

FIRE

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ers, emergency medical service director, who had taken charge in the absence of Ryan Murray, emergency manager. Mr. Murray said he was on his way home from training but was helping where he could by phone.

Food had been prepared by Bonnie Straub and Cindy Neitzel, cooks at the Village, and Alice Kinen, head cook at the school. Helping with serving were Margaret Poling and Allison Grice. Helping clean up was Helen Paulsen and Becca Landers. The residents had already walked more than usual and it had been a long afternoon so students brought tables from the cafeteria to the gym so they could eat.

Dr. Rebecca Allard and Tyler Raile, physician's assistant, were on hand to check residents. Calls were made to family members by

Village staff and the hospital staff was helping find places for the residents. Since the residents had only what they were wearing, the United Methodist Thrift Store volunteers brought up clothes in a variety of sizes, making sure they had some clothing to take with them. These clothes were given to the residents.

That's what we are here for, said Carol Forsythe, one of the volunteers, when thanked for the generosity.

The next day, the Village staff with the help of others, started gathering residents' personal belongings, bagging them to be sent to the nursing homes where they were now living. In the south part of the middle wing which burned, many of those items were destroyed.

Some of the nurses and certified nurses aides will have the opportunity to work at other area Good

Samaritan facilities with Good Samaritan Society paying mileage and travel time, Mr. Paulsen said. However, those in housekeeping, dietary and the office will most likely be looking for employment.

On Monday, many employees were worried. Their salaries would be paid until the end of the month and they were not sure what would happen then.

Deb Gohl who was the head of the kitchen, said she was worried about how she was going to pay her mortgage and bills. Others said they didn't know where they would all find jobs and didn't want to move.

Bonnie Straub, who had worked at the Village for over 40 years cried as she told about the love and care the workers had for each other as well as the residents. It would never be the same as some workers and residents would never come back.

Mr. Paulsen said the Society was sending an employee assistant support person to talk to employees this week.

Help being planned

People are concerned. The Community Builders group met early Monday morning to plan a forum to provide information (see related article).

The St. Francis City Council spent considerable time at their Monday evening meeting, discussing how they could help. Until more is known about the Society's plans, they decided to send letters stating their support in rebuilding the nursing home.

The Village Advisory Board, at their meeting, agreed that Sioux Falls needed to make a decision. The board is hoping that the Society will want to rebuild in the right way to offer a continuum of care with independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing.

"Build on what we have, a model facility - quality care in a quality facility. Let's make it better - a vision for our community and for elder care."

The public can assist them, Kevin Berens, member, said, by voicing their concern and desires to preserve the property, the service and the community.

CARES

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energy, to describe his approach to the job.

He started campaigning in June and has hit the road hard in the five counties, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips, he will represent if he is elected. While he is concerned about schools, he stated that he does not want to raise taxes.

As he has campaigned, he said the main thing he is hearing is the people want to maintain their communities and to see them grow.

"I believe we should do everything we can to maintain without raising taxes.

As he is elected, he said he hopes to be appointed to the Agriculture, Education, Prison and either Transportation or Wildlife and Parks committees..

As far as agriculture, he has an interest as well as a son-in-law and friends involved in farming. If I have questions concerning agriculture, he said, all I have to do is pick up the phone and call them.

He has spent 40 years in education and has a specialist degree in educational finance from Fort Hays State University. He said that he understands education finance and, having worked in the system, understands what schools need.

I don't want to see programs cut, he said, but I think we can work together and find a way to keep programs like music, art and other programs that small schools are trying to maintain.

While he has been on the campaign trail, he has learned a lot about the prison located in Norton. That prison, he said, employees 247 people and Northwest Kansas needs to keep it.

If he is elected, he plans to let people know, in plain, easy-to-understand letters and news col-

umns, what is going on in Topeka and how it will affect the people out in Northwest Kansas.

He also thinks that legislators from the eastern part of the state need to know Northwest Kansas. He has invited 20 legislators to come hunt in this area.

"I told them there has to be 20 of them and I will find them a place to stay and a place to hunt," he said.

And, while they are out here, he said, I'm going to make sure they see how their food is produced, how our schools, health facilities and communities are surviving and the great quality of life in rural Kansas.

Mr. Cassidy is employed through the Northwest Kansas Educational Center, and works as a counselor in St. Francis. He started his career in 1970 as a teacher, then 6 years later, began counseling. He was a principal in the St. Francis high school from 1981 to 2000.

Besides having a specialist degree in education finance, he has a master's in administration and counseling. He spent three years on the advisory board for the Kansas State High School Activities Association; eight years on the board of Secondary School Principals; was Area Principal of the Year in 1989 and a motivational speaker from 1991 to 2000.

He and his wife, Gloria, have two daughters, Penny and Jenny, who live with their families in St. Francis. They have six grandchildren who attend the St. Francis schools.

Get out and vote!

