

# Eagle Med handles area trauma transports

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

A seven-person medical crew, three pilots and an airplane combine to provide quick transport for trauma and cardiac patients from northwest Kansas to cities with larger hospitals.

Eagle Med, an air medical transport company, has had an office in Goodland since April 15, 2002, and has successfully transported patients to Denver, Wichita, Hays and Kearney, Neb., on a regular basis ever since.

A King Air C-90 twin-engine plane waits in a hangar at Renner Field, always ready to serve as a flying emergency room or intensive care unit.

Four nurses, Duane Wright, Tiffany Diehl, Vicki Baker and Rhonda Shepherd; three paramedics, Kendall David, Joe Hickert and Cindy Conger; and three pilots, Jimmy Stouffer, Stewart Pittman and Heather Beaumont, make up the Eagle Med crew in Goodland. And the crew gets help on some flights from Physicians' Assistant Brian Unruh of Colby.

There are two pilots on call at all times, David said, along with a flight nurse and a paramedic. The crew averages two calls a day, he said, some days five, others none. The calls come via pager from the company's dispatcher in Wichita, he said.

The flying emergency room has transported patients from a wide area, David said, including Lamar, La Junta and Burlington in Colorado; Colby, Atwood, Oberlin and Ulysses in Kansas; and North Platte and McCook in Nebraska.

During flights the paramedics do a lot of procedures that are normally reserved for doctors, David said.

Wright said the crew transports a lot of cardiac and trauma patients.

"We take care of the sick of the sick," David said.

That includes patients from eight pounds to 99 years old, the paramedics said, but not smaller babies, since the plane doesn't include the special equipment required for neonatal care.

The plane is stocked with most of the medications and equipment that would be found in an emergency room or intensive care unit, David

said, along with the personnel who know how to use it.

But the cabin doesn't have an abundance of space, not even enough for the paramedics to stand up, requiring some ingenuity in packing and sacrifices in comfort on the part of the crew.

Although the crew provides medication and care for patients on the flight, the ultimate goal is to get them to a doctor at a major hospital quickly.

"The important thing we do," David said, "is cut down time."

The plane reduces the trip to Denver from three hours, he said, to 45 minutes.

It takes on average 15-20 minutes to get to the airport, Wright said, and load the patient into the plane. During that time, the pilot is also preparing for flight. It takes the pilot 20 minutes to check the flight plan and the weather, David said.

With an average 240 miles per hour cruise speed, the plane makes a quick trip. And it can fly in most weather conditions, David said.

Trying to cover all bases, Eagle Med has a doctor on call to answer questions during flights.

There's an emergency physician in Wichita, Wright said, the crew can call whenever they need to. The crew operates under standard protocols, David said, but if things don't go the way they're supposed to, they can call the doctor and get other suggestions.

The Goodland office is in a house at 224 E. 11th that has sleeping quarters, a kitchen and living space. It's nice for those who don't live in Goodland, David said, to be able to stay there when they're on call.



Duane Wright, (above) a flight nurse for Eagle Med, puts some supplies away in the cabin of the King Air C-90 plane (below left) that transports patients to hospitals in Denver, Wichita, Hays and Kearney, Neb. The plane waits in a hangar at Renner Field, ready to go.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



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# Rural Health to merge with hospital

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Rural Health Ventures is now under the same management as the specialist clinic at Goodland Regional Medical Center and will itself soon be a department of the hospital.

The manager is helping patients get used to the central entrance and registration for the hospital's clinics. The clinic has had a nurse practitioner join its staff in the past year, a doctor return to the clinic and will soon have a new doctor in family practice.

Vicki Transue, clinic manager, has worked for the hospital for 28 years and with the specialty clinic since 1981. Transue said she was trained as a speech language pathologist and still does that but has assumed different roles over the years.

She said she worked in the public schools and

then was the education coordinator and speech pathologist at the hospital.

Transue said she took on the responsibility of managing Rural Health Ventures a few months ago and has really appreciated help from Scott Focke, a clinic manager from Colby.

"He's helping me learn the ropes," she said. "He's good."

The goal, Transue said, is to eventually have both clinics work together. Right now, she said, the clinics share staff and are cross-training employees to make them more productive.

