Officer's career ended by head injury

AWARDS, from Page 1

During a struggle, Palmer stole Trooper Alber's cruiser and, as he was driving away, he hit Deputy Lamb with the car and dragged Albers and Undersheriff Butts across the pavement. Albers shot Palmer twice, but the young man kept going until Trooper Horney rammed his cruiser into the vehicle Palmer was driving.

Horney shot Palmer again after the teen-ager reportedly got into the dence found as to what caused Palmer

trooper's cruiser and tried to steal his to act the way he did, and Bonnie Selby, he's happy the officers who risked their handgun. Troopers Horney and Albers and officer Johnson wrestled Palmer out of the vehicle, and after he allegedly grabbed for Alber's gun, Albers shot him a fourth time.

Officer Johnson threw him to the killed someone. ground and even after he was handcuffed, Palmer reportedly kept struggling, but died on the way to the hos-

There was never conclusive evi-

county attorney, said the officers were justified in shooting.

Ray Smee, Goodland police chief, said he nominated the five because they stopped Palmer before he hurt or

"I think they saved lives," he said. The chief said officers never want to kill a person, but they had no choice.

"They did what they had to do," he

Lamb, who is on medical leave, said

lives are being recognized. He said doctors have told him that he will never work in law enforcement again because of head injuries he received that

"Twenty-eight years has ended," he said. "It's gone."

Lamb said he can't even remember how it happened.

"I went to help Albers," he said, "and the next thing I knew I was in the emer-

County raises support for paramedic training

The Sherman County commissioners approved raising their contribution for one emergency worker's paramedic training program by \$2,000 Tuesday, for a total of \$5,500.

Bruce Gleason, an emergency medical technician, had planned to attend a paramedic program in Garden City so he can be licensed to for higher-level care on the ambulance. Tuesday, he told commissioners the Garden City program has been canceled.

He said he will switch to a more intense six-month program offered through St. Anthony's Central Hospital in Denver, which would begin in July and last until the end of the year. The training is part of an overall plan pay half of the higher tuition, which

"rolling emergency rooms," capable of they had agreed to before. giving advanced lifecare support to

The main difference, he said, is that he won't be able to work because the classes will be all day, three days of the week, and he will be expected to pull shifts to get his clinical hours on at least two other days each week. Gleason said his wife, Tina, and family will be staying in Goodland.

He said the total cost remains about the same because the housing and travel will be more expensive in the Denver area, and the cost of tuition has gone to \$5,000. He said he has not asked Eagle Med if they will agree to amount \$2,000.

Gleason told the commissioners he had talked to Jay Jolly, Goodland Regional Medical Center administrator, and he said the hospital would not consider raising the amount they had previously agreed to do, which is \$3,500. Gleason said he understood the same would hold for the hospital foundation.

"If there is going to be any extra help it will have to come from us," said Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he would like to help, and suggested \$1,500 additional. Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed and bumped the

Rasure asked if Gleason's service

original three years, and asked Gleason if he would be willing to have it ex-

Gleason said he would have no problem with a four-year commitment.

"I wish the other two would do the same so we could have a standard plan," Tiede said. "What we need is a standard program we can agree on." Commissioner Frankenfeld made

the motion to raised the support for Gleason's paramedic training program from \$3,500 to \$5,500. He said he hoped a standard plan can be worked out in the future. Rasure seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Gleason thanked the commissioners for their support, and said he would to upgrade Goodland ambulances to would be about \$700 more than what contract should be longer than the keep them informed of his progress.

Countyapproves repairs of fairground bleachers

of the fair grandstand will get a safety facelift as recommended to Sherman County commissioners Tuesday by fair board Chairman Steve Duell.

The bleachers have netting to keep small children from falling off, but the netting is falling apart in places and Duell recommended replacing it with cattle panels which would be clamped to the steel posts. He said the large cattle panels would work for the back side, and hog panels would work for protecting the sides of each bleacher.

