



MUX JOHNSON, right, tells Cathy Loop about his childhood memories.

Herald staff photo by Scott Knebel

Man named resident of the month at nursing home

By Scott E. Knebel

The Good Samaritan Village resident of the month spotlighted Mux Johnson. Mr. Johnson was born Harold Melvin Johnson to Harold and Velta Johnson on Jan. 7, 1932, west of McDonald. Mr. Johnson grew up on the Big Timber north of Bird City, with his brother Merle Johnson and sisters Dorothy Johnson Chipperfield and Deloris Johnson Spike.

He worked on the family farm, milking cows and had various farm chores. One of his many favorite childhood memories was going to the movies on Saturday night in Benkelman. He went to grade school at Pleasant Valley, where his favorite teacher was Oleta Kite, he then graduated from Bird City high school in 1949.

Mr. Johnson met the love of his life while in high school and married Raoma Purvis at the Methodist church in Bird City on July 19, 1952. He and Raoma had three children, Ray Johnson who lives in Bird City, Allan Johnson

of Goodland and Christina who died.

Mr. Johnson admitted that he didn't have any hobbies as he just never found the time. He said he was busy raising a family, farming and driving semi truck for Consolidated Freight. He also was part owner in Johnson Brothers Trucking and the Johnson Brothers Filling station with his brother Merle.

Mr. Johnson did find some time to enjoy the Cheyenne County CB club and his handle was "Short Snort" and his wife Raoma's handle was "Petunia."

You need to work hard to make it in this world said Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson has been a resident of Good Samaritan Village since March of 2012.

Usless Facts

You have read the newspaper and it is ready to be recycled. Here are a few ways to recycle that newspaper:

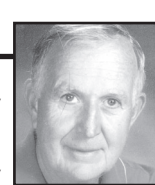
- Dry shoes. Place crumpled paper in them overnight.
- Wrap gifts. Use the comics to wrap a child's birthday gift, or try the wedding announcements for an engagement gift.
- Create a home for slushy snow boots. During the winter, keep a pile of newspaper near the entryway. When your little snowmen

and -women come home, they can toss their winter wear onto the newspaper instead of creating puddles on the floor.

- Prepare a garden. In the fall, mow a patch of lawn to make room for a dedicated bed. Cover it with four layers of newspaper, then a four-inch layer of shredded leaves or bark mulch. Hose it down. Come spring, the compost blanket will have smothered the grass roots, and the bed will be primed for planting.

Legislative News

By Ward Cassidy



120th State Representative

This year, Kansas will spend about \$3.2 billion on Medicaid. With the new KanCare program, the state hopes to save about \$1 billion over five years.

Within KanCare, Kansas has awarded contracts to three Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) – Amerigroup, based in Virginia Beach, Va.; Centene, based in St. Louis; and United Health Care, based in Minnetonka, Minn. Each is charged with building a statewide network of providers for the full range of Medicaid services.

Starting in 2013, each company will be assigned a proportional share of the Kansans in Medicaid, representative of different regions, age groups, and populations, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income children. There is a three-year KanCare contract period.

One way to measure the financial performance of a managed care organization is to determine how much of its revenue is used to pay for health care services. This is known as the health benefits expense ratio. Each of the three managed care organizations selected for KanCare contracts reported a health benefits expense ratio as part of its financial report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

These three companies' ratios range from 81 cents to 85 cents of every premium dollar going to pay for health services. The remainder is used for administrative costs and company profit. Kansas did not specify a specific ratio these companies must achieve during the KanCare three-year contract.

Nursing homes that have not contracted with a care manager may continue to have residents' bills paid for up to a year after Jan. 1, so the residents aren't tossed out if they are living in a facility that isn't now a contracted provider with any of Kansas' managed care organizations.

Statewide meetings will be starting soon, and there will be an attempt to answer the many questions Kansans have about this new program. I have volunteered to serve on a legislative oversight committee if there is a decision to have one.

New hunting/fishing license requirements

There was legislation passed last year requiring Kansas resident hunters and anglers age 65-74 to purchase hunting and fishing licenses. Before this law res-

idents 65 and older were exempt from fishing and hunting license requirements. However, hunters and anglers 65 and older are our fastest growing age group, and changes were necessary to ensure federal aid is not lost and to avoid future budget shortfalls.

I feel that it is a small price to pay to insure that my grandchildren will have the same outdoor opportunities that I enjoyed.

The Kansans that already have a Lifetime license will not be affected by the new law – their license is good for the rest of their life.