Having employees trained for more than one job, she said, helps with covering shifts to allow for days off and to find a replacement if someone calls in sick. Combining the office staffs of the clinics will save money on salaries

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Dr. Barry Smith, a cardiologist at the specialty clinic, talked with Vicki Transue, clinic manager, about his upcoming schedule Wednesday, at the clinic.

## Computer graphics program begins at college in August

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

A new program in computer graphics technology open in August at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, joining the current list of 13 programs.

President Ken Clouse said the college is taking applications for the graphics program now. It with 16 students.

Two more programs are to be added over the next year to bring the total to 16, respiratory therapy and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration.

Clouse said the state Board of Regents had approved the new programs, and the computer graphics and the heating were to be available this year and the respiratory therapy program next year.

"Despite the cuts from the state, our board is committed to these programs," Clouse said. "We are sucking it up right now and may have to dip into our reserves to make it happen. These will be good additions to our programs.

The graphics courses will run for 10 months starting in August each year.

Classes will include a comprehensive study of computer software programs needed to be successful as a desktop publishing technician and a web page designer.

Class size is being limited to give students the benefit of one-to-one instruction.

Students will learn the basics of various computer software programs, make software comparisons and understand the legal issues involved with copyright. They will study layout, typography and design basics.

The program will include classroom and lab instruction and hands-on projects, at times simulating an on-the-job atmosphere.

Students may choose from among several areas of expertise, including print advertising

or the web page design. Those who complete the course should have the technical and record-keeping skills for starting their own small business or working as an independent consultant.

Clouse said the research on this program shows desktop publishing ranks among the 10 fastest growing occupations.

The new heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration program has been approved by the state, Clouse said, but because there is a requirement for students to have completed the first year of the electrical technology program, the first class of the new program will begin in August next year.

"We have not hired the instructor for this class yet, because of the electrical requirement," Clouse said. "We expect to hire a person later this year and have the program ready to begin next August.

"Job opportunity for graduates of this program are expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for maintenance and service work continues to increase as businesses and homeowners consider heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration system a necessity."

The students will learn to do both installation, repair and service work for heating, cooling and refrigeration equipment. They will be able to diagnose and correct problems in central heating and cooling systems using special tools and test equipment.

The college already offers courses for auto body repair, auto technology, carpentry, communications network technology, electronics and computer technology, electrical technology, medical assistant, diesel technology, business technology, cosmetology, engineering technology, communication technology and welding.



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# Clinic, hospital merging

**CLINIC, from Page 8**

and wages, she said.

One thing that is not integrated is the information. Rural Health isn't on the hospital's computer system yet, Transue said, so there's no way to share information between that clinic and the hospital.

Eventually, that will be taken care of when Rural Health Ventures is a department of the hospital. It will be easier to have it all pulled into the hospital, Transue said, and will be much more convenient for patients to have one check in.

The process of pulling another clinic into the hospital and having one registration area for two clinics and a hospital takes time and patience for the staff and patients, she said.

"We're getting the new admission area with the hospital worked out," Transue said, "and getting patients educated on where to go."

Transue said she really appreciates the staff hanging in at the clinic with all the changes.

"I want to give them credit for keeping the place going," she said. "We have eliminated three full-time equivalents to make things as effi-

cient as we can."

All the changes and the clinic's efforts to cut back, she said, has led to some uncertainty, but things are getting better.

Rural Health Ventures will become a department of the hospital to increase its reimbursement from Medicare. Auditors looked at how much more they could get, Transue said, and it will help with reimbursement.

Besides that, Transue said, she is wading through paperwork changes to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The changes may seem overwhelming to some, but Transue takes them all in stride.

"It's a challenge and an opportunity to learn something I haven't done before," she said. "The change makes it challenging. There's always change in healthcare."

Nineteen people comprise the nursing and office staff of the two clinics, Transue said, and the medical staff includes Dr. David Younger; Dr. Natalie Griego, who is serving in the U.S. Army in Baghdad, Iraq; Dr. Moe Shafei, internal medicine, who returned to Goodland in the past year; Dr. Duncan Davis, a surgeon who



Licensed Practical Nurse Peggy Warren, Dr. Moe Shafei and Licensed Practical Nurse Karen Crow take care of patients at Rural Health Ventures. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

works at the clinic two days a week; Nurse Practitioner Janet Eisenbart, who joined the clinic this year; and Nurse Practitioner Jackie Jorgensen.

Dr. Travis Daise plans to start his family practice in August after taking his state boards. He completed his residency at Smoky Hill Family Practice in Salina.



