



Questions answered; board goes forward

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Commissioners held a special meeting Sunday afternoon to discuss future plans of the Good Samaritan Village.

Present at the meeting besides the commissioners were Randy Fitzgerald, operational director for the Good Samaritan Society, Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator; Kevin Berens, Village advisory board member, and Terry Miller, county clerk.

At the last commissioners' meeting, they had asked that Mr. Fitzgerald meet with them as they had questions that needed to be answered before they felt they could continue with the lease.

Following the October 2010 fire which shut the nursing home down for almost five months, the Good Samaritan Society had agreed that they would open up the west wing for 22 residents, remodel the middle wing which had been mostly destroyed which included putting in three private rooms and some offices, and get the entire facility up and running. In the meantime, they paid wages when the nursing home was not operating, paid



RANDY FITZGERALD commends staff and community for their support after the October 2010 fire.

unemployment along with several other things, all adding up to \$800,000.

Now that the remodeling had



MANY PEOPLE ATTENDED the Good Samaritan Village open house held Sunday afternoon. People were able to tour the newly remodeled facility. Arrie Cox, left, visits with Jeff Paulsen following the program. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

been completed, it was time to talk about the future. Mr. Fitzgerald had informed the county commissioners that the Good Samaritan Society did not want to own the nursing home but were interested in leasing the facility. They would run the nursing home one year after the remodeling was done, then they would turn the facility, along

with the apartments (not the home health facility) to the county for \$1.

The commissioners had earlier understood that Mr. Fitzgerald was not interested selling the home to the commissioners unless they had a plan in place to build an assisted living facility.

At the Jan. 31 meeting, Andy

Beikman, commissioner, said that, it this was the case, he did not think taking over the facility was a good idea. There is no way, he said, that the public could be informed, an election held to see if the public was interested in floating a bond and getting any plans or building started.

Mr. Fitzgerald said originally,

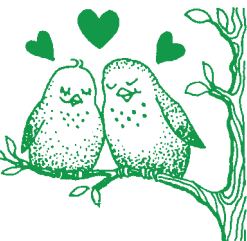
that was what he had planned but, he said, he is not going to hold the county to that.

In good faith, he said, I think the county and the people will see the need for assisted living and go forward.

"I am thoroughly impressed with the county and people," Mr.

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Sweetheart couples honored



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For the last two weeks, people have been asked to vote for the Sweetheart Couples they thought were the most deserving. Bright

pink cans and ballots were placed in participating businesses and ballots were also printed on the Valentine Page in The Herald.

When the ballots were collected on Monday morning and the num-

bers tallied, winners of the Sweetheart Couples' contest were Ruben and Bernice Bandel and Van and Nola Burrus.

There were nearly 100 ballots submitted with two votes per entry.

Twenty-five couples received votes.

On Valentine's Day, The Flower Shop delivered a bouquet to the Bandels and The Classic Rose took a bouquet to the Burruses.

Those businesses participating in

the Sweetheart Couple promotion were Sainty Liquor, Owens True Value, Stuart's Jewelry, Donna's Gift Palace, Video Kingdom, The Classic Rose, The Flower Shop and The Saint Francis Herald.

Big snow falls on day of wedding

Ruben and Bernice Bandel were married on Feb. 27, 1944, 68 years ago. Ruben said there was a big snow that day.

The ceremony took place in the home of John and Sophie Miller, Bernice's parents. They didn't go on a honeymoon but went straight to the farm where they needed to take care of the baby chickens.

