



Wednesday's Halloween parade for Holton's elementary school students was moved indoors due to wasn't enough to keep children from sporting their best costumes for parents, teachers, family members paraded their costumes through the lunch room at Colorado Elementary School; a similar parade was students at Central Elementary School.

Cypress Glen going "green"

By Ali Holcomb

Cypress Glen is one of the first properties in northeast Kansas to go completely "green," and the results are not only benefiting the residents, but the city of Holton as well.

"The amount of energy we're saving can power about three homes in the city," said property manager Ron Sellens. "We're helping the city reduce its demand, as well as the gas company."

The 20-apartment facility for elderly or disabled, low-income residents was purchased by new owners from New York in May. Since then, the facility has been in the process of going "green" through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Green Up" program.

"It took a year and a half to get all the paperwork completed with the government and HUD to begin this process that started Aug. 1," Sellens said. "In four to five months, we will be completely green."

A complete renovation of Cypress Glen, located at 605 Wisconsin, is under way that has

included the installation of 97-percent fuel efficient furnaces and air conditioners, which has resulted in up to a 45 percent reduction in the residents' electric bills so far. A total of 24 pilot lights were removed during this process, he said.

"This summer we reduced our usage of gas by approximately 73 percent," he said. "One of the utility companies sent a serviceman out to check our meter in October to see if it was still working. They thought our meter was broken. I'm actually excited to see gas bills this winter."

On Oct. 9, Sellens completed 20 hours of classes to be certified in the program with HUD.

"HUD just doesn't want you to upgrade your equipment, they want the management to be trained and certified as well," he said. "It's quite an undertaking. I may be the first certified green property manager in northeast Kansas."

The "Green Up" program started two years ago, and Sellens said its taken 18 months to complete various steps for the facility to become green. Those

"steps" have included visits with inspectors, as well as three engineers who drew up the final "green" plan.

"We still have periodic inspections to make sure all the work is being done correctly," Sellens said.

Part of the renovations have included installing new handicap one-gallon flush toilets and showerheads with a two-gallon per minute flow, which Sellens says increases the pressure but decreases water volume. The facility also switched to instant demand hot water heaters for the three-story building.

"There's no reserve to it, and it heats the water instantly," he said. "There is no wasted water. With these changes, we're looking at saving between 12,000 to 15,000 gallons of water per month."

Sellens said those types of reductions have a larger impact within the city.

"To me, this means we can build three new homes in Holton without having to draw any more water from the lake,

Continued to Page 12

First Baptist Church to serve as drop off site for Operation Christmas Child

A small shoebox can have a big impact.

With holiday supplies already covering store shelves, Holton and other Jackson County individuals, families, churches and groups are working to make Christmas a reality for needy kids around the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement.

Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, is ramping up as

needy children overseas.

By using whatever means necessary - trucks, trains, boats, bikes and even elephants - the shoebox gifts will be delivered by Operation Christmas Child to children worldwide. For many children, the shoebox gift will be the first gift they have ever received.

Using a standard size shoebox, anyone can pack a box for a boy or girl. The child's age categories are two to four, five through nine and 10 to 14. The box can be

project costs.

Place a rubber band around each closed shoebox and drop it off at First Baptist Church during the set collection week. Set drop off hours are 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 18 - 23, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, and 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, Nov. 25.

Though the shoebox gifts will often travel thousands of miles Operation Christmas Child offers a way for participants to follow or "track" their box, by using the donation form found at samaritanasnurse.org. Donor