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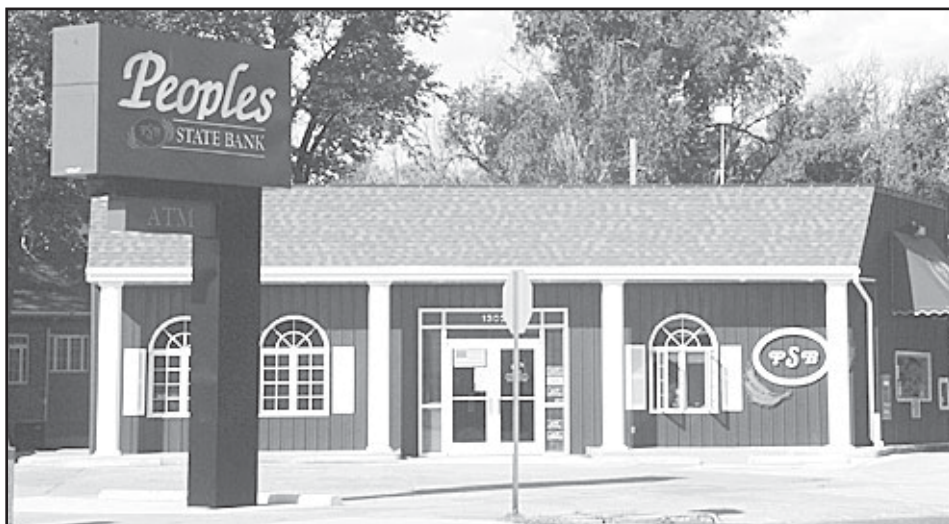
**Jana Diers**

The clinics have received help, Transue said, from students in the medical assistant program at North-west Kansas Technical College, junior volunteers and volunteers from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

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# Taco John's opens; has new manager

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News

Mike Brannick started working at Taco John's as a shift manager, then moved up to general manager. The first of July, he and his wife Tia bought into ownership position in the restaurant.

Taco John's opened in Goodland in November under the ownership of Kendall and Jackie Cooper, and it's been successful since. Now with Brannick moving into the ownership, he says he plans to keep the same system Cooper taught him.

"It has been a fast run into ownership," Brannick said. "We have finished up the outside landscape after taking the position."

He has 19 employees and said he is conducting interviews to put him at the ideal staff of 22 to 23 people.

Taco John's has established a good relationship with the community, he said, and is focused on keeping a local customer base.

"We don't build out by the highway only for the traffic it brings," he said. "It is the local support that keeps our doors open."

Brannick said he knows the value of community and will always do his best to keep supporting other local business as well.

"It is important to support each other," he said, "to stay strong and find new ways to pull in new residents and a bigger local customer base."

He also recognizes the importance of technical college students and offers them a discount with a student identification card.

Brannick and his employees begin work at 7:30 in the morning, cutting vegetables, frying chips for nachos and preparing part of the day's taco meat.

He says the work that goes into fast food



Chris Maldonado began early-morning preparations for the opening Taco Johns by keeping the nacho cheese stirring and hot. Maldonado said he also works a night job and enjoys the hours at

Taco John's to keep the bills paid yet give him time to visit with his family.

Photos by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

preparation is an in-depth process that makes them unique. Throughout the day, they prepare fresh taco meat, taco shells and vegetables, but he says it is well worth it to keep customers returning to enjoy the benefits of fresh products and hard work.

Taco John's will continue to expand it's menu, he said, with platter meals and other varieties being added by the chain.



Kristy Rubio worked the register of Taco John's while Aubree and Joseph Caldwell of Oklahoma and their aunt, Terri Lucas of Goodland, ordered lunch.

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# Thrift store moves to Main, gets new manager, new sign

By Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Churches Thrift Shop has had in the past year a change of address, a change of size, a lot of cleaning and rearranging and now a new manager. It will soon have a new sign.

Though it sells second-hand items, ranging from never used to period pieces and collector's items, there is nothing outdated about the shop. The store makes good use of its location at 1222 Main by using window displays to draw in customers.

After being repainted and organized and having the carpet cleaned, the store looks as "good as new." The operation moved to its current location in August from 1020 Syracuse, where it had been since 1973.

