

Wedding planned in April



FOUR SENIOR CITIZENS gathered for dinner at the St. Francis center to celebrate their birthdays which are on Feb. 12. Those with birthdays are (left) Art Krueger, Benny Weber (his wife, Cathy,) and right, ErvaGene DeAragon and Harvey Neitzel.

Emily Rehmer and Dylan Loyd announce their engagement and plans to marry on April 28 in Grinnell.

Parents of the couple are Joseph and Jeannie Rehmer of Grinnell and Daryl and Keeley Loyd of St. Francis.

Dylan graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in sports management. He works on the family farm and coaches wrestling in St. Francis.

Emily graduated from Fort Hays State University with an associates degree in radiologic technology and a bachelor's degree in diagnostic imaging. She works at the Cheyenne County Hospital as a radiologic technologist.



Loyd - Rehmer

Family gathers for 75th

Many out of town family members helped Bennie Weber celebrate his 75th birthday on Feb. 11 and 12. This was the first time that his three children and eight grandchildren and one great-grand daughter had been together in about two years. They are: Leonard Weber, Levi and Amanda from Burden; Vanessa, Travis, and Skye Feldman from Larned; Kyle and Samantha Weber from Liberal; Joyce and Lacey Kerbs from Ft. Morgan, Colo.; and Mike We-

ber, Drew, Hailey, and Elle from Akron, Colo. Brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews attending were: Mary Garnhart, Limon, Colo.; Ron Weber, Charlie and Eunice Weber, Jerry, Lori, and Atalee Amthor, Marty and Avonell Spomer, Darla, Dave, Alexis and Autumn Wynn, all from Goodland; Darla and Duane Laverenz from Burlington, Colo.; Wilma and Erny Bugbee from Alma, Neb. They all enjoyed visiting, playing cards and having a trap shoot.

Weed management school scheduled for Tuesday

Weed management school is set for Tuesday in Colby

Early weed identification may be the best tool to control those tough resistant weeds in your fields. As we know with any weed that it is easier to control it when it is young and actively growing.

Correct identification lets you select the correct product and rate to control the weeds. Come see how to identify the seedlings of many prevalent weeds in your fields and find out what are the latest weed control recommendations.

Thomas County Extension is sponsoring a Weed Management School at the 4-H Building in Colby on Tuesday to aid producers in identifying weed seedlings and making sound decisions about weed management. The program will start at 2 p.m. and adjourn at 5. Continuing Education Units and CCA credits have been applied for.

Addressing the ever changing weed control products and weed identification techniques will be

K-State Weed Specialists, Dallas Peterson and Curt Thompson. Reservations are requested by Feb. 17 by calling the Thomas County Extension office at 785-460-4582.

Questions or need more information feel free to call or email Clint Milliman, Thomas County Extension Agent at milliman@k-state.edu.

3G phone service now available locally

Verizon Wireless has recently upgraded their service in Cheyenne County to provide local customers with 3G Data services. 3G Data provides much faster downloads and uploads for customers Smartphones.

In the last 12 months, we've seen a huge shift in our customer base from basic phones to Smartphones, said Terry Bandel of Video Kingdom, the local Verizon retailer.

Smartphones allow customers to be productive and connect without taking time to sit down at a computer, Mr. Bandel said.

The 3G speeds are a welcome upgrade for everyone that relies on their Smartphone on a daily basis.

Mr. Bandel said Verizon is already busy building out their next generation data network, 4G LTE, which offers blazing fast speeds. Currently 4G LTE is available in more than 165 cities and 111 major airports. The company plans to upgrade their entire 3G network to 4G LTE by the end of 2013.

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Fitzgerald said. "There are some counties that would have closed their facility after the fire."

By not being pushed to come up with the money and build immediately, Mr. Beikman said he thought people would be in favor of building an assisted living. In fact, he said, there have been people with different ideas of what could be done.

