

Kites dive bombing people on Broadway Ave.

By Sharon Corcoran

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A huge bird — imagine a three-foot wingspan — swoops in for the “kill” as a lawyer rides his bike down the street. It zips past and another zooms in, just clipping the man’s head with its wing.

As scene out of a movie? No, a normally quiet street in Goodland. And wildlife officials want people to know how to handle the situation.

City Attorney Jeff Mason said he was riding on Broadway between Second and Fourth streets Thursday about noon when the Mississippi kites decided to attack.

The birds have “dive bombed” several people walking and riding bikes in the area lately, said Wildlife Officer Mike Hopper. He said people need to know they should avoid the area to protect themselves and their children, but they should not retaliate if the birds do dive on them.

Although people have felt like the birds were trying to hurt them, he said, they actually are just trying to get people to stay away from the nest.

The birds, about 15 inches long with a three-foot wingspan, are actually a medium-sized hawk, he said, but they look very large when coming at your face. Th raptors are protected by state and federal law, Hopper said, and there are penalties for killing or injuring them or even removing their nest.

If someone were to kill the birds or remove the nest, he said, they would be arrested, and fines start at \$850 per bird killed or injured. Besides, he said, if you attack the birds, swing a broom or throw things at them, it will only agitate them.

The birds are doing what their instincts tell them to do, he said —



Goodland lawyer Jeff Mason (above) kept an eye out for diving Mississippi Kites as he rode his bike down Broadway Ave. on Thursday afternoon.

Wildlife Resource Officer Mike Hopper (right) pointed out the Kite nest in a tall tree. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



protecting their young. They have a nest in the area, he said, and when people get too close, the adults swoop in to scare them away.

“We live in town,” he said, “but we still live outdoors. Just because a bird is problematic doesn’t mean it should be destroyed.

“Wildlife has the right to be here as well as anybody else. They’re doing what they’re programmed to do. We’re supposed to think about our actions. We should adjust.”

The problem is likely to be short-lived, he said, but people should avoid the area for the next two to three weeks. By then, the young ones will grow up and leave the

nest, he said.

The kits are migratory birds, he said, and will leave this fall but, it’s possible they could return in the spring.

“I checked into what you can do,” Mason said, “and the city could apply to the federal government for a permit to remove them, but the permit is unlikely to be granted.”

And even if it was, Mason said, the birds would still have to be captured, and after they are moved, they could come back.

It isn’t likely the birds will come back each year, Hopper said, but there is an unusually large variety of bird species in the area this year.

If weather is different next year, or their food source isn’t as abundant, he said — the kites eat large insects, although some amphibians, reptiles, bats, and other small mammals are taken. This bird catches insects in the air, often eating them while flying — they are likely to go elsewhere.

Mason said he wants people to know what is going on and to realize the city is aware of the problem.

“I am definitely aware,” he said. “When you’ve got those beady eyes and hooked beak coming at you, you’re paying attention.”

Sherman County approached about wind power

Sherman County commissioners were approached last Monday about a possible six-county effort to encourage wind power development, and the commissioners said they were willing to hear more about the proposal.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede introduced Dan Hartman, director of the Logan County Development Corp., who said he was approaching commissioners in Sherman, Thomas, Logan, Wallace, Gove and Trego counties about working together on a wind power development program.

Tiede said Hartman told him he had contacted the Kansas Corporation Commission about the six counties forming some sort of a group to encourage development of wind power in the area.

Tiede said Hartman was planning to hold another meeting with as many of the six counties as possible in Oakley sometime in August to explore the program in greater detail.

“I told him we were willing to listen,” Tiede said. “I said with the summer schedule, any date he comes up with will not be convenient, but we would try to have

someone at the meeting.”

Tiede said he and Commissioner Chuck Thomas listened to Hartman’s presentation but that Commissioner Kevin Rasure had to leave the meeting earlier.

Hartman said he had talked to Midwest Energy in Hays, Westar Energy and the Southwest Power Pool about the plan. He said they utilities were interested and suggested he contact the Corporation Commission.

Hartman said working together, the six counties could assist companies wanting to locate wind farms

in the area.

Tiede said Hartman said it would not matter which county the wind farm was in, as the towers could spread out over more than one county.

Tiede said the spinoff development would affect all the area, and with a joint program the counties could provide some low-cost electricity as an incentive to bring businesses to the area.

“I think it is the coming thing,” Tiede said, “and it would be good for us to be involved.”

Former Goodland man in serious condition

A former Goodland man who now lives in Burlington was in serious condition at St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver after being shot during an incident Friday.

Joel Purvis, 38 — known as J.D. — was involved in an altercation in Burlington, but Burlington police said Sunday the investigation is not complete and refused to talk about the details.

A hospital spokesman said Monday that Purvis was in serious condi-

tion from a gun shot wound.

Purvis is a son of Tom and Patti Purvis of Goodland; his brother Tracy works for S&T Communications here. Gary Slough, S&T regional manager said he had talked to Tracy on Sunday and that his brother was talking and appeared to be doing better. Slough had no details of the incident.

Two men involved in the shooting were expected to be in court in Burlington on Monday for advisement.

matters of record

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

June 17 — 8:40 a.m., 2160 Commerce, a 2004 Chevrolet driven by Dulcinella Fyfe was turning into the Wal-Mart parking lot, and turned too soon hitting a stop sign belonging to Wal-Mart.

Goodland Police

The following incidents have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

June 11 : 12:18 p.m., 518 W. 15, arrested Daxton Richard Navarro on a warrant. Case referred to city attorney.

12:21 p.m., 1304 Montana Ave., Rodney Corke reported a theft.

June 12 : 9:25 a.m., 1316 Colorado Ave., James Elmer Backes reported criminal damage and theft. Case referred to county attorney.

June 13: 4:44 a.m., 2510 Commerce, Presto Convenience Store reported a theft.

June 14 — 3:35 p.m., 2420 Commerce, arrested Michael A. Suazo, Jr. for disorderly conduct and abusing toxic vapors. Case referred to city attorney

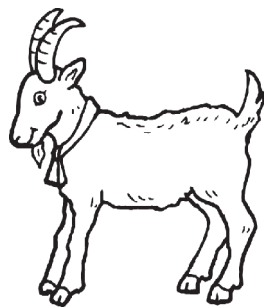
8:02 p.m., 813 1/2 Broadway, warrant arrest from Yuma, Colo. for Michael A. Suazo, Jr. Case referred to county attorney.

June 15 — 2:24 a.m., 800 Colorado Ave., arrested Stefanie Linn Keister for driving under the influence and driving left of center. Case referred to city attorney.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to

“Don’t Let Cancer Get Your Goat”



Sponsored by:

Sherman County Relay For Life Committee
July 26, 2008
8:00am-11:00am

If you would like for the SCRFL Committee to place a Goat in a yard, or if you just want to make a donation to the Sherman County Relay For Life. **Call Josh Dechant @ 785-728-7700 or Darren Kannady @ 785-821-3692**

The first 3 callers start the event by placing the Goats for \$10.00 each. After that:

\$10.00 Donation — For \$10, you can have the goat removed from your yard and choose who the next lucky recipient will be!

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THANK YOU for your support of the American Cancer Society & the Sherman County Relay for Life.

Come by the Goodland HS Track on Aug 15th from 7:00 PM to Aug 16th at 7:00 AM for the 2008 Sherman County Relay for Life



Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word “Promotion”
- Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star-News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 13th

Winner will be announced in the Friday, August 15th edition

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| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
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(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Age _____

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

The Goodland Star-News

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