

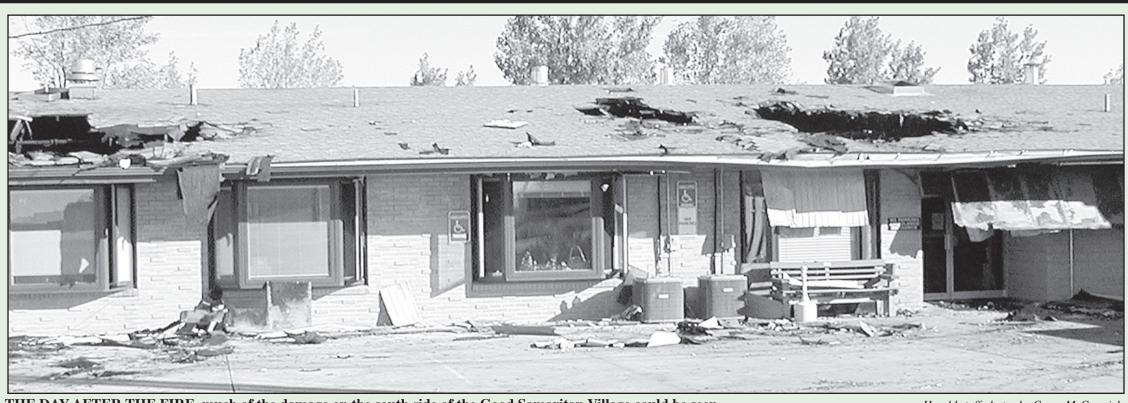
# The Saint Francis Herald

\$1 (Tax included: 73¢ delivered at home)

54 Pages Including Special Section

Thursday, October 28, 2010

126th Year, Number 43



THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE, much of the damage on the south side of the Good Samaritan Village could be seen.

Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

# Nursing home future still unsure after fire

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com It has been about a week since the fire at the Good Sabeen made on the future of the nursing home.

Rumors have ranged anywhere from razing the burned area and rebuilding, to not re-

Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator, told the Village Advisory Board on Thursday that he had not heard of any plans for the Good Samaritan Society, leave the county. The insurance carrier organized the cleanup of the facility and equipment. A local contractor, Travis Milne, and west sides. The Society under control. was also sending a staff construction engineer to assess the

was almost full with 48 resi-

dents before the fire. Residents were located in other nursing homes. The Roberts twins, Royce and Russell, residents at maritan Village, St. Francis, the Village for over 36 years, started but no decisions have were moved to Sharon Springs where they celebrated their 80th birthday. One of their caretakers, Gloria Bracelin, said they were adjusting well to their new surroundings.

Cheryl Lee, Home Health director, had arrived at the high school gymnasium shortly after residents had been moved there. She reported that each resident was carefully checked and delocated in Sioux Falls, S.D., to spite their fragile bodies, not one resident had a skin tear.

Shane Guggemous, chief of police, said he had gone to the high school expecting chaos but had been hired to wall off the was happy to find the residents burned area on both the east doing well and everything was

Mr. Paulsen said the state fire marshall, who was on the scene when the fire occurred, The St. Francis nursing home commended Jannelle Bow-

See FIRE on Page 9A

### Forum time set

By Casey McCormick

scmccormick@nwkansas.com Community members from the county gathered Monday morning to discuss bringing people together with information about the status ers from the facility. of the Good Samaritan Village in the aftermath of last week's fire.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the St. Francis high school auditorium.

S.D., have been contacted and will ing asked. have a representative present.

and individuals from Bird City operation here. and St. Francis were at the Monday meeting

Several of the employees held to speaking about how they are community support."

coping and what their concerns are for the future.

'We've lost a family of 64 members," said Janet Siegfried in reference to the number of work-

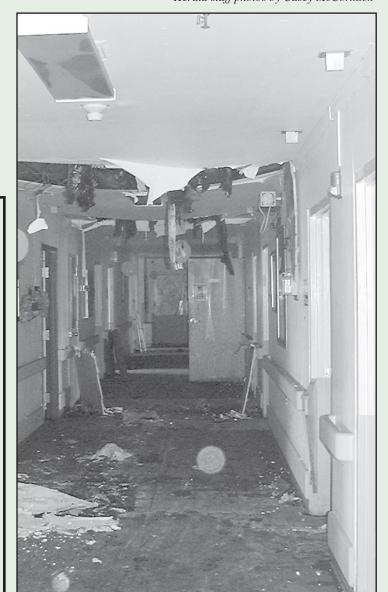
"We are not doing well and the longer we wait (to reopen) there The group will host a forum on will not be the same residents or employees coming back."

The forum is hoped to better educate the public on the status of The head offices of the Good the Village. It should also provide Samaritan Village, in Sioux Falls, answers to the many questions be-

A suggestion that came from the Members of the Good Samari- meeting was to have county resitan Village Advisory Board and dents sign a petition of support to employees, Community Builders rebuild the structure and keep the

> One of the Advisory Board members present was Troy Hilt.

