

# St. Francis Village reopens, first two return

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, Sherrie 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 Siegfried.

Paulsen was out of town attending a Society meeting when the fire started. 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 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. 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 Siegfried said they always carried out the drills, even the state tornado drills.

Everything went like it was supposed to, Siegfried said. No residents were hurt, not even a skin tear. Two residents went to the hospital because it was better for them, Siegfried said. The rest of the residents were taken to the high school gym.

It wasn't until after she had reached the gym did she think about getting a hold of the Good Samaritan Society. Somehow, she said, the society personnel had gotten the high school phone number and she had a call waiting from them.

The concern and help from people in both communities was fantastic, she said.

We arrived at the high school around 3:30 p.m., she said, and all the residents had been placed in different facilities by 6:30.

### Getting ready

On Friday, many of the staff were on hand, getting the facility ready for the first two patients. The floors were swept, people were working at desks, answering phones, and lining up last minute items needed.

The cooks had a trial run which had worked well (food is prepared in the east kitchen, then brought by carts to the west wing). Deb Gohl, kitchen manager, said the first meal for residents would be glazed meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans and ice cream.

Paulsen said 41 of the original 60 staff will be returning. Full-time staff will have four 8-hour days, part-time staff would have three 8-hour days.

The staff is excited to be back to work, Siegfried said. However, it will be important hours are kept to a minimum as 22 residents are not enough to make the facility pay for itself. It will help when there are 32 residents but, it is still not the 48 residents who lived at the home before the fire.

Siegfried is hoping the county will agree to take over the nursing home, leasing it to the Good Samaritan Society. The society, she said, has invested a lot in equipment and knows all the state and federal rules and regulations. The aides have hand-held electronic charting devices and the nurses are scheduled to have them by this summer. There are new phone and computer systems as well as patient lifts and all the furniture.

While Siegfried is hoping there will never be another fire at the Village, Paulsen said he is confident she would handle the situation well again. "She is a hero!" he concluded.

## Spring brings super moon



The moon was at its closest approach to Earth on Saturday. According to National Aeronautic and Space Agency, Saturday's full moon was the biggest full moon since 1993, reaching its "perigee," the closest approach to earth in its orbit. Perigee moons are 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter than moons on the "apogee" side of the moon's orbit, when it is farthest away from earth the NASA report said. Unfortunately the area around Goodland was cloudy both on Saturday and Sunday when the moon first rose, but the clouds cleared enough later Sunday night to give a photographer a chance to shoot the shining ball. The ideal would have been to catch the moon as it rose and have something such as the Van Gogh painting in the foreground.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Springtime brings thunderstorm, tornado season

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with 13 of those in western Kansas.

He said the warnings are about severe weather, and defining what makes weather events severe he said winds over 60 mph, hail one inch or larger and tornadoes. He said these three things make a thunderstorm a severe one.

He said these events can include heavy lightning and potential flooding, but those do not define a severe storm. He said these do pose a hazard.

The primary time for tornadoes is May to July, he said, and the peak time of day is from 1 to 9 p.m.

He said the Goodland weather service area gets an average of 15 tornadoes and 100 severe wind and other hail events.

He said people who volunteer to assist as weather spotters are en-

couraged to call the weather service with reports of hail 3/4 inch or larger, wind damage or estimated at 60 mph and all tornadoes. He said people should call 1-800-272-7811 and be prepared to tell who they are, what they saw, when it happened, where it was and how long it lasted.

He talked about other events that might be reported such as water over a road. He said the first thing to notice is if the water is standing or rapidly running across the road.

He said flash floods can happen, and any time someone sees running or standing water they should turn around and make sure they are safe. He said the best thing to do is turn around so you don't drown.

The best rule for a tornado, he said, is to get in, get down and cover up. He said the worst thing to do is to go up, and again said it is not a good idea to hide under an overpass.

He said if it hailing people need

to remember that a hail stone of 3 inches is falling at 100 mph. He said it is not a good idea to go out and measure hail until the storm is over.

Foltz said when people see lightning they need to remember it can strike 10 miles from main storm center. He said people can learn about lightning safety at [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov).

Another aspect of thunderstorms is the potential for downburst winds and these can reach high hurricane force in a few seconds.

When one sees a thunderstorm the general storm features are the anvil cloud and the front edge that show organization. The updraft is in the front edge, and the area of interest is near the back where the wall cloud is at the leading edge of the storm outflow and downdraft region.

He said a lot of people mistake scud clouds for funnel clouds, but

said these are cloud fragments that are not attached to the thunderstorm base and lack any organized persistent rotation.

He said a supercell thunderstorm has a persistent mesocyclone and has deep and persistent for tens of minutes. He said such a storm can last for hours, and do usually last for more than half an hour. He said these storms have a 90 percent chance of severe weather and 15 percent produce a tornado.

Foltz encouraged those at the training session to keep watching the sky and report weather events. He said people should develop a tornado plan for home and work - and practice it at least once or twice a year.

He said the weather service is always looking for customer feedback and said he can be contacted at the Goodland office or by e-mail [christopher.foltz@noaa.gov](mailto:christopher.foltz@noaa.gov).

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 142

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