

# Heading into the golden years ...

PEG ZAEMISCH  
The Park Falls Herald

PARK FALLS -- Meet Henry.

A gentle soul with a friendly face.

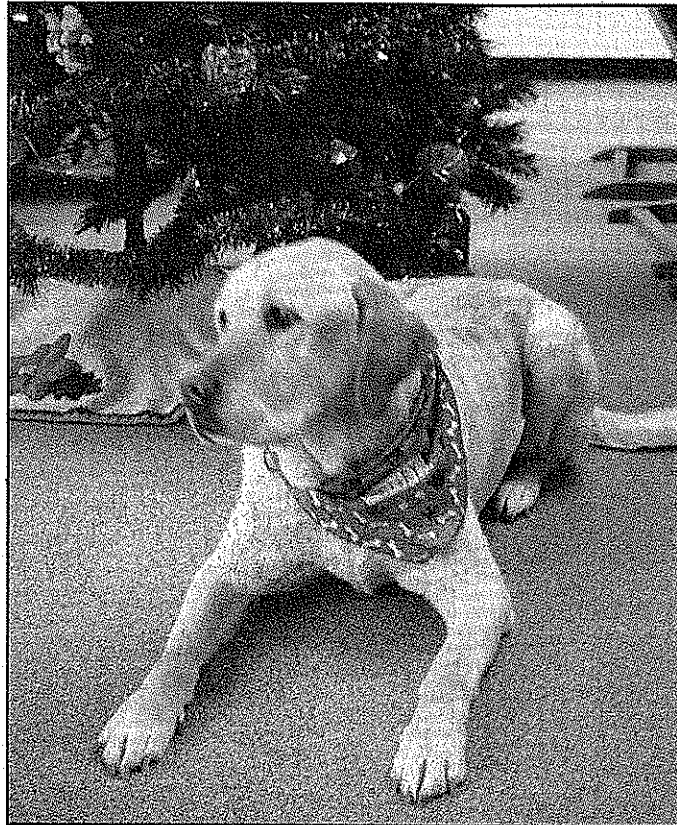
This week officially marked "the golden years" for this golden lab. Henry has moved to Park Manor Nursing Home in Park Falls to begin his "retirement."

For the past 10 years, this big fella has been a service leader dog for a visually impaired resident from Park Falls, and now he has been designated to "take his ease."

After intensive screening and training as a young pup, Henry spent his working life as a leader dog and had been responsible for guiding the journeys of his owner. Henry faithfully led his beloved friend through a world of darkness and kept him from harm's way.

Requirements for leader dogs state that after 10 years of leading, the dog must retire, so a mandatory change of venue for this canine was dictated as his owner waits for a new dog.

"I am sure his owner misses Henry very much," Deb Klatkiewicz, director of personnel and activities at Park Manor, said. "But, we have fallen in love with him here and



Henry is busy stealing the hearts of the residents and staff at Park Manor. He moved to the facility to retire from working as a leader dog after 10 years.

*Park Falls photo by Peg Zaemisch*

we are proud to know that he is a 'local boy.'"

Henry appears to be very happy and healthy. Sure, he has a few grey hairs around his muzzle and favors flopping down for a quick nap -- but he also seems to realize his new mission in life -- making friends with the residents at Park Manor.

"He is a very sweet, outgoing dog and he pretty much has the run of the place," Klatkiewicz said. "Both the staff and residents have all

taken to him. He is great with the residents and he goes around and visits with them very politely."

Except for forbidden meal times and food preparation areas, he can pretty much go where he wishes and nap when he pleases.

"Henry seems to have made it his job to go around and make everyone smile," Klatkiewicz said.

So, maybe this gregarious pooch isn't really done working at all.