

On schedule

The new \$10 million United Pioneer Home facility should be ready by summer's end

by Mary Stirrat
Leader staff writer

LUCK — Construction of United Pioneer Home's new \$10 million facility is proceeding on schedule, said nursing home Administrator Dan Valentine, with an anticipated move-in either late September or early October.

"Everything is going so smooth," said Valentine. "This project is very blessed."

From the main entrance, with its wraparound porch, to the names given to different areas of the building, comfort and homeyness are evident. Valentine and others have tracked the progress with photos and video, and several short videos have been posted on YouTube.

When opened, the new facility will consist of a 50-bed skilled nursing facility and 16-bed assisted-living area. The two will be joined by an administrative area that includes offices, laundry, therapy, hair salon and chapel.

The design for the skilled nursing facility features two "neighborhoods," called Butternut Place and Harmony



United Pioneer Home Administrator Dan Valentine, left, with project superintendent Carl Brooks, outside the new facility.
- Photos by Mary Stirrat

House. Within each are two "households," with living rooms and fireplaces, dining rooms and wellness centers for exercise and therapy.

Butternut Place and Harmony House are mirror images of each other with a "Main Street" hallway between. The Main Street extends through the administrative area and into the assisted living facility, which will be named Lawson Manor after the historic name for that area of Luck.

Both neighborhoods and the assisted living center are built around an outside courtyard, with resident rooms around the outside providing plenty of natural light in all areas of the building. Each of the rooms, including the four double rooms on the corners, have private bathrooms with plenty of space for maneuvering.

"It's designed for today's nursing-home residents," said Valentine. The current home was built in the 1950s, he noted, when wheelchairs, walkers, electronic devices and other items were not so common.

Groundbreaking for the project was just last September, so the \$10 million project will be completed in about one year.



The kitchen and dining area in the 16-bed assisted-living center features natural light and openness. - Photos by Mary Stirrat



This area will be the therapy room at United Pioneer Home's new facility.



RIGHT: A worker on stilts prepares to do some mudding in the assisted-living area of the new facility. The area consists of 16 private rooms, each with a bathroom. It is being built to accommodate a 16-room addition in the future.



Called Lawson Manor, the assisted-living facility at United Pioneer Home's new building is constructed as a triangle with a courtyard in the middle. The design allows abundant natural lighting, easy walking and convenience for residents, said UPH Administrator Dan Valentine.