



Decision on Village lease weeks away

By Karen Krien
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In two weeks, the Cheyenne County Commissioners will vote on whether or not to sign the lease with the Good Samaritan Society. If the agreement is signed, the Society will turn the nursing home facility and the independent living apartments over to the county for \$1.

If the commissioners sign, the lease will be faxed to the Society's headquarters in Sioux Falls, S.D. to be signed by the Society's representatives. Randy Fitzgerald, director of operations for the Society, will be at the May 15 commissioners' meeting.

Both commissioners Ernie Ketzner and Brett Poling said they wanted an inspection of the building for termites and electrical issues. The lease, which they have already approved, said that the county will accept the facility "as is." No matter what the inspections find, the commissioners agreed that they would not go back on the lease. They simply wanted to know what repairs the facility would need when and if they acquired it.

They discussed electricians that might be available to do the inspections. They agreed to ask Ron Wieck, Ed Marin, Sam Miller and Roger Neitzel if they would be in-

terested in doing an inspection on the nursing home for the electrical conditions, how soon they could make the inspection and the cost.

Earlier in the morning, there had been a meeting with the commissioners and the St. Francis City Council. Roger Jensen, city councilman, had suggested that, when the county has control of the nursing home, that they would not take the lowest bid when it came to making repairs. He indicated that he thought that possibly, the October 2010 fire could have been prevented.

Dale Patton, commissioner, said he would talk to Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, to see if a termite inspection had been done recently and, if so, what was the result. If there has been no recent inspection, then he would contact a termite inspector in Goodland.

Karan Thadani, county attorney, said Sondra Bracelin was working on the warranty deed and would have it completed by the April 30 meeting.

Carla Lampe, city council member, had asked where the commissioners were concerning the nursing home acquisition. Dr. Poling had answered that signing the lease was looking more positive since the commissioners found out that the Society had been includ-

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Sheriff and KBI are continuing to investigate crime

The Cheyenne County Sheriff's office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation are continuing the investigation in the death of a 45-year-old St. Francis man on April 3.

"There are a lot of rumors involving this case. I want people to be assured we are conducting an objective investigation to find answers for those involved and the community," said Cody Beeson, sheriff. "I understand the sooner we can find those answers the sooner we as a community can heal."

Brad Figgins was found dead at his home on 541 E. Third Street after emergency medical technicians were dispatched. The sheriff

deputies and city police officers responded to the scene.

Figgins was transported to the hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead.

A woman at the scene was held for questioning. She was later taken to Larned for evaluation.

An autopsy was made but the results were not available. The sheriff said he would be talking to the attorney general sometime this week and would have more information following the meeting.

Any person who feels they have information pertaining to the case are encouraged to contact the sheriff's office at 785-332-8880.



LANE HOFFMAN placed third in his division at the PTA Talent Show held Sunday at the St. Francis Elementary.

Talent show has 62 participants

The PTA Talent Show was held Sunday afternoon in the elementary gym.

The show was great, said Tracy Neitzel, PTA president. We had a variety of talent!

There were 62 kids participating and the overall grand champion was Sarah Whitmore, who performed a flute solo.

There were four divisions with the top three in each division earning a place and some cash. The judges, Mrs. Neitzel said, had a difficult time making decisions.

There were 13 entries in the kindergarten through third grade division. The winners were Caleb Todd who took first place with his drum solo; Cutter Neitzel was second with a vocal solo; and Hadleigh Hilt danced to take third place.

In the fourth through sixth grade division, There were 17 entries. Taylor Kinzer with her singing performance, took first place. Second place went to Audrey Meyer who sang a solo and Garin Co-

per, who also had a vocal solo, took third.

Jude Faulkender placed first with a dance number in the seventh and eighth grade division. Second place went to Jenna Confer with her piano solo; and Kattie Schmid took third with a vocal solo. There were six entries in this division.

In the ninth grade and older division, Hannah Wolff placed first with her snare drum solo. Sydney Sundstrom was second with a trumpet solo, and Lane Hoffman placed third with a guitar and vocal solo. There were seven entries in the division.

It was a lengthy talent show, Mrs. Neitzel said, but wow!! It was so great to have a time and place to showcase our talented youth!

Cara Hunt and Corbin Sherlock did a great job as emcees, she said, and Darren Kannady was awesome as the disc jockey.

The show, she added, would not have been possible if it were not for the help of the volunteers and PTA board members.



AARON WHITE was one of the performers at the PTA Talent Show.

Herald photos by Kent Kechter

Fishing tournaments held this weekend

The Cheyenne County Wildlife members are once again hosting the fishing tournament at Keller Pond northwest of St. Francis. This year, they will sponsor Youth Day Fishing on Saturday as well as the fishing tournament on Sunday.

Recently, Keller Pond was stocked with rainbow trout. There are some fish that must be at least 24-inches long, said Francis O'Leary, Wildlife club member.

Saturday, children, ages 0 to 14, may come fish at the pond. There will be no fee nor registration.

Kids get first chance at the big fish, Mr. O'Leary said.

However, he warned, parents should plan to accompany their children, especially the younger children. And, he said, if they will need to help their child pull in a fish, they will need to have a fishing license.

On Sunday, the annual two-man team fishing tournament will be held. Those participating need to be at the Wildlife Clubhouse between 6 and 7 a.m. for registration. The tournament ends at 1 p.m.

We are looking for another good tournament and fishermen will be pleased with their catch, Mr. O'Leary said.



TIM STIMBERT, left, and Martin Hilt, both Cheyenne County Wildlife members, help unload the rainbow trout into Keller Pond.

Herald photo by Francis O'Leary

Council requests property clean up within city limits

By Karen Krien
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It is spring and the council members at the Monday, April 8, St. Francis City Council meeting reviewed the list of properties that needs to be cleaned up.

The council noted that some property owners had made great strides in cleaning up their property while others had made little to no progress.

Photos of around 40 properties were looked at. J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, had asked that the council prioritize the top three to five properties they felt needed cleaned up.

There was considerable discussion and, in the end, the council agreed that the Neitzel property in the 600 block of South River Street was the number one priority followed by the old Woodshed building in the West 300 block of Main

Street and the old Houtman garage in the East 100 block of Main Street. The Neitzel property, they said, had trees that needed taken care of as well as the yard. The roofs on some of the buildings and house were also in bad shape. The other two properties were at the top of the list because they are located on Main Street.

The other two properties were the Richers double-wide house on Emerson and Quincy streets and the Toler house at Adams and Third streets.

There are a number of other residents who will be receiving letters to clean up their property but the top five will receive more pressure to see that their property meets the council standards.

The council also agreed that each owner-resident will be given a reasonable time period to clean up and-or fix up.