Mr. Cassidy urges everyone to "get out there and vote on Nov. 2!"

"We, in Northwest Kansas, have the best people and a lifestyle that we have worked hard for," he said. "Let's fight to keep it that way."

CHOOSE

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done. If elected, he said, he will try to get something done about the state's roads.

Mr. Strevey serves on the board of the U.S. 36 Highway Association. He said the state has a good transportation plan right now. The association has plans for U.S. 36 to become a four-lane road, he said, and he wants to see that worked on.

It's also important to take care of money for the schools. Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican candidate who is the likely next governor, is pushing hard for cuts in government, said Mr. Strevey. What he is really talking about is cutting back on money for schools. Sen. Brownback, said Mr. Strevey, also favors giving state money for vouchers for private schools.

Mr. Strevey said he's not sure how much he could do to keep school money in place, but he would "stand up and holler."

Having worked at the prison in Norton, both in the education department and as a volunteer, he said, he is also interested in seeing that the state keeps its facilities and does not move to privatize them.

The prisons are overcrowded, he said. A No. 1 problem is that programs that make money are being made the priority, not the security of the state.

Mr. Strevey said he has a long background in education, with 31 years as a teacher in area schools, including Norcat, Selden and Grainfield. He said he lives on the family farm south of Norcat with his wife Muriel and continues to grow crops.

Mr. Strevey said his home is in Norcat. If elected, he said, he has no plans to move east to Topeka. When someone is elected to a position like this, he said, it's more of a second job. The House isn't in ses-

sion all year.

Since wearing his hat in the ring, Mr. Strevey said, he has visited people in the five counties of the district, Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips. He's put up yard signs, handed out fliers, used local advertising and taken part in the town parades he could make it to.

Mr. Strevey said he considers the ability to run for office a privilege. It's a privilege, he said, to be part of the process.

He added that he urges everyone to get out and vote on Tuesday so that they, too, can be part of the process.

VOTE

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1st District.

• Sam Brownback and Jeff Colyer, Republicans; Tom Holland and Kelly Kultala, Democrats; Kenneth W. Cannon and Daniel J. Raublon, Reform Party; and Andrew P. Gray and Stacey Davis, Libertarians; for governor and lieutenant governor.

• Chris Biggs, Democrat; Kris Kobach, Republican; Derek Langseth, Reform; and Phillip Horatio Lucas, for secretary of state.

• Derek Schmidt, Republican; Steve Six, Democrat; and Dennis Hawver, Libertarian; for attorney general.

• Ron Estes, Republican; and Dennis McKinney, Democrat, for state treasurer.

• Sandy Praeger, Republican, for commissioner of insurance.

• Robert Strevey, Democrat, and Ward Cassidy, Republican, for state representative in the 120th District of northwest Kansas.

• Sally Cauble, Republican, for state Board of Education in the 5th District.



AARON BLAIR, St. Francis Webelo Scout, had the opportunity to see what it was like to shoot a machine gun at the Boy Scouts of America weekend held in Hays.

Webelo attends celebration

St. Francis Webelo Scout, Aaron Blair, was among 2,500 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scout leaders who attended the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in Hays the weekend of Oct. 8 - 10.

Aaron says he really likes being a Scout and going to the celebration in Hays was the best. He was able to participate in many of the activities but some of the things that impressed him was being able to shoot a machine gun (it wasn't loaded, he said). He got to ride in a U.S. Army Hummer with a gun and also in an Army tank.

The Salina Fire Department's Fire Safety House had demonstrations and Aaron said he had

learned that it is best to go out a window if there is a fire. "Don't open the door," he said.

An Army helicopter landed near the stadium and brought the Eagle Scouts who presented the American and the Kansas flags. While the flags were being presented, the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Law, and the Cub Scout Promise.

Other activities he said he enjoyed were throwing the hatchet, learning about branding and metal crafting. There were also demonstrations of professional BMX biking. Aaron was excited that he was able to get autographs of some of the BMX riders.


There were campers from the

32 counties in the Coronado Area Council, the organizers of the event. There were more than 100 activities and events throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, Aaron and his parents attended the concert headlined by 2009 "American Idol" finalist and country music recording star Danny Gokey and popular teen actress/singer Jennette McCurdy.

It was a fun time for Aaron as well as all the other Scouts, said Kris Blair, Aaron's mother. It's something he will remember the rest of his life.

Aaron is the son of Dan and Kris Blair, St. Francis, and a member of the Pack 120. This year, he is a "Webelo."



Bob Strevey


for
State Representative
District 120

FOR

- Funding roads and public schools
- Meeting SRS needs
- A balanced budget
- Pro-life, pro-family
- Support 2nd Amendment
- Funding KPERS
- Wind energy development

AGAINST


- School vouchers
- Changing the school finance formula
- Private prisons
- Borrowing to finance government
- Ending water pollution controls



**Paid for by Bob Strevey

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