



FORMER VILLAGE RESIDENTS, Owen Morrow and Bob Morrell (in wheelchairs) were welcomed home by the Village staff Monday morning. Staff pictured (l to r) are Janet Siegfried, Deb Gohl, Paula Austin, Sherri Hilt and Darla Walz.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Residents return to red-carpet welcome

By Karen Krien

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They're coming home!

The first two former residents arrived at the Good Samaritan Village on Monday. Owen Morrow and Bob Morrell received the red-carpet treatment as they entered the Village after living in the Goodland Good Samaritan nursing home since Oct. 19 fire.

The west wing of the nursing home has been renovated and will

have 22 beds available for residents. The nurses' old break room will now be used as an office for the director of nurses, Janet Siegfried; social services director, Sherri Hilt; and Jeff Paulsen, administrator. Resident rooms on the south end of the wing have been turned into a temporary kitchen, dining and therapy rooms.

The Good Samaritan Society plans to turn a portion of the burned middle area into a dining

room and a corridor will run the length of the wing, once again connecting the kitchen, lounge and therapy rooms on the east. By the first of May, the temporary dining, kitchen and therapy will be changed back to resident rooms adding beds for 10 more residents, making the total 32.

The fire

The Village fire on Oct. 19 could have been devastating, said Jeff Paulsen, administrator, had it

not been for the calm command of Mrs. Siegfried.

Mr. Paulsen was out of town attending a Society meeting when the fire started. Mrs. Siegfried said lunch had just ended and the fire marshal had walked in shortly before. He and Dennis Merklin, maintenance man, were getting ready to do some inspections. Insulation work was being done by contractors when one of the men called out that there was a fire in the attic.

Cathy Loop, activities director, pulled the fire alarm and Mrs. Siegfried announced that it was not a drill. The fire marshal timed the removal of the patients at 4 minutes.

If there is a good time to have a fire, this might have been it. Mrs. Siegfried said most of the residents were still in their wheelchairs from lunch, and the next round of staff was coming on duty. The day was a warm autumn day

so the residents were moved outside without coats.

Drills are mandatory and Mrs. Siegfried said they always carried out the drills, even the state tornado drills.

Mrs. Siegfried made a call to the school and within minutes, the school's activity bus was at the Village to take residents back to the high school gym. Emergency medical personnel on site, clinic

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Weather observer honored

The National Weather Service in Goodland, presented a 15-year Length of Service Award to Kathy Woodcox, St. Francis, on Feb. 22.

There are approximately 11,000 cooperative weather observers in the United States. Each year, the National Weather Service presents Length of Service awards to selected cooperative weather observers. These service awards are presented after 10 years of service and then every five years thereafter.

Mrs. Woodcox has been observing temperature and precipitation since February 1996, which amounts to over 5,400 weather observations.

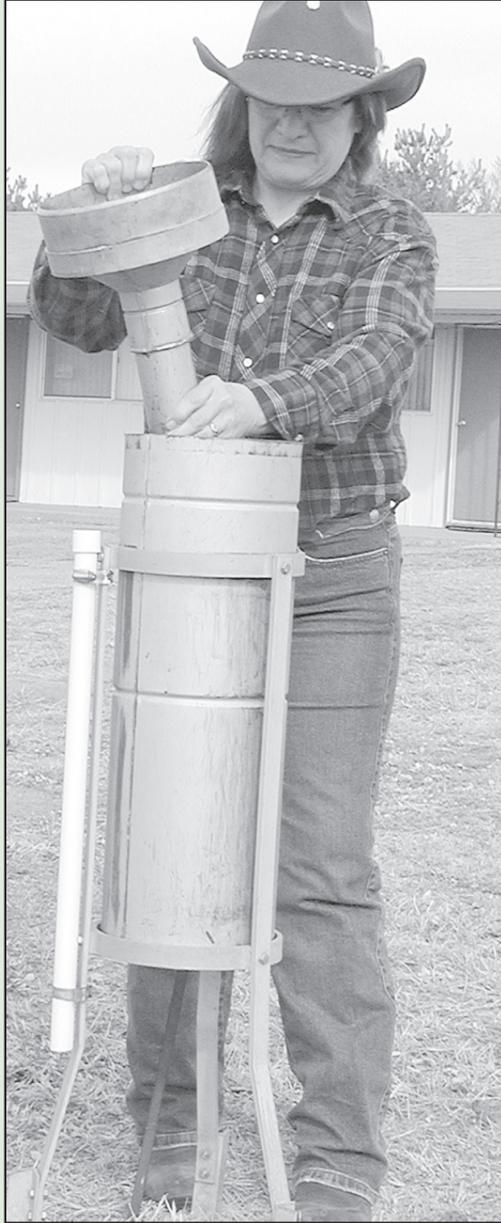
For the last 15 years, Mrs. Woodcox has also been the official weather observer for The Saint Francis Herald. She said she always makes sure either her mother or a brother is around to read the weather when she is out of town.

