

Seniors can tour Paris from office chair

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
Nursing home residents can now travel the world, ride a bicycle through the woods, race an 18-wheeler, watch favorite television shows from their younger years and watch a slide show of their lives, all from an office chair.

The Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, with help from several donors, spent \$18,000 on a high-powered computer system with software, high-speed Internet access, a steering wheel for race games, a cycle for exercise, a projector and keyboards with large letters so residents can stay mentally and physically active and do some of the things they always wanted.

The center calls it a "resident-centered activity department" program, said Administrator Rick Reeser, and the name of the software is "It's Never 2 Late." People can use the program to take several virtual trips, to the mountains of Colorado, Hawaii or Paris, among others. By moving the mouse, they can have a 360-degree panoramic view of their surroundings, even view the Eiffel Tower from underneath.

Good Samaritan staff can make slide shows of activities, such as the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair and birthday parties, and of the residents' lives, which they can watch either on a monitor or projected onto a big screen.

Residents have touch-screen access to the Internet and e-mail. To access their favorite web sites, they only have to touch a picture of themselves on the screen and then touch a picture of what the site is about. The computer can help them send interactive e-mail.

The center has had the computer a few months, Reeser said, and the staff is still trying to learn all of the



Rick Reeser (left), administrator at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center, demonstrated Tuesday how one of the virtual tours of Paris works on the center's new computer with "It's Never 2 Late" software. Myrna Kelley (above), a resident, touches a picture on the screen to open her favorite horse program.
Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

things it will do. They can hook it up to an exercise cycle, he said and work with either their arms or legs. The screen will show them biking through a forest, he said, or they can enjoy being in a car race. They have a steering wheel, he said, and the faster they pedal, the faster the car goes.

The idea, he said, is to give the residents diversity and exercise.

They can play games like "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy," watch old television programs, look up and watch moments from history and even look up religious information, he said, such as the Lord's Prayer, the 10 Commandments and sections of the Bible. The computer gives them pictures and soothing music, he said, along with texts from the Bible, such as the beati-

tudes.

The staff can scan in pictures of a resident's life, Reeser said, and do a "This is Your Life" type of thing and put it on a compact disk for them.

"I had seen this type of thing at funerals," he said, "and thought it was neat to learn that but it would have been nice to know sooner. I would have known what to talk to

them about and what they're interested in."

Several residents can watch the presentation, he said, and get to know the person better.

Reeser learned about the program when he took over as administrator at the St. Francis Good Samaritan Center at the first of the year. The previous administrator had set up the program there, and Reeser

thought it would be good to have in Goodland.

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society encourages getting things like this for the residents if the center can afford it, Reeser said; it took a step of faith to do it, but it's paid off. A lot of the cost was the software, he said; it has tremendous capabilities, and the computer has a lot of memory.

Woman fined for fatal accident

A Colby woman has pleaded no contest the deaths of two Colby people who died in a traffic accident almost a year ago in return for having charges reduced from vehicular homicide to a traffic violation.

As part of the plea agreement, Dawnelle L. Umberger, 34, pleaded no contest Aug. 21 to a traffic violation in Thomas County District Court.

Umberger's plea has the same effect as a guilty plea to failing to yield the right-of-way to Roger L. Blau and Roberta Casey in an accident Oct. 1, 2005.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Blau and Casey were riding a motorcycle north on Range Avenue at 8:30 p.m. near College Drive.

State troopers said the accident happened when the driver of the Excursion, Umberger, made a left turn into the Colby Bowl and Fun Center in front of the 2003 Yamaha motorcycle,

which was headed north. The motorcycle struck the left front corner of the vehicle, killing both riders, the Kansas Highway Patrol reported.

Troopers said they weren't certain whether Blau was wearing a helmet but did say his passenger, Casey, was not. Umberger and her passenger in the Excursion both were wearing seat belts.

Umberger was originally charged with two counts of vehicular homicide and one traffic violation. As part of the plea agreement, Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick asked District Magistrate Judge Richard Ress to dismiss the vehicular homicide charges with prejudice, meaning they cannot be filed again.

Colby lawyer Todd Stramel represented Umberger, who was ordered by Ress to pay a fine of \$60 and court costs of \$117 for failure to yield.

Two people called by phone scammers

At least two Goodland senior citizens were saved from losing their money to a "bank security" phone scam this week, Goodland police said Thursday morning.

Sgt. Greg Kroskey said two banks called saying they had customers who were being asked to give out their bank account information over the phone.

"The people on the phone were saying they were doing a security fraud check," Kroskey said, "and asking for the bank account information."

"A couple did give their information, but they called their bank and the bank employees were able to stop any loss."

Kroskey said all the people ap-

proached were seniors who receive Social Security checks at the beginning of the month. A couple of the people called were asked for their Social Security numbers, he said.

"They did not give those out," Kroskey said, "and one said they were going to call the police. The caller hung up."

He said an e-mail received at one of the banks warned about a similar scam where the caller is saying they need the bank account information to remove it from a public access list.

"Bank accounts and Social Security numbers are not public information," Kroskey said. "You should never give those out over the phone to someone you do not know."

correction

The listing of freshman members of the Cowgirls volleyball team on Page 10 of Tuesday, Aug. 29, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* was short one name. The name of Katie Clancy was missing. This was a reporting error.

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The Goodland Star-News will

correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

New Listing 811 Eustis \$59,500

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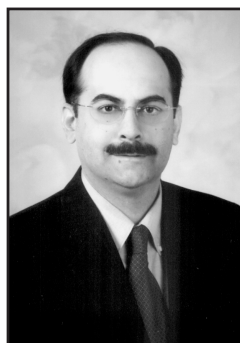
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Hays Medical Center

WELCOMES

Adeel Pervez, M.D.
to Pulmonology Associates
of Hays

Dr. Pervez completed his Internal Medicine Residency and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Dr. Pervez has also completed a fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Pervez is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Pervez is accepting appointments for pulmonary and sleep disorder patients beginning September 11th at Pulmonology Associates of Hays.

Please welcome Dr. Pervez and his family to Hays!

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