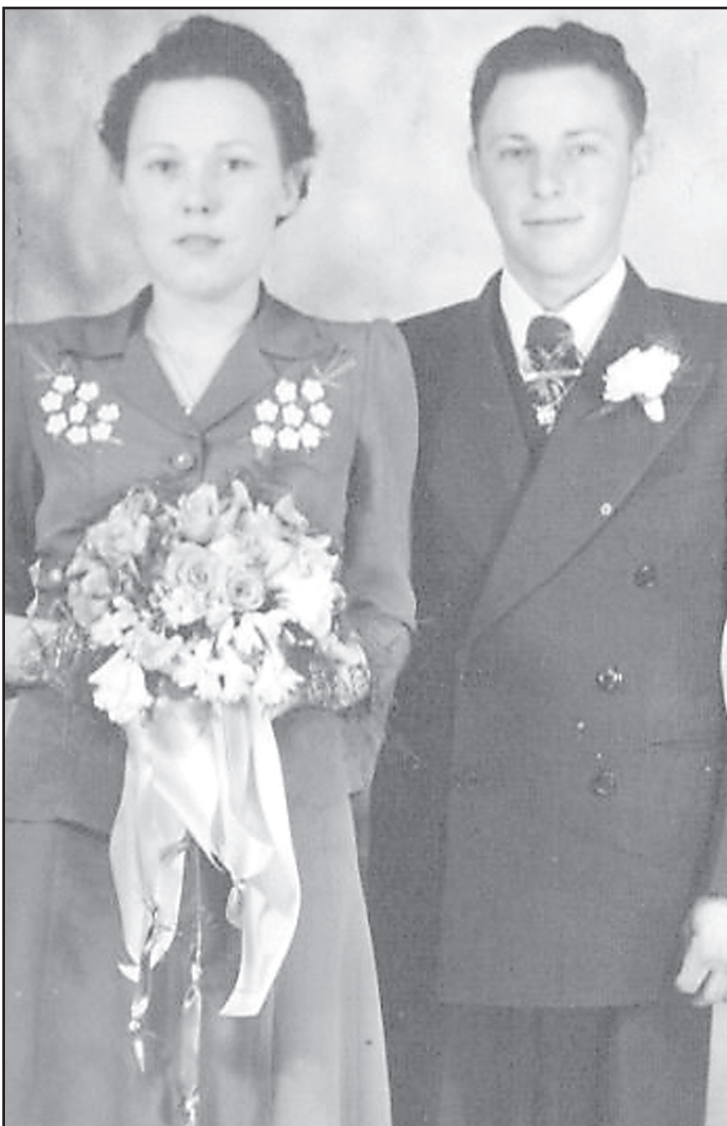
Ruben and Bernice met at a baseball game where Ruben was playing center field. Their first date was to a movie.

After a year of courting, they were married. Bernice had a new blue dress and they lived with Ruben's parents at first. In 1945, Ruben entered the Army and spent a year in Korea. He said he was sure glad to get back home.

They bought their home on College Street and moved their children, Charles and Kathleen, to town and have lived there ever since.

When they moved to town, Ruben went to work for the county road and bridge department. He said he drove a grader for 21 years.

Bernice worked several places including Palace Market, U.S. 36



Ruben and Bernice Bandel

Cafe and Ideal Super Market.

When they retired, they still found time to deliver senior citizen meals to people that could not get out. They quit after Ruben's health no longer allowed them to do that job.

Retirement also found them working on several hobbies.

Both like gardening. Ruben could be found in the shop working on different wood craft. Bernice liked quilting and helps with the quilting projects at Peace Lutheran Church.

Their advice to young couples today is to "stick it out when the going gets tough."

Couple married by judge

Van and Nola Burrus have been married 67 years. On June 23, 1945, Van and Nola and two cousins were married in a double wedding ceremony in the probate judge's office in Oberlin.

They had met in 1942 at a dinner Nola's aunt had held for four men who were going into the Navy. Van was one of those guys and his date didn't show up. Nola just took her place and after three years of courting, they were married.

We had no money, Van said. So, the two couples went fishing after they were married.

Nola said she and had gone shopping with her aunt and they had bought special dresses for the wedding. The aunt insisted that they each have a hat for the wedding.

"I don't know why, we never wore hats," she said.

Nola's parents were living in St. Francis but she had wanted to finish school in Danbury.

"I had no intention of moving to St. Francis," she said.

However, her dad, who ran the Equity, was in need of someone to weigh wheat when one of the employees was drafted.

I went to St. Francis on July 5 and Van came in August. The year was 1945.

They lived in Emma Mundhenke's basement on Spencer Street, then they bought a garage that Pete Christensen had started to build on Whittier Street.

It was still war time and building materials were scarce. Van was able to purchase some windows and some cedar. He framed in the windows, and by working nights and weekends, they were able to fin-



Van and Nola Burrus

ish the inside and moved in. In 1961, they built their house on Emerson Street.

Having helped his father, Van was already in the construction business when he moved to St. Francis. In St. Francis, Van ran the Equity Lumberyard but lumber was short and there was no lumber. They moved to Imperial for a year but came back to St. Francis and in 1966, he and Milton Lampe purchased Tri-State Lumber. He retired in December 1981.

Nola worked at the Citizens State Bank for 25 years, retiring in 1986.

The couple has a daughter, Glorienne, who lives in St. Francis.

Van and Nola said they have seen a number of changes in 67 years. In the early years, they said, farmers and townspeople gathered on Main Street to do their shopping and visit with friends and neighbors. Many spoke German, they said. Today, there are not nearly as many stores and stations.

What they see in young couples today is "they want too much too soon." They wouldn't know what to do if they had to survive on what we had when we were first married, Van said.