Before signing a lease, the commissioners said they would like to see some pro forma so they know where the business is financially. Seeing the figures, Dale Patton, commissioner, said, is in the best interest of the county.

Mr. Fitzgerald said Mr. Paulsen could meet with the commissioners once a month and show them the profit-and-loss figures. Mr. Paulsen said he would be glad to meet with them, adding that the nursing home, after the fire was losing money. But, he said, as the beds were filled, there was less of a deficit. With 35 beds, he expects there to be a profit. In fact, he said when they had 30 beds filled, there should be a profit, or at least breaking even.

There is a bill in the legislature that is indicating there will be some "cheap" money for building assisted living facilities. Those who have some plans made for assisted living may have a better chance for getting some of the money, Patton said.

A preliminary plan which had been drawn up for the Good Samaritan Society projected assisted living for 10 people and 12 more private skilled nursing beds. They would use the same kitchen, laundry and other services so to make money, the addition of the assisted living and private rooms is necessary.

In August, the taxpayers voted to raise 6 mills or approximately \$200,000 a year to help keep the Village doors open. The commissioners agreed that, if the money was not needed for expenses, then it would be put into a capital improvement fund. The money would be put toward building the assisted living.

Before an assisted living facility can be built, plans and preliminary drawings will be needed and there will need to be an election to float a bond. The St. Francis Community Foundation has money for a feasibility study.

Lease discussed
The commissioners finally got down to discussing the lease. A draft had been sent to the commissioners several months ago. But the commissioners still had questions.

It was decided that the county and the Society would split the profit 50-50. The county, after buying the facility for \$1 in a year would be responsible for repairs and upkeep of the nursing home, the apartments and grounds as well as the contents of the nursing home. The Society would be responsible for employees, benefits, liability and unemployment, etc.

They talked about running a "tight" facility so money could be made. Mr. Fitzgerald said he operates all of his facilities, whether they are owned or leased, on a tight bud-

get. In the area, Oberlin, Atwood and Goodland have Good Samaritan Society leased nursing homes.

Mr. Paulsen said that instead of going to the Society when there are major breakdowns or repairs, he would come to the county commissioners.

The commissioners will be preparing the county's budget in June; the Society prepares their budget in the fall. However, they felt they could work together so the county would know how much money to budget next year.

The sooner the lease is prepared and signed, Mr. Fitzgerald said, the better. The staff is wanting to know where they stand. Before it can be

signed, Mr. Fitzgerald will need to make sure his board has reviewed it.

Mr. Fitzgerald took the lease with him and said he would be talking to Kari Gilliland, county attorney, this week. The commissioners asked that he be available for a conference call at the March 15 meeting. He told them he is generally only three hours away and would be glad to meet in person with them if they wanted.

Mr. Patton suggested that the lease be in place by July 1.

The Society has been here for a long time and we have made a commitment to the people and the community, Mr. Fitzgerald said.

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Black Hills Energy Scholarships

Application Deadline Is March 16



Black Hills Energy-Kansas Gas will award a \$1,000 scholarship to each of 15 graduating high school seniors in 2012. **Applications must be completed and returned by Friday, March 16, to Black Hills Energy at the address below. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.**

Students interested in applying for a scholarship should contact their school counselor. The application also is available online. Go to www.blackhillsenergy.com/scholarships and click on your state.

Questions?
In Kansas contact
Black Hills Energy
External Affairs Dept.
110 E. 9th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-832-3918

- Students are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:**
- A parent or guardian is a customer of Black Hills Energy-Kansas Gas.
 - The student ranks in the top 25 percent of his or her graduating class or scores 21 or higher on the ACT or 980 or higher on the SAT.
 - The student plans to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student to obtain a bachelor's degree.

Relatives of current or retired Black Hills Energy employees are not eligible to participate in this program. A relative is defined as a child, grandchild, brother, sister, stepchild, foster child, spouse or in-law.

