

Christmas is coming



Judy Vignery got in the holiday spirit by hanging Christmas lights on the roof of her house at 616 Arcade on Monday.
Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Up With People on downward slope

SMITH, from Page 1

Europe and other countries — and interpreters talked over the telephone for three hours Thursday morning about the 35-year-old organization's \$7.8-million debt.

Smith said their only option was to shut down the program and sell the building and 19 acres of land — worth \$9 to \$11 million — at headquarters in Broomfield, near Boulder.

Newspapers around the world reported the unanimous decision on Thursday and today. The board kept a skeleton staff to work on restructuring and could someday put Up With People back in business.

"It's amazing that it is where it is," said Smith of the popular organization that has continued to grow over the years. "It was a very hard decision, but all good things must come to an end."

What disappoints him most, he said,

is that his children, Jessica, 16, and Sage, 12, probably won't be able to share his experience.

"It's just a really sad, unfortunate thing," Smith said, noting that declining show revenues, high turnover in management and more money being spent than came in had led to big losses over the past two years.

Smith said he was his daughter's age when he first saw an Up With People show in Goodland in 1975. The cast and crew have come here many times over the years, staying with "host families" who provide food and shelter.

He said his parents, James and Kay — who still live in Goodland — were hosts and crew members that stayed with his family asked him to interview for a spot.

He was still a senior in high school when he went on the road, Smith said, and the Goodland School Board allowed him to keep a journal of his trip

for credit.

After he graduated in 1977, he said, he returned to Up With People as a staff member for a year, left to attend college in Arizona for two years and then joined up again for the 1979-1980 season.

In the mid-70s, Smith said, young people paid \$7,000 to travel for a year with Up With People — whose cast has performed for kings, queens and the pope and at the Super Bowl and the Kentucky Derby.

Today, he said, they pay \$14,000 and the number accepted each year has risen from 500 to 655.

The board had to make a quick decision, Smith said, because there are hundreds of young people touring in Massachusetts, Denmark, New York, Japan and France who the organization wants to bring home. The directors decided to finish out the year, he said, but Up With People will stop performing in January.

"We need to make sure when the doors close at the end of the month," he said, "that they're home safely and there is money to reimburse some of them who are in the middle of their year."

As for the future, Smith said he and other alumni are keeping hope alive. "This is rallying 20,000 alumni in the world," he said. "Apparently they're all in a state of shock."

Board discusses plane options

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

available in Goodland using a helicopter and a fixed-wing plane to fly patients to hospitals in Denver.

Skyler said if the hospital agreed to sell its plane and transfer the certificate, he could have an air ambulance service in operation within three months. He said it would take four to six months if the hospital kept their plane and the ambulance service was established working under the same certificate.

He said the hospital could see a savings of 10-15 percent over the cost of flying the doctors in the next year and a similar reduction in cost the second year.

"The current airplane is underutilized," Skyler said.

He said he would house a Bell 407 helicopter at Goodland to serve as an air ambulance, and use the airplane as a backup. He said the current plane, a "baby" King Air, is not really adequate for ambulance use, but said it could be used. He was suggesting a Pilatus nine-passenger plane which could carry two liters and three emergency medical people.

The advantage to the helicopter is

that it can fly directly from hospital to hospital, reducing the number of transfers and cutting the time more than in half. He also said the cost of operation would be about 40 percent less than the cost per hour of the hospital's plane.

He agreed the helicopter is not as good in bad weather, which is an advantage of the airplane.

Board member Larry McCants said several of the doctors who use the hospital air service were concerned about the level of experience the pilots would have.

Skyler said he has 50 resumes from pilots so far, and that many have quite a bit of experience both in flying and in air ambulance service. He said it would probably be necessary to recruit the medical crews, but felt that was also possible.

He said there are about 140-160 air ambulance flights a year from Goodland and that there are 120 from Colby and 40-50 from Atwood which could be handled by his service.

Board member Lynn Hoeltling wanted to know if any work had been done to see what the hospital might have to do to qualify for an air ambulance.

Dale Schields, a member of the hos-

pital management team, asked if the plane would be based in Goodland. He said that arrangement had been expensive because there were many trips with an empty plane.

Skyler said his idea would be to leave that plane in Denver and to have a second plane in Goodland. While the Denver plane was flying to Goodland with doctors and possibly air freight, the Goodland plane could be flying to Denver with passengers and freight.

"This would make it possible for the planes to be full both ways," he said.

The hospital board then voted to go into closed session for 25 minutes with Skyler to discuss specific financial matters, which can be kept confidential under the state Open Meetings Law.

No action was taken, but later in the meeting Jeff Krall, assistant director of the hospital ambulance service, said he felt the board should look at other options for handling air ambulance service. Krall said he knew there were at least two established air ambulance companies who have considered basing a plane or helicopter in Goodland.

The board, by consensus, agreed to have Krall explore the options and allow other companies to give presentations.