"We don't know what is going back their emotions when it came to happen, but we can show our



AFTER THE FIRE, this photo showed some of the damage to the hallway at the Village.

Man runs

CONGRESSMAN JERRY MORAN talks with Village employees, Darla Walz, I to r, Deb Gohl, Paula Austin and Cathy Loop. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

#### Candidate talks with victims

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com Congressman Jerry Moran was in St. Francis Monday morning to observe the damage done by fire at the Good Samaritan Village. He met briefly with Jeff Paulsen, administrator, as well as some staff.

He had heard reports on the fire and how the staff had responded. He reassured employees that he will look into what can be done to help them.

 $Darla\,Walz, employee, referred\,to$ the employees' situation as a "small

He commended the way the St. Francis community had come together in a difficult situation. It is good, he said, to live our lives

in special places we call home and see people helping people. Congressman Moran, along with Mr. Paulsen and Ward Cassidy, can-

didate for representative of the 120 cause of the fire. district, met with Sandy Sandoval, federal fire investigator for the Village's insurance company. Wearing hard hats, the three men followed Mr. Sandoval into the burned area of the facility where they looked at the damage.

When the fire started, a sub contractor's crew was spraying insulation, a product called SoyTherm. The two part component that is mixed and sprayed on, forming a foam that expands in seconds. Mr. Sandoval said the insulation forms filled several times. a vapor which could be volatile.

for the preliminary walk around and it would be one to two weeks before all interested parties including two to remove people living in the apartother insurance company representatives would meet. He said elecin to help determine the origin and cern.

George Harper, St. Francis fire chief, said he was proud of the work the firemen did. There was no way, he said, that firemen could have gone up into the attic so they were forced to put holes in the roof to get rid of the heat and stop the fire.

Backup water supplies had been called for but were not used, he said. It had taken the firemen about four hours to contain the fire. Their Scott Pak bottles used for oxygen were depleted and needed to be

There was little wind which Mr. Sandoval said he was there helped the situation, he said. Had the wind had been blowing from the south, it would have been necessary ments to the north of the facility.

No one was hurt, Chief Harper trical engineers will also be called said, and that was the main con-

## Meet the candidates

#### Man runs because he cares

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com Republican Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, is running for a seat in the House of Representative of the 120th District in the Nov. 2 general election. His opponent is Democrat, Robert "Bob" Strevey, Norcatur.

Mr. Cassidy is concerned about schools, highways/ transportation, ethanol development and agriculture, just to name a few.

"The bottom line is," he said, "I care about what affects Northwest Kansas and it's people.

"If we don't stand up to protect our Northwest Kansas way of life, we will have to take what is dished out and I don't plan to stand by and let that "Everyone needs to work together to solve prob-

lems. We need to preserve our lifestyle.' He uses the acronym "CAVE," which he said

stands for communication, availability, visibility and revey, makes it difficult for anyone to get anything

**See CARES on Page 9A** 

American Legion Hall. Benkel- county commissioner in District



so people can choose



By Kimberly Davis

k.davis@nwkansas.com A Norcatur Democrat seeks to serve the 120th

District in the Kansas House of Representatives. Robert "Bob" Strevey has run for the post in three previous elections, with this one being his fourth

In each of those, he's run unopposed in the primary, and then met the Republican candidate in the general election. This year, Mr. Strevey will met Ward Cassidy from St. Francis, who beat long-time

Rep. John Faber in the GOP primary. Mr. Strevey said part of the reason he runs is because he feels people have a right to have a choice when they go to the polls. Without a name on the ballot for the Democrat party, he said, there's not a

The environment in Topeka right now, said Mr. St-

See CHOOSE on Page 9A

#### Get out and vote on Tuesday

Kansas voters get the chance man, Calhoun, Cleveland Run, No. 1. Mr. Ketzner. Bird City, is eral and more when they cast their ballots in the general election.

In Cheyenne County, all of the tion officer, said as of Tuesday polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., allowing registered voters the chance to help decide

who will serve. Those polling places include

Tuesday to decide who will serve Jaqua, Orlando, Wano I, and Wano as senator, governor, attorney gen- II Townships will vote at Peace Lutheran Church.

Clerk Terry Miller, county elecmorning, 106 walk-in ballots had been cast and 86 ballots had been

sent out. The advanced voting ends at noon on Monday, Nov. 1. Incumbent Ernie Ketzner, Dem-Bird City Township-Bird City ocrat, is seeking re-election for

finishing up his first term. Others on the ballot include:

• Jerry Moran, Republican; Lisa Johnston, Democrat; Joseph K. Bellis, Reform Party; and Michael Wm. Dann, Libertarian, for the

U.S. Senate. • Tim Huelskamp, Republican, Fowler; Alan Jilka, Democrat, Salina; and Jack Warner, Libertarian, for US. representative for the

See VOTE on Page 9A