The new location is twice the size of the old, allowing more room for racks and displays and a lot of storage in the back. Nonetheless, the manager and volunteers have found donations to be so generous, they have to ship

stuff off to Goodwill stores in Hays and Garden City and still have to refuse donations for now.

Jo Simmons, former Chamber of Commerce director, became the store's manager July 2 and has already played a role in updating the store. The shop was closed for about a week and a half, re-opening Thursday, July 10, with an updated appearance.

The store was cleaned and painted, Simmons said, and the carpet was shampooed. They found shelves that no one knew were there, and arranged racks to allow plenty of room to get around the store, even for those in wheelchairs.

The refurbished store was greeted by many customers when it re-opened. Lines of people were waiting to get in Thursday, Simmons said.

The store began as a way to provide low-cost household items, said board president Debra Boyle, and that hasn't changed. It continues to be a way to recycle usable items.

"One person's trash is another person's treasure," Simmons said.

And to highlight the treasures, the manager and volunteers have done some creative work.

Among their initiatives, they have been coming up with themes for window displays, which board member Judy McKee will often put up. The items in the window are for sale, Simmons said, and can be reserved, but they have to stay in the window for two weeks. Otherwise McKee would be constantly putting up new displays.

Simmons said the donations provide a constant source of inspiration for future displays, including themes for every holiday, all of Goodland's festivals and displays based on the fashions from a particular decade.

Among the unique items for sale is a Roy Rogers puzzle, an item Simmons said she has seen for sale on e-Bay, and clothing from various periods.



Jo Simmons showed off a collector's item, a Roy Rogers puzzle, at the Goodland Churches Thrift Store. She took the job managing the store earlier this month. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

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# Daylight Donut good for sweet tooth

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland gained a place to start the morning with sugar, carbohydrates, coffee and gossip, when Daylight Donuts opened at 1222 Main in September.

What better way to bring the community together than food, long on taste and sugar, and a chance to catch up on what everyone's doing, talk politics and shoot the breeze?

The woman holding it all together is manager Kelli Burrus, who is loathe to disagree with a

customer.

There are different groups at different tables, she said, who tend to agree with each other but not with the people at the other tables. Though she hears all sides of an issue, Burrus said, she keeps her opinions to herself.

"It's not good for business to step on anyone's toes," she said.

Burrus lives with her husband Justin in Colby and drives over to Goodland each morning to serve doughnuts. Selena Lee and James Wilson of Colby own the Daylight shops in Colby and

Goodland, and Burrus picks up the doughnuts at the Colby shop each morning before 4 a.m. and brings them to Goodland.

The shop, open from 6-11 a.m. Tuesday-Saturday, offers a selection of doughnuts and rolls, cream puffs and long johns, along with coffee, cappuccino, fountain pop, water, juice, hot chocolate and milk.

When Burrus began managing the shop, it was her third job, since she was also a cashier at Montana Mike's and a doorman at a bar in Colby. Burrus said she is glad to be down to one job, adding that the doughnut shop has done pretty well.

"I'm pleased," Burrus said. "We get a little slow sometimes, but that happens."

"I keep busy, sell a few doughnuts."

Burrus is the only employee at the shop. Her husband is a meat cutter at Dillon's in Colby.



Kelli Burrus, Daylight Donuts manager, rang up an order for a couple of young customers.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Thrift store move to Main location

THRIFT, from Page 11

McKee said she has found that the store is a great place to shop for costumes for school musicals and plays. But an item that's available one day may be gone the next, and there's no way to order the same thing.

The store provides one-of-a-kind items at one-of-a-kind prices, Simmons said, and the inventory is constantly changing. The place gets new things all the time, and they go just as fast. The shelves are restocked every day, McKee said, often throughout the day.

And every now and then, the whole store starts over from scratch. Once or twice a year, Simmons said, the store is completely restocked. After a sack sale, said LaVaughn

Becker, treasurer of the store's board, the remaining items go to Goodwill or other charities, including women's shelters.

The store's mission requires a good group of volunteers. Since only the manager is paid, McKee said, it takes a good support network to accomplish what they want to for customers.

Besides serving as cashiers, stocking the front of the shop and designing the displays, Becker said, volunteers are needed to sort through the boxes of merchandise in the back and organize it into categories to make stocking easier.

The thrift shop was started by the Goodland Area Ministerial Alliance and has representatives from cooperating churches on the board. Other officers are Roger Collins, vice president, and David Branda, secretary.



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