



# The Saint Francis Herald

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## Hail, wind, rain hits Sainty area twice within days

By Karen Krien

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Friday's storm was bad. There was hail, wind and, in places, heavy rain. If that wasn't bad enough, another storm came through Monday which also had hail, wind and rain but, it was accompanied by sightings of a tornado.

The storm moved in quickly about 6 p.m. Monday evening. There was a little lightning and thunder before the hail storm moved in.

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, reported that there was a rain-wrapped cloud which left uncertainty as to if there was a tornado or not. Just to be on the safe side, the tornado signal was sounded in both towns. Later, the National Weather Service said there was possibly a F1 tornado north of Goodland.

He said there was no great damage reported. There were a few electrical poles down north of Wheeler but the company manager said customers had power back by 10 p.m.

A semi truck and trailer was coming down the Zweygardt hill, 4.5 miles west of St. Francis on U.S. 36 when the wind blew him off the road, flipping the truck into the ditch. The driver was not injured.

About that same time, a man riding a bike to Iowa was also traveling that same road. The wind was blowing and it was starting to hail. He said he saw a tree in a ditch. He laid in the ditch with a piece of plastic over him. He was glad to



HAVING FUN splashing in the water after Friday's rain were Amanda and Jeremiah Neitzel.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

see Mat Moberly, who put his bike in the back of the pickup and took him to St. Francis.

There were reports of hail ranging from marble to golf-ball sized Monday night.

### Friday's storm

North of St. Francis, the wheat in a strip along the Hackberry Creek, in the June 7 storm, was pretty much wiped out. The storm Friday took out most of the corn

crops. Just 5 miles north of St. Francis, Roger Orth's corn crop was cut down. His wheat had also been harvested by the June storm.

Don Krien, who lived just south of Orths, said the Friday storm was the worst hail storm since 1953. He said the storm on Friday had lasted for only about 10 minutes but the 1953 storm lasted for

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BRAYDEN KAUP shows where his pony was hit by hail and had to have stitches. His mother Stacy, holds back the mane.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Damaging storm at farm injures and kills animals

By Karen Krien

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The summer of 2009 will be remembered for severe weather. In

June, a line of storms with large hail and lots of rain north of St. Francis flattened the wheat.

On Friday, storms again moved

through the area. Many of the same people who lost their wheat in the June 7 storm, this time lost

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## Bank building now moved to corner lot

By Karen Krien

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Tuesday, July 14, three sections of Western State Bank rolled into St. Francis. On Friday, two huge cranes arrived. People were parked in cars or just standing on the sidewalks watching as the cranes began setting the sections.

The basement was poured several weeks ago. It included a secured storage area. A vault was placed on top of it.

The first section of the building was lifted over the vault and placed down on the foundation. The second and third soon followed. By late afternoon, the roof had been lifted into place and the building was secured and waterproofed.

There is still work to be done before the bank opens, tentative-

ly, in the fall.

Siding is on and a brick face will be put on the bottom half. A drive-up canopy will be attached to the east side of the building. There will also be a night drop and built-in ATM, all accessible from the outside. Concrete needs to be poured for sidewalks, curb, gutter and parking.

Inside, sheet rock needs to be hung and the walls finished, flooring needs to be installed as well as banking equipment.

"Western State is ready to move into a larger facility and provide complete full-service banking" said Troy Hilt, president.

For more information or to provide customers help with their banking needs, stop in at the facility 114 East Washington and talk to Troy or Steph.



BIG EQUIPMENT lowered the three parts of the new Western State Bank on Thursday. There is much work to be done on the bank before it opens. However, the tentative date is sometime in the fall.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Village administrator plans to retire in September

By Karen Krien

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Rick Reeser, 62, the administrator of the Good Samaritan Society - St. Francis Village has announced his retirement from his administrative job at the Village on or around Sept. 15. He has been the administrator since January 2006 when he took on both the Goodland and St. Francis facilities. In March 2007, he left Goodland to concentrate solely on the St. Francis Village.

Mr. Reeser had retired from a career in education before starting the administrator-in-training program at the Village under Paul Rainbolt. He

served short term Good Samaritan assignments in Lyons and then in Pipestone, Minn. He went to Goodland in June 2004.

Besides working with the staff and having contact with the residents, Mr. Reeser enjoyed the daily challenges with budget. Two years ago, with the help of generous memorial gifts, the remodeling of the east-west hall rooms began. The remodeling took six months but, when it was done, residents were able to move into rooms with bay windows and more convenient rest-room facilities. The total renovation cost \$250,000 and only one bed was lost.

There is room for 50 residents.

Residents are now able to enjoy "fine dining." We want our residents to know they are being treated well, Mr. Reeser said.

After a year of planning, they were able to implement the feeling of restaurant dining. Deb Gohl, kitchen manager, gives residents a menu with choices each day. They are served on tables covered with linen cloths with matching napkins. Centerpieces give a cheery welcome.

We have been getting calls for apartments with two bedrooms, Mr. Reeser said. See RETIRES on Page 9A



ADMINISTRATOR Rick Reeser talks with Linda Hilt, one of the residents at the Good Samaritan Village.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien