

Runway light project expands with state money

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

An upgrade of the airport runway lights is to begin this month, and at Monday’s city commission meeting, the project will be expanded to include lights for the crosswind runway.

The project was approved in August with Struckel Electric of Girard being the low bidder at \$256,213. This is a federal project, and the city will pay 10 percent of the cost.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly and Hutchison engineering, said the project will replace all the lighting on the north-south main runway and taxiway and provide a new building to house the new light vault.

The project includes a complete replacement of the existing lights and new radio controls for pilots to turn the lights on when

landing.

At the time, Neufeld said the plan for the crosswind runway was to salvage lights from the north-south, but later he said the Federal Aviation Administration would not approve that.

In December, City Manager Ron Pickman said the state had approved a grant for the crosswind runway lights at a total cost of \$170,000, with the state paying \$127,500 (75 percent) and the city paying \$42,500 (25 percent).

The commission will be asked to approve an amendment to the contract with Struckel to include the installation of the crosswind lights.

Pickman said the state’s help will mean that both main runways will be lighted at night, and that will greatly improve the ac-

cessibility of the airport.

A related item on the agenda is a request for a payment of \$1,537 to Evans, Bierly and Hutchison for engineering work on the property acquisition as part of the instrument landing system protection zone west of Caldwell. The Federal Aviation Administration is requiring the city to purchase about 2 acres around the existing instrument landing system site.

Pickman said he thought the payment was for the appraiser and they are waiting for approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase the property.

City commissioners will get design options for the project to replace the intersections of Main at 11th and 12th streets. Neufeld is expected to give the commissioners a chance to make their selections

before the plans are set.

The intersection project is estimated to cost \$412,350 with the city putting in \$230,000 to pay for the storm sewer work to be done at the 12th street intersection.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Approve a contract for mowing weeds on lots which are declared a nuisance under city ordinance. Pickman said Brad Schields was the contractor last year.
- Approve a contract for the annual street sealing program. Pickman said this program does about one-third of the streets each summer, and he hopes to have the contractor here in July or August.
- Appoint of member of the commission to the Goodland Economic Development Corp. This is the board which oversees the industrial park; Pickman said the city re-

ceived a letter saying that under the bylaws there should be a city commissioner on the board. The group is trying to re-establish the board.

- There will be a meeting with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the city commission at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15, at the Super 8 Motel conference room.
- Pickman said he will report to the commission that gas prices continue to escalate and the price of power is continuing to increase, which will mean higher fuel adjustment costs for electric customers in the next few months.

“We are at the mercy of the market,” Pickman said.

The commission meets at 5 p.m. in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Postmaster returns to place he started his career

By Kathryn Gurfinkel
The Goodland Star News

The inscription on the door still reads Kenton Krehbiel, but behind the desk, filling out paperwork and answering the phone, sits Goodland’s new postmaster, Stephen Schultz.

The former postmaster who was promoted to head the Colby office in February.

Schultz, 50, began his career 20 years ago in the office he is now running.

“I’d have never thought I’d be back here,” said Schultz. “I guess you never know.”

Schultz will be working with some of the same employees he knew from his time at the Goodland office.

He started in 1984 as a part time clerk/carrier.

He became a full time carrier until he was promoted to postmaster in Winona in 1995.

In 2001, he was appointed as postmaster at St. Francis and remained until he was given a temporary detail as officer-in-charge in Lyons right before he moved to Goodland.

“It’s gone fast,” Schultz said of his 20 years with the Postal Service.

“If you’re willing and ambitious, you can go as high as you want.”

Today, instead of walking mail from house to house, he is managing the office.

“I do the paperwork and all that,” he smiles over a litter-strewn desk in his small hideaway. “I have a lot of catching up to do.”

On top of the managerial tasks, Schultz sorts mail in the out box and the outside drop box first thing in the morning.

He also is in charge of city route inspections, and he will travel to nearby cities to perform unit reviews.

His job will include learning how to handle a larger office in Goodland. Schultz will be in charge of nearly double the staff from his last position.

“I wanted more of a challenge,” he said.

St. Francis only handled box and rural route mail, so Schultz will have to learn how to supervise city delivery.

He also will learn to run the computer system to help customers at the window.

He said he plans to rely on a qualified staff to help him adjust.

“I have excellent employees,” he said.

Schultz said he would like to incorporate new technology to make mailing easier for some of his customers.

“I’d like to have a ‘Click and Ship’ seminar,” he said.

The seminar will teach people to use the post office web site to pay postage for packages. The customer

can have the convenience of shipping priority packages from home by weighing them and then paying for the delivery on-line.

The service will save the customer money by waving the confirmation fee for on-line transactions.

Accepting the Goodland position not only gave Schultz a new challenge, it brought his family closer together.

He lives in Bird City, a central location for his family. His wife, Susan, is postmaster in Benkelman, Neb.

His daughter, Tatum, is a sophomore at Goodland High School and his step-daughter, Kori, is a sophomore in Bird City.

Schultz has a son, Kyle, who works at Goodland Machine and Auto.

“My girls are real excited,” he said. “I’ll get to see them every day.”

Although he isn’t sure Goodland is the last stop for him, Schultz said he is glad to be here.

He was appointed to the position on May 29 and he will be sworn in as postmaster at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Goodland Post Office.

The oath of office, in which Schultz will swear on a Bible to uphold the values of his office, will be administered by Mark A. Kerschen, manager of post office operations from Hutchinson.