Gore loses two lawsuits on ballots

ELECTION, from Page 1

ballots nor the integrity of the elections has been compromised."

Gore was not directly involved in bringing those cases, but he had spoken approvingly of the Democratic attempt to erase 25,000 absentee ballots and tip the balance in his favor. He has not said whether he would yield and concede the election before appeals on the two cases are settled.

"We're hopeful that we'll finally see finality in this election," Bush told reporters Friday as he met with top aides in Texas. "It's time to get on with America's business."

Gore was in Washington, awaiting a verdict from the Supreme Court. One Democratic senator said a defeat there and "this battle's over ... I think this is the definitive day," added Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., as the courts pondered their cases 31 days after Election Day.

Across the street from the Florida Supreme Court building in Tallahassee, members of the Republican-controlled Legislature gathered in historic special session, and the GOP leadership pushed legislation assuring the prized electoral votes would go to Bush.

"The Legislature is convened for the sole and exclusive purpose" of making sure the state's electoral votes count when the Electoral College meets on Dec. 18, read John Phelps, the clerk of the House, speaking before a packed chamber and a nationwide television audience. The bill listed the electors by name — the ones picked by Bush when GOP Secretary of State Katherine Har-

ris certified him the statewide winner last month by 537 votes.

The speaker of the Florida House, Tom Feeney, acknowledged he has received advice from Bush intermediaries but denied the campaign was calling the shots. Such allegations from Democrats were "out of touch" with reality, he said.

But the Bush campaign said its lawyers "provided legal interpretations when asked by legislators, and no one could be surprised by that. Nor would anyone be surprised if such contacts occurred between Democratic legislators and Gore lawyers," said a spokesman, Tucker Eskew.

In a last-minute legal maneuver, Bush's lawyers filed an unusual clarification with the Supreme Court, telling the seven justices they don't have authority to grant Gore the manual recounts he seeks.

"This Court does not have authority to grant such relief under Florida law or federal law," the Bush petition said, reversing comments Bush attorney Barry Richard made Thursday in oral arguments that the high court had "limited" jurisdiction.

Gore has been attempting to overturn Bush's certified win in the courts, and win the manual recounting of thousands of ballots he says could reverse

his rival's lead.

The winner of the state's 25 electoral votes stands to take office in January as the nation's 43rd president. Torricelli offered his brutally simple prediction on CBS, saying, "If Al Gore cannot persuade the Florida Supreme Court ... then this battle's over."

Gore adviser Ron Klain said the vice president's team viewed the state Supreme Court as "the final arbiter of Florida law" and he acknowledged the obvious in saying a loss there "would be a setback for us, and a major one."

But Klain, also on CBS, said he's been party to no talk of a concession by Gore. Klain would not commit Gore to bowing out if he loses in the state Supreme Court.

"We think we'll win," he said.

Depending on the outcome of Gore's appeal, the legislation contemplated by GOP leaders could set up a contest between two rival Florida slates when the Electoral College votes are cast Dec. 18 and then counted in Congress on Jan. 6. That, in turn, could ratchet up the controversy even further in the contest to pick a president.

In Thursday's high court hearing, Gore lawyer David Boies implored the court to grant the selective manual recounts that could yet revive the vice president's hopes of winning the White House.

public notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY KANSAS PROBATE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUANITA M. THOMPSON, DECEASED.

Case No. 00 P 10 Chapter 59

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 6, 2000, a Petition was filed in this Court by Mary Loretta Larson, f/k/a Mary Loretta Thompson and Leonard McDill Thompson, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executors of the Estate of Jaunita M.

community Hospital were released Friday morning, the hospital's chief executive officer said.

"This is every school's worst nightmare," said Don Mason, assistant superintendent of the Kingman School District. "I've been here for 38 years and this is the first serious accident we've had."

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before December 29, 2000, at 9:00 o'clock A.M. on said day in this Court in Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas, at which time and place the

cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

MARY LORETTA LARSON f/k/a MARY LORETTA THOMPSON and LEONARD McDILL THOMPSON, Co-Executors EVANS & MULLINIX, P.A. John E. Larson, KS# 14081 7225 Renner Road, Suite 200 Shawnee, KS 66217 (913) 962-8700

Attorneys for Co-Executors

Roger & Melinda Blume have applied to the City of Goodland for a Home Occupation/Special Use Permit to operate a small engine repair shop at 1323 Harrison Avenue. The planning commission meeting will be held January 9, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Room, second floor at City Hall, 204 West 11th Street.

Published in The Goodland Daily News on Friday, December 8, 2000.

620 S. Railroad Ave. • Atwood, Kansas

4 bedroom, 1 bath house, full basement, 2,300 sq. ft. total living area, attached garage, 32 X 36 work shop, central heat and air, dishwasher, stove, frig., on a 100 X 215 lot.

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DEADLINE: December 20th, 2000 at 5 p.m. CT

For more information contact:
Roy Harris at 785-626-3186.

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