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Assisted-living residents sue company

The Associated Press 9/6/07

SALEM — Residents of an assisted-living facility have sued the management company, charging that its admissions agreement misled residents about the number of staff members available to provide daily care.

Two residents of a Sheridan facility operated by Sunwest Management of Salem are named as representative plaintiffs in the suit that seeks class-action status: Cathleen Naylor, 81, and Gwen Olmstead, 80. Fifty residential facilities in Oregon operated by Sunwest

are named in a lawsuit filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

One of the facilities, called Prairie House Assisted Living, is located on Morson Street in La Pine. None of 49 other facilities is located in Central Oregon.

At each facility, according to the lawsuit, residents signed a standardized contract and paid a

monthly fee for personal care and supervision.

Sunwest understaffed the assisted-living homes, the lawsuit says, and "made a considered decision to promote profit at the expense of their contractual and legal obligations to residents."

Sunwest called the lawsuit frivolous and inaccurate.