

Live wire



A combine hit a guy wire on an electrical pole and snapped it off Thursday evening at the southeast edge of Goodland. The accident caused the pole and transformer to fall across the intersection of Roads 20 and 63, blocking the road. The Sherman County rural fire department was dispatched around 5:50 p.m. for precautionary reasons. Ken Griffith, rural fire chief, said no fire was involved, but the fire department provided traffic control while Midwest Energy put up a new pole.

Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

Three air ambulance firms race

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

ing helicopters to take emergency cases to hospitals," he said, "and we understand the critical need for transporting people who are in life threatening emergencies."

Mike Hill, chief executive of Midwest Corporate Aviation of Wichita, told the board that his company would be working in conjunction with Air Evac by providing the King Air Nine to be used as the air ambulance. He said his company has a plane available and was ready to begin as soon as possible.

Dr. Martin Shellberg of Wichita, Air Evac medical director, said the firm wants to use the airplane because of the distances from Goodland to major hospitals. He said that a helicopter would not be efficient because of its limited range.

Collins said his group started in a rural area.

"We have always believed the people who need us the most are the ones who live furthest from the hospital," he said.

He said that Air Evac would provide the plane and the pilot and medical crew, and they would be available on a 24-hour basis.

"We believe we can have a plane ready and in the air within 10 minutes under our plan," he said, "which is critical to saving lives in the kind of emergencies we handle."

The service would cover the entire area.

"We are looking at this as a regional asset which would be of benefit to hospitals within a 100 miles radius," Dr. Shellberg, who is also a pilot, said. "We are talking to Colby about using their airport or Goodland's as the base. We believe we can fly into many of the small airports in the area to reduce the distance

critical care patients have to be transported.

"Our system is not like anything being done, and we want to make it work here. Neither Colby nor Goodland can support this service alone, and no matter where we locate, it will be a benefit to the region."

One unique aspect of Air Evac is that they sell individual and family memberships which form a base within the region, Collins said. The annual membership is \$40 for an individual, \$45 for a couple and \$50 for a family.

"We formed a partnership with Midwest Corporate Aviation," Collins said, "and we want to see if we can create a partnership with the communities of northwest Kansas."

"We hope to grow the membership to 5,000 within five years. That is what we have been able to do in most of our other areas."

Air Evac now has 17 bases in Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas and Oklahoma, and carries over 1,000 patients per month.

"We would like to have a contract with the hospital, but there is no cost to either entity," Collins said. "The advantage to being a member is that if you ever need our service, there is no charge. If you have insurance that will cover part of it, we will bill them, but regardless of whether there is insurance or not, your membership means it is paid in full."

"We are patient-related, so we do not have a specific relationship with a specific hospital. We take care of everybody."

Dr. Greg Bongers, a hospital board member, asked whether the air ambulance would handle the infants currently being done by Children's Hospital from Denver.

Dr. Shellberg said the nurse and paramedics on the air ambulance will be trained to handle trauma emergencies, but that the infants would require a specialty crew and that service probably remain as it is now.

Larry McCants, a board member, asked about the financial condition of the company, and Collins said he would provide specific information to the board.

McCants asked what it would take to get Air Evac to choose Goodland.

"We need a hangar with 18-foot doors, a place for our crew to live and access to fuel for the plane," Collins said. "We are not expecting any donations, but, yes, we are hoping for anything possible."

He said they had talked to City Manager Ron Pickman about a hangar.

McCants asked if they could use a 64x80 hangar with 19-foot doors. When they said yes, he offered to show them the bank's hangar, and when the presentation was completed, he took them on a tour.

Before leaving, McCants asked what would happen to the Air Evac proposal if the Eagle Med group locates a similar plane in Goodland.

"We do not compete with anyone with our program, and if that were to happen we would go away," Collins said. "There is not enough of a need for more than one such service. We believe our plan is the best, but if you do not agree, we will not come to northwest Kansas, because as we said this has to be a regional asset."

When asked about how long it would take for Air Evac to begin operations, Collins said it could be as little as 45 days, but within 90 days.

With the board members flying to Wichita Thursday to see Eagle Med's operation, it is expected there will be additional discussion at the next regular meeting set for 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 23.

Fireworks passed down generations

FIREWORKS, from Page 1

money-maker for college. "It seems that no matter how much stuff we order," and Joshua said, "we sell it all."

Joshua said they have increased their inventory each year and restock twice a year on July 1 and 3, obtaining more fireworks from their supplier in Brewster.

Joshua said they have items ranging in price from a quarter to \$120 for the

Heavy Artillery with 48 shots, but most of their items are lower priced because many of their customers are children who are buying fireworks with their allowance.

Carol said the fireworks stand is definitely a family affair. Even the family dog, Cookie, gets in on the act, cheerfully greeting visitors to the stand.

Despite John's job being in Wichita,

the Topliffs have stayed in Goodland. "We like it here," said Carol. "It's a nice area."

The stand, named T-N-T Fireworks after Tom and Tim, is in the garage on the Topliffs' farm. The farm is two miles west of Goodland on K-24 and a mile and a half south on Sherman County Road 17. John Topliff posted signs by the highway before the stand opened Wednesday morning.

Board says good-bye to member

The Goodland School Board said good-bye Monday to Gerald Franklin, a Sherman County farmer who has served for eight years.

Franklin announced earlier this year that he would not seek another term, as his youngest child Timothy was graduating from Goodland High School and he wanted to give others a chance to be on the board.

"It's been a quick eight years," he told the board, adding that he thinks serving on a public board is an experience every citizen should feel obligated to try.

Ron Schilling, an Edson farmer-rancher who served one term on the board before losing his seat to Eric Gray in 1999, will take Franklin's place at the next meeting on Monday, July 9.

Selby said it will be a reorganizational meeting — as the district's new fiscal year begins on July 1 — and members will decide then who will take Franklin's place on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board.

Board President Dick Short allowed Franklin to run the meeting Monday. Members thanked him for serving and said he would be missed.

The board gave Karla Murray, the district's technology coordinator, permission to buy 34 computers from either Equus Computer Systems of Lenexa or National Computer Resource of Wichita at a cost of no more than \$27,030.

The two companies had the lowest prices of 10 that bid on replacing the computers at the high school. Murray said she wanted to check references on both businesses before deciding.

Members paid \$16,802 in monthly bills and took no action after a 20-minute closed session.

Elevators prepare for wheat harvest rush

HARVEST, from Page 1

fall's corn out so they can receive wheat. Then the bins have been cleaned and fumigated.

As for outside storage, Cowan said, he didn't know yet if they would need it.

"It depends on how harvest goes," he said. "We are prepared to go to the ground if we need to."

Cowan said the co-operative has

hired some part-time help for 30 days because of wheat harvest.

All three of the Goodland elevators have trucks bringing in wheat, but in varying degrees.

Cook said the Collingwood elevator is seeing a little bit of activity from wheat being cut.

"Just getting started good," he said.

Cowan said they are receiving wheat at all four elevators, in Goodland,

Ruleton, Brewster and Bird City. He said they were fairly busy until late Wednesday night.

Stewart said they've got a pretty good start for wheat being brought in at Mueller, estimating that they've probably taken in about 50,000 bushels so far.

He said some farmers are having trouble with the wheat not being ripe, but he thought harvest should be in full swing by the weekend.

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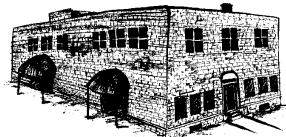
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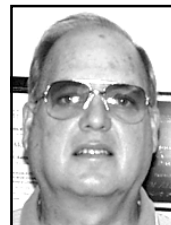
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