



Volunteer of month from Oakley

Josie West of Oakley was named the volunteer of the month for March by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

At 92, West spends three days each week, as well as some weekends and holidays, volunteering at the long-term care facility at Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. In the summer, she drives the 80 miles roundtrip herself, and nurse Wendy

Schmidt, West's neighbor, drives her on bad weather days.

West also volunteers one day each week in Colby and delivers Meals on Wheels in Oakley on Saturdays and Sundays.

Michelle Haflinger said many of the Gove County Medical Center's residents do not realize West is older than they are. "You hear our residents tell Josie 'wait until your my age' and Josie just laughs and says 'I'll never be that young again!' She is a real spitfire and we just don't know what we'll do without her if that day ever comes."

In addition to her volunteer work, Josie is the president of the Daughters of Isabella at her church, where she has been active for 70 years, and bowls three times a week, of-

ten traveling to state bowling tournaments to compete.

West was nominated by personnel from Gove County Medical Center and honored as the department's volunteer of the month at a ceremony on May 1 at the hospital.

Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services Commissioner on Aging Craig Kaberline presented West with a certificate of appreciation, a \$20 Walgreens gift card and a \$50 check from the department.

The award was a surprise to West who said, "I have always liked older people, ever since I was a little kid. I'd just as soon work or volunteer as go on vacation. It keeps me young."

Josie West shook hands with Commissioner on Aging Craig Kaberline.

Camel-child meet closeup

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A 3-year-old Olathe girl is ready to return to a Springfield animal park, where her close encounter with a camel brought her family national attention.

Aliyah Inzer was visiting the Wild Animal Safari near Springfield recently with her parents, Tyler and Marcie Inzer, and her baby sister. People feed the animals as they drive through the park, and Aliyah was sitting on her dad's lap handing out treats.

One camel, not satisfied with the treats he got, stuck his head completely into the family's car and briefly put his mouth on Aliyah's head.

The parents reacted quickly, with Tyler Inzer pushing the camel away from his daughter, KCTV5 reported (bit.ly/16oaYUE).

Aliyah thought it was funny and started giggling and the parents played along to keep her calm.

When the ornery camel decided to try to squeeze into the car and get all the way into the passenger seat where Marcie Inzer was sitting the family drove away.

"Then he started chasing the car, which got us laughing even more," Marcie Inzer said.

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