

Birzer Funeral Home Continuing a tradition of care

Birzer Funeral Homes continue to serve the communities of Rice County carrying on the profession that started in 1882.

Tim and Donetta Birzer sold the funeral homes in Lyons and Sterling to Blayne and Teresa Rons in April of 2015. Blayne grew up in Arma which is in southeast Kansas. He went to mortuary school in Kansas City receiving his Embalming and Funeral Director licenses, and worked for Dengel & Son Mortuary in Ottawa for the past eight years. Teresa is from the Ottawa area. They are currently living in the funeral home apartment in Lyons.

Tim was licensed in 1978 as a Funeral Director and Embalmer and moved from Ellinwood to Lyons in 1979 where he met and married Donetta Soeken who is a Lyons native. He continues



THE DEDICATED STAFF OF BIRZER FUNERAL HOME Kent Shuyler, Ralph Wilson, Tim Birzer, Blayne Rons, Jack Howerton, Bob Friesen, Jackie Ramage, Donetta Birzer, Teresa Rons, and Naomi Loomis.

to work at the funeral home on a daily basis.

Jackie Ramage who is a lifetime Rice County resident has served as a licensed Funeral Director since 1976. She was involved with the operation of her family owned Williamson Furniture & Funeral Home in Little River.

Other employees include Assistant Funeral Director Bob Friesen, Kent Shuyler, Ralph Wilson, Jack Howerton and Naomi Loomis.

At SANDSTONE HEIGHTS

Every resident is an individual

LITTLE RIVER - Providing a home like environment for the residents of the facility has been the goal of Sandstone Heights in Little River since the doors opened in 1972 as the Rice County Hospital District No. 2.

The long-term care facility added independent apartments in 1995 and assisted living apartments in 2001, which has rounded out the continuing care retirement community.

“We believe in the Eden alternative principles,” said John Gaines, administrator. “Basically it means we treat every resident as an individual and provide the best home-like environment we can.”

When Little River lost the hospital, area church members formed a committee and built Sandstone Heights. Today the board consists of five members, Randall Olander, chairperson; Dalene

Teeter, Kay Howie secretary; Curtis Randall and Doug Peters.

The home-like environment can be seen walking into any resident’s room. Each person is allowed to decorate his/ her surroundings as they want and bring items from home.

Sandstone Heights is small enough, according to Gaines, that the staff can cook homemade meals with a choice menu for residents.

Sandstone Heights has a rehabilitation area where local therapists come to work with residents.

“Members of the community can also meet a therapist come here to receive physical therapy,” Gaines said.

For more information about the facility and openings call Sandstone Heights (620) 897-6266, or visit its Web site at www.sandstoneheights.com

Fate of Frederick to be decided in next election

By Ryan Carlson

Frederick, a town that has existed for much of Rice County’s history could cease to exist after the November 2016 election.

Rice County Counselor Scott Bush said he wrote a letter to Robert Root. The letter contains a resolution that would allow him and the former members of Frederick’s city council to put whether or not the municipality should be disbanded.

The issue would need to be voted upon by the five qualified voters in the city. In order to pass, it would need a two thirds passing rate. If it were to fail, Bush said there is not much they could do. This is because there are no laws on the book that allow counties, townships or even

the state to force a municipality to disband. “It’s all going to be up to them,” said Bush.

The issue of Frederick dissolving stems from the fall 2015 elections. In those elections no Fredrick residents were voted in for municipal government positions. This presents a sticky issue because without being voted in none of the residents have the authority to pass a budget.

This apparently hasn’t stopped residents from paying the bills. Rice County Clerk Alicia Showalter said the past Frederick Clerk, Melode Huggins has been paying a light bill every month from the more than \$92,000 in the city’s account. If the city were to be dissolved, she said it would likely go into the township budget.



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The one thing to do

BEFORE

going on public aid.

Even though the state requires you deplete all your assets before receiving public aid, there is a way to protect some of what you have worked so hard to save.

Kansas Public Aid allows you a pre-arranged funeral including casket, vault, cemetery property, grave marker or burial crypt in addition to a set amount of cash assets.

You must make funeral arrangements before applying for aid. We can explain the laws governing prepaid funerals before you apply for public aid.

If you, or someone you know, are considering aid, consult our funeral home for complete information.

For a no obligation consultation contact:

BIRZER Funeral Homes

& Granite Memorials

Lyons - Sterling

Funeral Homes & Granite Memorials

214 WEST AVENUE SOUTH

LYONS, KS 67554 • 620-257-2211

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The beginning of the effort in 2005



The interior of the Re-Store today.



The last house completed and occupied.





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