Council and was also a member of the Lions Club, the St. Francis Masonic Lodge, and the Cheyenne County Shrine Club.

After Jack's retirement, the couple filled their days traveling, attending local and regional cultural events, getting together with their long-time friends in the community, and visiting and being visited by their children and grandchildren. Bea and Jack also remained active members of United Methodist Church and played in the Truly Amazing Bells bell choir. Following Bea's death in 2005, his friends at the Senior Center, his golf buddies, and, in particular, his niece, Carol Wolters, nephew, Greg Wolters, and Greg's wife, Julie, helped lift Jack out of his grief and supported him through five more good years. His children said they are grateful to them, and to the entire town of St. Francis, for the love and kindness bestowed on their father.

Jack is survived by his son, Mark of Watertown, S.D., his wife, Susan, and their sons, Chris and Brian; by his daughter, Deborah of Leon, and her two children, Jacob and Lauren, and Jacob's fiancé, Hailey; by his son, Douglas of Fort Collins, Colo., his wife, Marianne, and their children, Jesse and Emma; by his brother, Sidney of Seattle, Wash., and his wife, Nena; and by nine nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held for Jack on Monday, April 11, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Contributions can be made in Jack's memory to the Cheyenne County Hospital or to the St. Francis United Methodist Church.

Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Marlin L. Turman

Oct. 19, 1943 - April 12, 2011

Marlin L. Turman, 67, Fairbury, Neb., died April 12, 2011, at Thayer County Hospital in Hebron. He was born Oct. 19, 1943, at St. Francis, Kan.

Survivors are daughters, Diane Terwilliger and fiancé, Sam Howard of Fairbury, Kristy LoCicero and husband, Jack of Methuen, Mass.; seven grandchildren, brother,

Fred Turman and wife, Deb. of Wilber, Neb.; sisters, Marlene Lewis, Maylinda Ray and Myra Struchtemeyer, all of Missouri.

He was preceded in death by parents, John and Louise (Miller) Roberson, son, Scott Turman, and sister, Marsha.

Private family services will be held at a later date.

City Council members discuss important issues

By Karen Krien

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A.J. Jones, manager of Callicrate Feedyard, said he was working with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment concerning the matter of dumping waste water from the custom slaughtering operation at the feed yard into the city's sewer system. He said they would only use the sewer system until the feed lot has its waste water system ready.

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, had also talked to officials at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He said he had been told that the amount of waste that Mike Callicrate, owner, is putting into the city's system is a minor issue.

Mr. Jones said that the Department of Health and Environment will sign off that will be no problem. Mr. Jones will have a letter sent to the council.

It was noted that the feed yard will pay the commercial rate to dump in the city system.

Main Street trees

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, reported on the Main Street trees. He said that they planned to take out 10 trees a year as many of them are dead or dying.

However, there are some problems. When trees were being removed, they found that the box around each of the trees which is to keep the roots from growing to the side are not very tall.

Consequently, he said the roots are growing under the sidewalks. The bigger trees are going to be difficult to remove and the roots, which are bigger, are going to decay under the sidewalks. When the roots decay, there will be bricks sinking in areas.

The superintendent is planning on replacing the trees with Burr Oak trees which are slow-growing. The council suggested that he talk to Jim Strine, forrester with the K-State Extension service.

There are areas on the north side of Main Street where the curb and gutter needs replacing. Krutsinger Construction and Redi Mix, Benkelman, will be in St. Francis in the near future. He charges \$40 per foot and there are 300 feet per block so a block of curb and gutter will be \$1,200. There will be more information at the next meeting.

Attorney's report

Mike Day, city attorney, talked about the easement on city wells #10 and #11. He said he had come across some information that showed the paperwork had been processed correctly in 1990.

He said depositions had been made with Craig Schoenrogge and his lawyer. What Mr. Schoenrogge wants is to get the city's right to pump water from wells #8 and #9 and terminate well #11, thus shutting off the city's water.

Property cleanup

Property cleanup was once again on the agenda. Mike Day, city attorney, reported that the owners of the Smith property on Emerson Street had been back but there had been little cleaned up. The city has not accepted the deed for the property. The council discussed the cost involved in cleaning up the property and noted that the property taxes had not been paid. The house also sits on a small lot which isn't very marketable.

Mr. Landenberger said that there are two properties along U.S. 36 that need to come down. There is also a

place on River Street that needs to be monitored.

Building permits

Building permits were approved for: Travis Milne, a fence, deck and concrete; Justin Lohr, a fence; Jose Castro, move a trailer house; Travis Jensen, a fence,

In other business

In other business:
• Some people not paying for trash pick up are filling business dumpsters in town. Several names had been discovered among the trash. See article in the April 14 issue of The Herald.

• A mobile home parking license was approved for Bill Peter for the home on Valley Street.

• A proclamation for Fair Housing Month was signed.

• Bruce Swihart, councilman, reported that the swimming pool staff is being hired and assignments made. He will have more details at the next meeting.

• The council discussed that curb and gutter on the east side of the Cheyenne County Hospital is almost gone. The superintendent said the hospital administrator is still wanting to put in angle parking on the side to allow for more parking. No decision was made.

• The superintendent reported that there has been some interest shown in the property south of the gun club. He noted there are some trees growing over on the land.

• Shane Guggenmos, police chief, reported that there are some misconceptions concerning right of ways on the city streets.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday at city hall on Main Street.

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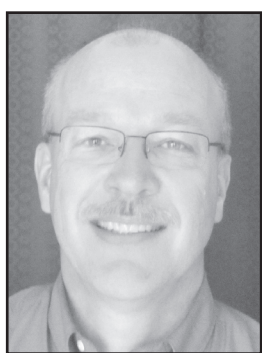
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Wray Community District Hospital Specialty Clinics is proud to work with Dr. Thomas C. Atwood, DPM, FACFAS from Greeley, Colorado. Dr. Atwood began coming to Wray in 1998. He is a 1990 graduate of the Dr. William M Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and served as the Chief Podiatric Surgical Resident from 1991 to 1992 in Chicago, Illinois. He owns and operates Western Foot and Ankle Care in Greeley. Dr. Atwood has served as President of the Colorado Podiatric Medical Association since 2001. He currently provides clinic visits and some surgical procedures at the Wray Community District Hospital and provides a vital service to the Wray community twice monthly. Contact Liz at the Specialty Clinic desk (970) 332-2225 to schedule an appointment.