The temperature and precipitation data are found monthly in Climatological data, which is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Climatology records are compiled using information from weather observing sites supervised by the National Weather Service and received at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

The award was presented by Michael Lammers, Observing Program Leader.

CHANGING EQUIPMENT — Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, gets ready to put in the equipment for reading rainfall in the spring and summer.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Bed races set for Saturday

By Karen Krien

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The St. Patty bed races are set for 2 p.m. on Saturday at St. Francis. Everyone is urged to come to Sawhill Park and support their favorite bed racers.

While it will be held two days after St. Patrick's Day, there will be several St. Patrick's events connected with the race.

Uptown Market, which is near Sawhill Park, is selling corn beef sandwiches, Irish potato salad, cookie and drink. Customers can also order sandwiches off the menu.

St. Francis businesses are urged to have "green" sales to bring people to their stores before and after the races.

Joyce Russ is the coordinator of the bed races. The fee to enter

is a canned or boxed food item from each participant or \$1. All donations will be given to the local Food Pantry. Entries must be completed 30 minutes prior to the race. A trophy will be given to the first place team and a traveling trophy will also be given for display.

There was no deadline for registration — just show up on Saturday. Mrs. Russ said she has heard of five teams planning to compete and she is hoping that some of the Bird City bed racers will join the fun and competition.

To be a racer, there needs to be a bed that moves on wheels. A team is formed, the bed is constructed and brought to the park on race day. Each team is comprised of five people (four for pushing and one for riding). The rider, generally a light-weight person, is pushed to

the end of the block where he/she puts on a two-piece pajama, then rides back to the finish line. This could be a wild ride!

The winners will not only receive a trophy (plastic bed pan) but will also be treated to age-appropriate drinks at Diamond R Bar and Grill.

Diamond R is also holding a double elimination one-man teams pool tournament on Saturday. Registration is at 3:30 p.m. and there will be a draw for bracket placings.

Volunteers are needed for official timers and bed setters as well as collecting the food items. To volunteer or get more information, contact Mrs. Russ at 785-332-2118 or go to jeruss@eaglecom.net for entry forms and a waiver of liability form.

120th District representative applauds state fire marshal

Kansas House of Representative Ward Cassidy, Republican from St. Francis, applauded the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office for its willingness to work with him in resolving issues surrounding enforcement of new fire codes on existing buildings.

At issue was Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office enforcement of fire codes on older buildings. Kansas statute provides older buildings not in strict compliance could remain in service so long as the buildings were not determined to be "a distinct hazard to life and property (KSA 31-133 c.)"

Rep. Cassidy said the previous

Kansas State Fire Marshall's Office administration overlooked that exception to the law and "over-enforced" the new fire codes, issuing numerous citations to schools, nursing homes and other businesses located in older buildings.

"This was an important fix. We have schools and local businesses already struggling to make ends meet, and these interpretations make that difficult," Rep. Cassidy said. "Trying to retrofit an older building to meet the new codes was costing them thousands of dollars. These are not dangerous buildings and we shouldn't be forcing an unfunded mandate on

them to update."

Rep. Cassidy joined with other lawmakers to meet with Acting Fire Marshall Doug Jorgensen regarding these concerns and was pleased with his willingness to assist.

"Acting Fire Marshall Jorgensen listened to our concerns and has agreed to have his office review all citations issued to school districts during the last 18 months. We truly appreciate his common-sense approach, one that is reflected throughout Governor Brownback's administration," Rep. Cassidy said.

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