



Nursing home construction nearing end

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

It has been over a year since the October 2010 fire at the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village and end of the renovation can be seen. If plans go as scheduled, the Good Samaritan Society will have the nursing home completely renovated within a few weeks.

Thursday, Leonard Kemnitz, construction design engineer with the Good Samaritan Society's national campus, was on site with his clip board to go over the work done by Altman Charter's project engineer, Eddie Stechsultze. Altman Charter, St. Louis, Mo., is the company hired to do the renovation.

Jeff Paulsen, St. Francis Village administrator, said before the inspection was made, that the contractors still had a number of jobs to finish and Mr. Kemnitz's "punch list" would probably be long but it was a start.

As Mr. Kemnitz toured the facility, there were painters finishing up last minute jobs, the double-entry on the south was still needing glass in the doors, and there were some wires hanging which would be enclosed later.

However, looking past the work that needed to be done, the facility appearance will be nice and bright. On the west end of the middle area which was closed because of the fire damage, three large private rooms have been made. Each room has its own walk-in shower and a large closet. The paint colors on the wall are pleasing and coordinate with other colors used throughout the facility.

Connecting the west side to the activities, kitchen and dining rooms is a wide hall with windows along the north side.

There are three offices on the east end of the section along with a restroom for visitors. The beauty shop, located in the west wing,



JULIE WILKENS, beautician, was able to give perms and fix hair when the Village beauty shop was opened on Thursday. Pictured, l to r, are Helen Love and Alice Isernhagen.

had been partially closed because of the construction but is now open. Julie Wilkens, hairdresser, on Thursday, was busy working the residents in.

The same type of carpet runs throughout the remodeled west wing as well as the hallway, private rooms and offices.

The plans, Mr. Paulsen said, are to have the whole facility back up and running by the first of February. The temporary offices set up in the activity room will be removed, the dining room will be

up and ready for residents, and the therapy room will once again be occupied. Walls and ceilings have been painted, a hole in the floor will be repaired, and, lots of cleanup will be done.

While the construction was underway, four resident rooms had been utilized for dining and kitchen area. There was room for only 22 residents in the west wing. When the newly renovated part is open and the dining/kitchen rooms put back to the kitchen area on the east side, the nursing home will



INSPECTION OF VILLAGE REMODELING was done Thursday. Pictured, l to r, are Don Post, site supervisor, Altman Charter; Jeff Paulsen, Village administrator; Eddie Stechsultze, project engineer, Altman Charter, and Leonard Kemnitz, engineer, Good Samaritan Society.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

have beds for 34 residents.

The waiting list for those needing to move to the nursing home has been long since the fire. Having 10 more rooms will help not

only those needing the facility but also employ more staff, help the hospital and clinic as well as the businesses downtown St. Francis. **Open house**

An open house will be held in February and people are urged to come tour the nursing home. Look for more information at a later date.

Postage costs on the rise

Beginning Jan. 22, people will be paying a penny more to mail letters to any location in the United States. It will be the first price change for First-Class stamps (Forever stamps) in more than two and a half years. However customers can continue to mail letters at today's prices by purchasing their forever stamps before Jan. 22.

"Forever stamps were created to help consumers ease the transition during price changes," said Dewayne Lalicker, St. Francis Postmaster.

The new single-piece first class mail pricing, effective Jan. 22, include:

- Letters (1 oz.) 1-cent increase to 45 cents.
- Letters additional ounces-unchanged at 20 cents
- Postcards 3-cent increase to 32 cents
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1ozx.) -5 cent increase to 85 cents
- Letters to other international destinations - 7-cent increase to \$1.05

Prices also will change for other mailing services, including standard mail, periodicals, package services and extra services. While actual percentage price increases for various products and services varies, the overall average price increase across all mailing ser-

vices is capped by law at 2.12 percent, the rate of inflation calculated based on the Consumer Price Index. New for all customers is a 3-month pricing option to rent post office boxes, perfect for people on the move and others who need a box for a short time period.

"The overall price increase is small and is needed to help address our current financial crisis," said Mr. Lalicker.

The price of shipping services will also change on Jan. 22. The overall price change for all shipping services is 4.6 percent, with priority mail prices increasing an average 3.1 percent and express mail prices increasing an average 3.4 percent.

The new prices are available at www.usps.com/new-prices.htm.

On Jan. 22, the postal service will also introduce a new express mail flat rate box. Customers can ship the box for overnight delivery anywhere in the country for one price regardless of weight (up to 70 pounds). The new flat-rate box is priced at \$39.95. Other express mail changes include lower retail prices for half- and one-pound packages and commercial packages to local and close-in areas.

Any questions contact Mr. Lalicker 785-332-2222.

Restaurant owner starts 22nd year in business

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkans.com

Captain Hook's Fine Dining at the intersection of U.S. 36 and K-27, Wheeler, recently began its 22 year of business.

Owner, Pam Hook Bolin, opened the restaurant in 1990. In those days, the door opened at 6 a.m. and closed at 9 p.m. and was open seven days a week. They were long days and long weeks, she said. But, at that time, her dad, Bill Hook, helped her out by opening three days a week.

Dad, she said, enjoyed opening up, drinking coffee with the customers and he was an excellent cook (his experience came from cooking in the Army). While it didn't sound like much, Pam said, it really helped me out. Her mother helped out in the evenings and on holidays.

After 8 years, Pam began closing on Sundays, then 2 years ago, she started closing at 2 p.m.

But, Pam is known for being



See YEAR on Page 5 PAM HOOK talks to a customer while putting dishes up.



SENIOR EDITORS for the 2012 Wigwam read the judge's critique for the 2011 yearbook while looking at the pages remarked on. Front row: Allison Grice, Trista Orth; back row Haley Brown, Caitlin Northrup and Tilyn Bell. Not pictured: Ross Nicklos, Lucas Carmichael and Casey Keller.

Herald photo courtesy of Brenda Day

Sainty yearbook staff earns 'All-Kansas' rating from Kansas Scholastic Press

The St. Francis Community High School staff of the Wigwam yearbook was awarded an All-Kansas rating for their 2010-2011 yearbook, "Leaving Your Mark."

All-Kansas is the highest rating a yearbook can receive from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association. Eighteen books received this honor. One other 2A school, Chase County, was named an All-Kansas book and Saint Francis was the only school west of Phillipsburg to achieve the honor.

"You've done an outstanding job applying your theme in a way that seems to fit the tone

of the school year perfectly," said Judge Jake Palenske. "And you've done an outstanding job communicating that tone in your stories, your headlines and your captions."

Judge Palenske went on to complement the coverage, design and photography of the book on the whole while also noting some areas that needed work.

"Your book has the best academics coverage I think I've seen in a 2A book...ever. It's absolutely amazing," he said, adding, "[your book] is among the best I've seen, especially for a 2A yearbook with well under

150 pages. Keep up the outstanding work!"

"I am so proud of the staff for their outstanding work," adviser Brenda Day said. "Last year's editors Mikaela Grace, Aubree Schlepp and Aly Marin worked hard to lead the staff to achieve the success they earned."