Duell said the cost would be unhelp to have them in place by the weekend. The commissioners approved the purchase, which will come out of the fairgrounds repair budget.

Duell said he hopes to replace a few of the arena lights this year and then more next year. The commissioners approved his plan, saying it may take several years to get them all replaced.

In other business: • Curt Way, county public works director, ask the commissioners to sign a temporary lease for a trailer office for the transfer station while the county's trailer is under repair. The lease calls for a \$1,000 deposit and \$50-a-day rent. Way said the repair of the county's trailer should not exceed \$2,000, and he expects it main floor of the Sherman County to take five to six days for the repair. courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

 Gave Tom Baconrind of Hays, representative for Central United Life, to survey county employees to see if there is any interest in his company's cancer, vision or accidental death plans. He said the cancer plan costs about \$11 a month for singles and \$20 a month for families. The vision plan costs about \$18 a month for families and said the accidental death plan cost depends on the persons salary. The commissioners gave him permission to talk to the employees, and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said there are about 70.

• Signed a revised farm lease for der \$200 and he would find some land by the landfill southwest of Goodland. The bidder, Stan Purvis, will be given a copy for his review and signature.

> • Held a closed session with Way on possible land acquisition.

 Held a closed session with Rumpel on a personnel matter.

 Approved a countywide electronic pickup for old computers and monitors for the first week of June. This will be a free collection of old computers at the road and bridge department on West Eighth Street. Plans will be put together by Crystal Linsner and Way. Linsner is the county household hazardous waste person.

The next regular commission meeting will be 8 a.m. Friday, May 31, in the commission room on the

New fighting in Afghanistan as troops pursue fighters BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) — used by the Taliban," Lane said.

About 1,000 mostly British troops backed by U.S. airplane gunships and helicopters were deployed today to battle a "substantial enemy force" in mountainous eastern Afghanistan, commanders said.

Brig. Roger Lane said the troops were sent to eastern Paktia province after an Australian special forces patrol came under fire on Thursday. No coalition casualties were reported, but some enemy fighters were killed, Lane said.

Elements of the British 45 Commando group, "equipped with the full range of combat power," were sent by air and road to "close with the enemy and destroy them in an area historically

He said a number of air attacks had already been launched. U.S. military spokesman Maj. Bryan Hilferty said the operation was taking place north of the eastern city of Khost.

He said American forces had not sent ground forces, but were backing the mission with U.S. Air Force AC-130 gunship airplanes and Chinook and AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

In Australia, Brig. Mike Hannan said the first group of Australian troops came under heavy machine gunfire in hilly terrain Thursday afternoon.

A second group of soldiers trying to reach them also came under fire about four miles from the initial exchange, he place in a mountainous area at an alti-

through and join up with the help of U.S. air support. Hilferty said AC-130s were used. The two units were then able to move to safety, Hannan said in Canberra. No Australians were hurt, but at least one suspected enemy fighter was killed, he said.

Lane said suspected al-Qaida or Taliban fighters had been behind the attack on the patrol. He declined to say how many enemy fighters there were, but said "it is clear it is a substantial enemy force" and coalition forces, backed by a British artillery battery, had identified several enemy positions.

Lane said the fighting was taking

said. They were able to fight their way tude of 8,000 feet, but declined to be more specific. He said the mission could take days.

The U.S.-led coalition has been stepping up its search in eastern Afghanistan for al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts, who they say have dispersed into small groups and blended in with local residents or fled across the border to neighboring Pakistan.

Coalition troops had reported no enemy contact for weeks.

Today in the same area, local security officials said at least 10 Afghan tribesmen feuding over land were killed in eastern Afghanistan when U.S. planes bombed their positions after shooting erupted on the ground.



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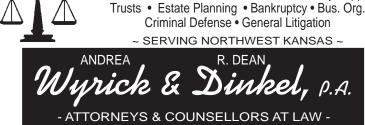
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