New Postmaster Stephen Schultz reads over some paperwork in the Goodland post office. In only his third day on the job, he said he looks forward to running the operations here.
Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkle/The Goodland-Star-News

New optometrist takes over as doctor retires to golf course

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

After more than 42 years of providing eye care to the people of Sherman County, Dr. R. Kay Driver has decided it was time to “turn the reins over to another doctor.”

Dr. Thomas M. White began seeing patients in Goodland full-time on March 22 about three weeks after being released from a six-year tour of active duty with the U.S. Army.

Dr. White said he first started seeing patients here in July whenever he could take time off.

“I’m glad to be back in private practice,” Dr. White said. “It’s nice

to find a place to settle down and call home.”

Dr. White brings over 23 years of experience as an optometrist to Goodland. He attended the Southern California College of Optometry, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in 1978 and his doctor’s degree in 1980.

He worked in an office in Atchison for about a year, then in 1981 became a resident at the Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center at the Veteran’s Administration medical center in West Haven, Conn.

In 1982, Dr. White returned to Kansas and set up a practice in Wellington.

From 1982 to 1983, he was a con-

sultant for the Kansas Low Vision Clinic in Wichita and from 1984 to 1985 he was the director of the low vision clinic at the McGee Eye Institute in Oklahoma City.

In 1988, Dr. White left Wellington to be an optometrist at the King Fahd Military Medical Center in Dhahran, Saudia Arabia, until 1990, when he again came back to Kansas and set up a practice in Winfield.

In 1993, Dr. White returned to Saudia Arabia, where he was the chief of optometry at the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital in Riyadh.

In 1998, Dr. White, then a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, volunteered for a six-year tour of active duty, and after completing the Army Medical Officer Advanced Course,

was sent on a three-year tour in Japan, where he was the chief of optometric services at the Army Medical Center at Camp Zama.

After completing his overseas tour in 2001, Dr. White was reassigned to Irwin Army Hospital at Fort Riley, where he was the chief of optometry.

Last year, Dr. White became the chief of the eye, ear, nose and throat clinic at the hospital, where he served until his release. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January.

“Since 1988, it seems I’ve been wandering the world,” said Dr. White, “Now I look forward to having all my belongings under one roof.”

Last month, Lt. Col. White transferred from the Army Reserve to the

U.S. Air Force Reserve and will attend his first weekend drill Saturday with the 302d Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

Dr. White said he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1985 and was promoted to lieutenant commander before transferring to the Army Reserve in 1991.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Army’s Combined Arms Staff and Services School and the Command and General Staff College, both taught at Fort Leavenworth. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

Dr. White said Dr. Driver’s last day at the office was last Friday, but he will be available in emergencies.

In a letter to his patients, Dr. Driver wrote that he decided to turn over his office “so that I can slow down and play some more golf and get reacquainted with my favorite fishing hole.”

“I will look forward to seeing you (his family of patients) on the streets and on the greens,” he wrote, “and being able to chat without having to run back to the office.”

Dr. Driver opened his office in Goodland on Dec. 4, 1961, after working as an optometrist in Garden City for about a year.

A native of Rush Center, Dr. Driver earned a Bachelor of Arts in education from Southwestern College, then served in the Army from 1955 to 1956. He then entered the Illinois College of Optometry, graduating in 1960.

Oberlin hosts Summerfest car show Saturday

Get the wax out and start polishing.

It’s time to put your antique car, motorcycle or truck on display for the Decatur County Museum’s third annual Summerfest car show and swap meet in Oberlin this weekend.

The action starts at 7 p.m. Friday with a “cruise-in” at A&W on U.S. 36, which gives spectators their first glance at the vehicles and owners a chance to get their cars out for a spin while getting something to eat.

Co-Curator Sharleen Wurm said the cruise-in also provides a time for those who haven’t already taken advantage of the early registration fee to do so. Pre-registration is \$20, she said, a \$5 discount.

From 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, the museum will host a pancake feed at the Old Bohemian Hall. Wurm said they will be taking a donation.

Registration will be from 8 to 11 a.m. at The Bank drive thru at the south end of Main Street. It will cost \$25 for each vehicle.

Wurm said even if you are still

restoring a vehicle, antique, classic or a motorcycle, they are still welcome at the show.

A “Show and Shine” will be held on Main Street from the museum north to Commercial Street all day giving owners time to spruce up their vehicles and talk with spectators.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be brats and pork burgers on the lawn north of Farmers Bank and Trust. Wurm said they will also be serving pie and ice cream. The booth will be open for beverages all day, and there will be stands serving slush punch, popcorn and coffee.

Kids games will be held south of the museum, including a bean bag throw, tattooing, plinko, fishing pond and a corn-money tank. From 1 to 3 p.m. there will be a poker run.

At 3 p.m., a “burn out” contest will be held in front of the museum. Wurm said a driver doesn’t have to be registered for the car show to take part in the burn out, when the own-

ers spins their back tires to see how much smoke they can make.

The event will be sponsored by Fidele Electric and Woodcrafting. Prizes are \$50 for first place and \$25 for second.

Around 4 p.m., show trophies will be given.

Wurm said the ZCBJ Lodge will be giving away a kids’ bike. Registration will be held in front of the old Czech Store from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Modern Woodmen will be

doing a matching fund raiser for the museum to help move the old St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in from Norcatur.


Saturday evening, the museum board will hold a barbecue dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Bohemian Hall for \$6 a person. Dinner is free for those who have registered for the car show.

Wurm said all proceeds will go for operating and maintenance costs at the museum.

corrections

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