



What it will cost for nursing home levy

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis City Council met with the Cheyenne County Commissioners early Friday morning. They agreed that people in the county are wanting to know more about what it will cost if the vote for supporting the Good Samaritan Village is approved by the people.

There is also the question about the ballot and exactly what they will be voting on at the special election on Aug. 2.

The resolution, which was printed in the May 19 issue of *The*

St. Francis Herald and *Bird City Times*, states that the ballot wording is "Shall the county of Cheyenne County, Kansas, levy a tax not to exceed six (6) mills for a home for the aged?" To vote, there is a "yes" box and a "no" box.

The commissioners had requested that Kari Gilliland, county attorney, word the ballot so it was simple with no trick questions. People will know exactly what they are voting for.

The ballot states that there is a limit of 6 mills. The commissioners and city council members agreed that many people do not

understand mills. Mills can be complicated and vary from year to year, depending on the county's valuation.

Bruce Web, county appraiser, had some figures which can help people better understand how much their taxes would go up if the full 6 mill levy is passed.

Agriculture

Based on 160 acres:
Irrigated land, taxes would be an additional \$36.20.
Pasture land, \$2.88.
Good crop land, \$19.
Average crop land, \$13.80.
Fair crop land, \$10.37.

Residential property

Taxes on a house valued at \$50,000 would be \$34.50.
\$70,000 house, \$48.30.
\$100,000 house, \$69.
\$125,000, \$86.25.
\$150,000, \$103.50.

Commercial property

Taxes on commercial property valued at \$10,000 would be \$15.
\$20,000, \$30.
\$40,000, \$60.
\$60,000, \$90.

Clerk, Terry Miller, has also put information on the county's web site.

People, he said, can figure

their own taxes by following the directions. Start at www.cheyennecounty.org and click on the link that starts "If the special election on August 2nd passes". That takes them to this page: www.cheyennecounty.org/nursinghome.htm.

"I hope it is not too confusing," he said. "There is a table with some basic examples."

Questions can be directed to Mr. Web, 785-332-8830 or Mr. Miller, 785-332-8800.

A mill this year is valued at \$35,756. It should be noted that the commissioners, when gathering information from other nurs-

ing homes, found that the 6 mill figure was high but thought it was better to have it high and not need it as to be short.

If the mill levy is passed, Commissioner Andy Beikman said, he thought that the Good Samaritan Society, who will be leasing the nursing home, should submit a budget each year.

Both the commissioners and city council members acknowledged that there are many questions but looking to the future, it is important to the county that the nursing home remain and be maintained.



GARDNER CONSTRUCTION got the bid to side the Scout Hut. Getting ready to put up another piece of log siding is Chet Gardner and owner, Justin Gardner.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

First swim meet held in Sainty

The opening swim meet of the season will be held in St. Francis on Saturday. Action begins at 9 a.m.

Swimmers from Atwood, Cheylin, McCook and St. Francis will be competing. It is free and residents are welcome to attend.

"As this is a home meet, anyone from St. Francis can come and swim," Coach Margaret Poling said. "You do not have to be a swim team member."

Sainty Shark's practices are held Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and noon to 1 p.m. Friday practice is noon to 1 p.m.

The Sainty Shark schedule for this year is as follows:



- June 4: St. Francis.
- June 11: Atwood.
- June 18: Cheylin.
- June 25: Benkelman;
- June 30: St. Francis fun meet with anyone eligible (no need to be a member).
- July 9: Imperial (if ready) qualifying.
- July 16: Lexington Championship.

Telephone survey begins; people urged to answer

The third Rural Health Works meeting was held Thursday at Riverside Recreation, St. Francis. Dr. John Leatherman, director of the Kansas Rural Health Option Project, explained the next step of the health and eldercare needs study in Cheyenne County.

On Tuesday, the phone survey began. Fort Hays State University Docking Institute personnel will be making calls throughout the county between 6 and 9 p.m. People getting these calls are asked to not hang up but answer the questions. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete.

These questions, Dr. Leather-

man explained, will help in finding what the people need and expect in Cheyenne County. Random calls will be made until there are 200 responses. It is estimated that the survey will probably take 10 days to complete. It should be noted that all answers will remain confidential.

Some of the questions asked in the survey include:

- Which medical professionals do you use for most of your routine health care? Primary care physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, none, others, don't know?
- When was the last time you

saw your doctor for routine health care?

- What city do you go to the most to see your doctor?
- Have you or any members of your household used the inpatient or outpatient services of a hospital in the last 12 months. The caller will ask where, listing area hospitals.
- Why was a certain hospital chosen? There will be a list of reasons where the person will be given the option of answering yes or no.
- Have you ever used the services of the Cheyenne County Hospital?

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LES LACY, hospital administrator, spoke at the meeting.

School alumni set for June 18

By Karen Krien

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St. Francis Community High School alumni will soon be arriving in town for the 54th reunion.

This year, the celebration is held on Saturday, June 18, with many of the honor classes having additional parties on Friday and Sunday. Golfers, on Saturday, will have the opportunity to play in a nine-hole, four-person scramble at Riverside Recreation. There is a cost per golfer and checks need to be made separate from the banquet reservation fee.

Shirley Zweygardt, corresponding secretary, reported reservations have started coming in for the Saturday evening meal. Reservation deadline is Monday, June 13. People can send in their reservations or, if it is getting late, they can call in and pick up their tickets on

Saturday evening.

The \$20 collected for each reservation not only pays for the meal but is also used to help purchase items for the Sainty schools and community.

"We have been able to make some sizable donations back to the school and to the St. Francis community through the years," Ms. Zweygardt said.

Again this year will be entertainment in Sawhill Park. Disc jockey, Darren Kannady, will have music for all classes in the band shell from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

People, alumni and residents wanting to visit with alumni are urged to bring their lawn chairs for a pleasant evening in the park. People will also be able to dance inside the band shell.

Honor classes this year are 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2001.

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Fourth of July celebration set

By Karen Krien

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The Fourth of July is only a month away and plans are being made for a great display of fireworks and activities during the day.

Those coming up with initial plans for the celebration were Rodney Neitzel, Roger Neitzel and John and Anita Amack. What started as an evening of fireworks and celebration has expanded.

Three women, Lori Raile, Kari Gilliland and Sharissa Andrist, decided that there needed to be some patriotic fun for the children. On July 4, they have planned to have a red, white and blue bike and wagon parade for children. The parade, held at Sawhill Park, will include wagons, trikes and bikes that have been decorated for the Fourth of July. Motorized vehicles will not be allowed.

Following the parade, there will be games. More information will be available later.

That afternoon, there will be a Kansas Day program at the museum. Ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

Another afternoon activity will be held at the St. Francis swimming pool. While details are still uncertain, there will be swimming fun throughout the afternoon.

Parkhill Restaurant and Lounge will be furnishing prizes for the games. Brenda Johnson, owner of Hometown Market, Bird City, will be giving out prizes to the first 600 people attending.

Late afternoon and evening, people will be able to take a break, many holding barbecues in their backyards. People can start gathering at the sale barn parking lot and on the north lawn of the Good Samaritan Village for the fireworks display.

At 8 p.m., the Girl Scouts will be selling patriotic cookies and cupcakes. The Shriner's Candy Wagon will be selling cotton

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COLORS WERE RAISED at the St. Francis Cemetery Memorial Day Service. Scouts and others stood at attention.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien