

# VILLAGE

Continued from Page 1

and the staff could operate the Village, significantly reducing the operation loss. In fact, he thought the facility could operate at a break-even point.

The Society plans to operate the Village until September 2012. In this length of time, the Society is hoping that the county residents will vote to float a bond to pay for a new skilled and assisted living addition.

It's not just the numbers, he said. It is providing quality of life for everyone. It needs to be available to the citizens and older population.

But, what will the people want? Even with 35 residents, this is not a long-term solution, he said. More beds and an assisted living facility are needed.

If the county residents decide against a bond issue of the future expansion of services, he said, they the Society will need to seriously consider whether it is able to continue to support the Village. He was quick to point out that they would not just close the facility but they will need to consider other options.

The Society is planning to donate the Village to the county for \$1 which would include all the furnishing, equipment and land. It would also include the apartments but would not include the home care agency. The apartments alone are valued at around \$750,000.

However, the gift of the facility is contingent on the county en-

tering into some type of lease or management agreement with the Society. Included in this agreement, Mr. Fitzgerald said, will be operational and capital improvement support.

Mr. Fitzgerald had a draft of a lease which is similar to those used in other Good Samaritan Society facilities.

Some of the questions asked included:

- Mr. Keller asked about the terms of the lease. Mr. Fitzgerald said it won't be negotiated until after the election.

- Why was there a difference in the costs in Society's nursing homes, referring to the Oberlin nursing home where someone had said it was less expensive.

Mr. Fitzgerald said each facility sets its own budget and most of the facilities are subsidized by tax money.

- Mr. Paulsen asked the commissioners if the cost of the new runway would be a conflict with raising money for the Village? The commissioners said the airport money is an appropriation and had been budgeted for.

Since the fire, there have been more questions than answers concerning the future of the Good Samaritan Village. With a lease draft and many of the questions answered, the commissioners, Long-Term Task Force, and the people will move forward.

See related article for more information.

# BEFORE

Continued from Page 1A

While it is not definite, the commissioners and Mrs. Gilliland agreed that the ballot should be plain and simple. They want only one question, asking the voters if they would support an increase of 2 mills and not to exceed 6 mills to subsidize the nursing home.

The people need to have all the information available in order to make their decision, said Dale Patton, commissioner.

Terry Miller, election officer, said the election could be held 30 to 90 days after the publication

of the resolution and wording for the ballot. However, the election would need to be a special election as there is no regular elections scheduled this year.

If the people voted that they are ready to fund the nursing home, then there will be the matter of expanding the facility.

The special election has tentatively been set for August.

The commissioners accepted the draft of the lease which will be studied. Mrs. Gilliland will have a resolution and ballot question drawn up by the next meeting.

# PEOPLE

Continued from Page 1

an estimated 9.6 percent of Cheyenne County's total employment, or about 177 jobs, in 2011. Further, the study's calculated economic multipliers for nine health care sectors and estimated that health care directly and indirectly accounted for 217 jobs throughout the county economy. They go on to estimate that these same sectors accounted for more than \$9,800,000 in total county income and about \$2,488,000 in county retail sales annually.

"I think we tend to take our local health services for granted, just a little," said Mr. Keller. "We don't realize how important health care is to the county's economic well being."

That is exactly the point the reports are trying to get across, said Dr. Leatherman, who is also the agricultural economist at K-State's office of local government and lead author of the report. He pointed out that access to affordable quality local health care services is essential to attracting and retaining local businesses and retirees.

Further, health care has been among the fastest growing economic sectors for the past 30 years. Given demographic trends, he said, prospects for continued growth are good, and rural communities will want to be in a po-

sition to capture some of that growth.

"Research has shown time and again that local health care and education are two enormously important factors for economic development," Leatherman said, "and both can be positively or negatively influenced by local action or inaction." He said the local health care system has sometimes been the "tie-breaker" in industry location decisions and that retirees view quality local health care as a "must have" local service.

"The Rural Health Works program is intended to highlight the need for local organization and initiative to maintain rural health care systems," said Sara Roberts, director of the Rural Health Section for the Bureau of Local and Rural Health at the Kansas De-

partment of Health and Environment.

She likened the need for broad community involvement focused on local health care to trying to maintain the local school district or Main Street businesses. "Inattention and inactivity can place a rural community at risk. Maintaining local access to quality health care services in rural places requires organization, planning and community support," she said.

Copies of the full report have been distributed and are available free of charge at the Kansas Rural Health Works Web site at: www.krhww.net. Additional information about the program is available by contacting the Office of Local Government at K-State Research and Extension, 785-532-2643 or e-mailing jleather@k-state.edu.

# UTILITIES

Continued from Page 1

was \$25

The council discussed several prices noting that before the utilities are shut off, the resident is contacted twice - once with a late notice in the mail and then the day before the utilities are going to be shut off, the city employees hand

deliver a notice letting the resident know that they have until 10 a.m. the following day to pay their bill or their utilities will be shut off.

The council finally settled to raise the late fee charge from \$10 to \$20 and the reconnect charge from \$25 to \$50.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE was held in Bird City on Wednesday, April 20. The Cheylin Student Government worked the drive with Red Cross employees. Forrest Burr and Shayla Hubbard gave out refreshments while John Knodel waited 15 minutes after giving blood. Photo courtesy of the Cheylin Yearbook staff.

# Students' poetry published

The seventh grade students of Lisa Gibson had poetry that will be published in the 16th edition of Young American Poetry Digest. There will be more published later.

### Flower

By Carl Fabre

The seeds underground  
Rise to the beautiful sky  
With pretty colors

### Suspect Thoughts

By Jude Faulkender

Almost cracked the case...  
photos, clues, detective work  
have a lead suspect

### Books

By Kattie Jenik

B bibliographies, stories about lives  
O open and filled with excitement  
O over powering and persuasive  
K keep in handy at all times  
S still thinking of it weeks later

### McDonald's

By Francisco Fernandez

M many yummy foods there  
C carrots are eating with salads  
D delicious hamburgers you will find  
O on trays that smell like pie  
N never will disappoint you  
A a lot of French fries  
L lovely drinks with your meal  
D dots on my bun  
S smoothies will freeze you

### CHRISTMAS

By Chris Hoard

Christmas is a wonderful time of year  
Here you get anything  
Red green are Christmas colors  
I love Christmas so much  
Something is special about Christmas  
This is the best time of the year  
Midnight is when Santa comes  
A time to be with family  
Santa rides at night

### Athletic

By Carol Eve Harris

A always helping others to meet their standards  
T trying to be first place in my events  
H having a great attitude with other teams  
L love to be able to play sports  
E everyone thinks it's fun to be an athletic person  
T trying to do my best at everything  
I is always supporting and cheering on other team mates  
C courageous and always trying my hardest

### Dreams

By Journey Lee

Drift off into space  
With racing thoughts brought to mind  
But then blackness comes

## Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Anita Schmid at:



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## Flag Day

Featuring those famous flags for you to display in your window showing your patriotism



## Harvest Countdown

Coming this June!

Guess the date and time of the first load of wheat brought into one of the local elevators!