The licenses will go on sale Dec. 14 and they will be valid for the remainder of this season and all of 2013. The best bargain is the Senior Lifetime Pass, a combination hunting/fishing license good for the rest of the holders life that will cost \$42.50, including vendor and issuance

fees. Residents 65 and older can also opt for an annual fishing or hunting license at half the regular price, \$11.50, or an annual hunting/fishing license for \$20.50. Residents 75 and older are exempt.

A question I have been asked lately is not only about license requirements but if the state is releasing mountain lions. I spoke with the head of the department, Robin Jennison, and asked him if the state of Kansas has ever been involved in the releasing of mountain lions to control our deer population. He responded that has never happened but that private owners have illegally released their mountain lions in the state.

Yard decorations in town disappearing

St. Francis police report Christmas decorations are disappearing out of yards around town.

Terry Zweggardt at Valley and First St., reported numerous items from small gingerbread characters, penguins and a reindeer stable to a life-sized sheep stolen from her yard. She said everything was in place when she went to bed at 11 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2, but Monday, she discovered items missing and it was evident that someone had tried to remove lights from one of the trees.

I just don't understand, she said, as the tears rolled down her face. We try to make this a fun place where people, from children to the older generation, can come and enjoy. We spent hours making this village and then someone takes it. We can't replace it by Christmas.

Mrs. Zweggardt is asking that whoever took the Christmas decorations to bring them back. She doesn't care who it is – just return the items – throw them in the yard – just bring them back, she said. Or else, she said, she is pressing charges when she finds out who it is.

Shane Guggenmos, chief of police, reported there had been a few other Christmas decorations taken from yards.

There was also a report from a citizen that their home was broken into. St. Francis is a quiet little town where there appears to be little going on but that isn't the case. People should lock the doors to their homes and their cars. The St. Francis Police Department and the Cheyenne County Sheriff are regularly patrolling but they need your cooperation and help by playing it safe.



Viaero's Home Phone Service

Price: \$19.95 per month Unlimited In-State Local Calling

Activation Fee (one time): \$25

Long Distance outside local calling area: \$0.10/min

Home Internet	Home Phone	Total	Bundle & Save \$5 by adding a mobile plan!
1Mbps	\$29.95 + \$19.95 =	\$49.90	\$44.90
Fast 2 Mbps	\$39.95 + \$19.95 =	\$59.90	\$54.90
Faster 7 Mbps	\$49.95 + \$19.95 =	\$69.90	\$64.90
Blazing 12 Mbps	\$59.95 + \$19.95 =	\$79.90	\$74.90

For More Information:
Call 1.877.4.VIAERO (1.877.484.2376)
visit www.viaero.com

VIAERO
WIRELESS
no boundaries

Lifeline is a federal government benefit program and only qualified persons may participate. Lifeline service may not be transferred to any other individual. Applicants must present documentation of household income or participation in qualifying programs. Lifeline is only available for one phone line per household, whether landline or wireless.

With Basic Universal Service from Viaero, you get unlimited local calling for \$19.95 per month and nationwide long distance for just 10 cents a minute. Unlimited local calling is subject to a limited home calling area. Calls made to phone numbers outside the home calling area will incur additional toll charges. Contact a sales representative for local calling details. Initial activation and deposit may apply. Compatible equipment required; not yet TTY-compatible. Service is not available in all areas. Prices exclude taxes, assessments, surcharges, operated assisted calls, credit card and toll charges. Additional charges may apply including a regulatory and administrative surcharge. Other restrictions may apply. The information contained herein is subject to change. The applicable rates, terms and conditions of service are contained in a Service Agreement and any Addendums.

Herald And Times Happenings:

FIRST BABY CONTEST



With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

Winter Sports Special Section

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!



To participate in a Special Section contact Tim

The Saint Francis Herald

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —

Bird City Times
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731

Wedding Registry

Bob Sharp & Jean Marie Verde

Wedding Jan. 4, 2013

Schultz's Ltd.
114 W. Washington
St. Francis
785-332-2833

Open Spaces Sports

Watch St. Francis Basketball at Golden Plains Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Live streaming video broadcast

Presented by Open Spaces Sports Inc.

Go online to openspacesports.com Click on "Watch Live & Archived Games" then select "St. Francis vs. Golden Plains 12-18-2012"

Brought to you by these sponsors

St. Francis Herald
Diamond R Grill
Ross Manufacturing
Owens True Value Hardware
Leach Insurance
Republican Valley Veterinary Clinic
Jaqua Abstract
Wheeler Equity - Co-op
Krien Pharmacy
Frewen Insurance Agency
United Methodist Thrift Store

The Sewing Corner
Neitzel Insurance Agency
Cheyenne County Hospital & Clinics
Brices Auto Service
St. Francis Herald
Western Auction & Real Estate
Tri-State Irrigation
Morton Buildings
Western Plains Energy
Western Kansas Farm Credit