

# Hangar was family's home for 20 years

HEVNER, from Page 1

for a visit, I see the hanger and feel I am home again. The hanger is very special to me. I now live in Oregon, but we live in the country near a small rural airfield and I love having the small planes flying over."

Vignery, who owns Judi's Preschool, said her dad and Wait Rhoads leased the airport in 1946, calling their business the Goodland Flying Service. She said her dad and Rhoads built the smaller barrel hanger north of the big hanger, which they called the shop, in 1947. She said the smaller hangar was used to repair and relicense airplanes.

In June 1948, she said, her dad bought out Rhoads, and hired Martin Nelson as a flight instructor.

An addition was built on the east side of the big hangar sometime between 1934, when the Works Progress Administration built the hangar, and December 1943, when the National Weather Service first opened a station here. In 1948, a new administration building was opened northeast of the smaller hangar and the weather bureau and Federal Aviation Administration moved to that building.

Vignery said Hevner remodeled the hangar addition into an apartment and built a bedroom in the northeast corner of the hangar. His wife Annabelle and Judi, 4 at that time, moved into the hangar rooms from the Hevner family farm west of the airport in 1949. Susan joined them in December 1950.

Both girls talk fondly of growing up at the airport. Vignery said as they got older, she wanted a separate bedroom.

"My dad built a second bedroom on top of the one in the northeast corner and we called it the

treehouse," Vignery recalled. "It had steep stairs; I painted my walls pink and my sister painted her room purple."

The bedrooms are gone, but the pink and purple paint still shows on the walls in the hangar's northeast corner.

"We grew up at the airport and still think of it as our home," Elliott wrote in a short family history. "Living at the airport was a unique and special experience. We used the hangar as a roller-skating rink, and instead of a playhouse like most children, we had an old play airplane in back of the shop and flew many imaginary journeys. We both could tell you what kind of plane someone was flying like most people can tell cars."

Vignery said the girls helped their mom handle the planes when they landed if their father was spraying fields. She remembers learning to drive in the old Jeep that was used to drag the runways and plow them in the winter. She said the Jeep was later replaced with a Scout.

"Our address was Airport, Goodland, Kansas, and we answered the phone Airport instead of Hello like most people," Elliott wrote. "Managing the airport was a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week job."

"Nelson would watch the airport every other Sunday and one week in the summer so our family could get away and go to the mountains on vacation. Dad opened the heavy wood doors on the big hanger every morning and closed them every night."

Vignery was still living at the airport when she was in high school. She recalls having friends come out and they would climb up a ladder to the roof to lay out in the sun in swimsuits.

"There is no way parents today would let us climb up that ladder to

the roof," she said. "We didn't think anything of it back then."

"The airport was a popular gathering place," Elliott said. "Local pilots came out to visit often and weekends, several could be found at the airport. These were some of the busiest years of the Goodland Airport, and at that time Goodland had airline service twice daily between Denver, Goodland and points east."

Vignery said the bathrooms were in the lounge part of the addition, where the pilots would gather to visit, and she and her sister did not want to have to go through there to get to the bathroom.

"We learned to hold our breath until they left," Vignery said. "Today when we travel with our husbands, they don't have to stop because of us."

When there were snowstorms, she said, people got stranded on K-27 sometimes and spent the night at the airport lounge. She said her father would take food to the people working at the Weather Bureau when they could not get home.

Elliott recalls fun times at the airport, including a "penny a pound" day every year, when you could take a plane ride for your weight in cents. Pilots would donate their time, she said, and the money raised would go to charity.

Vignery remembers missing out on a visit by Gene Autry, the cowboy actor, who was one of many celebrities to land at the airport. She said when Autry landed, she and her sister were at the movies. They were disappointed they had missed meeting the movie star and singer, she said.

An early tale tied the family with the man who would later marry the youngest Hevner daughter.

During a blizzard in November 1948, Hevner's cousin Georgiana

Peters called and told him that Gene and Esther Elliott were living on their farm near Edson and Esther was pregnant and due any day.

They were unable to get to town on the roads because of the blizzard. She wanted to know if Hevner could put the skis on his plane and fly out and land on the road and pick Esther up and take her to Goodland to the hospital before the next storm.

So Hevner put the skis on the plane and flew out to Peters' place, picked up Ester Elliott and brought her to town so she would be able to get to the hospital.

Little did he know that his youngest daughter, Susan, who was not born until 1950, would end up marrying the son, Mike, who was born to the Elliotts that November.

Vignery said their dad had a spraying service for 16 years and Nelson helped with the spraying. When Nelson was killed in a spraying accident in 1965, it was hard for her dad to stay at the airport. The family moved into town the next year.

Judi married on June 24 that year and Susan married Aug. 15, capping their years at the airport.

Vignery said that before the addition was torn off a couple of years ago she and her sister took a video camera and went through the old apartment to record the home where they grew up.

"I wanted to let you know that the hanger in Goodland is more than just an old building," Elliott wrote. "It has a wealth of memories for a lot of people, even though it was not home to them like it was to my sister and me."

# Letter to city delays hangar demolition

CITY, from Page 1

pany in California, asking to purchase and repair the hangar to store airplanes.

Topliff met with Hill on Tuesday, and said after the meeting that Hill seemed willing to work with him on saving the historic hangar.

"There are some reservations," Topliff said. "There are lots of hurdles to jump. We met with the engineer and he is to do a report that will be given to the commissioners on Monday. With the report, we may move onto step 2."

"The objective is not to lose the 8,000 square feet of airplane storage. I am ready, willing and able to proceed, but there are things that have to be done."

"I think John Collette, who has a lease with the city, should have an opportunity to do what I am doing. I would be doing this on my own for storage of airplanes."

He said without the hangar, there is no room to store planes at the airport. He said preliminary estimates indicate replacing the roof and fixing the doors would cost about \$150,000.

Hill met with the city's airport advisory board on Friday, but had not been able to talk to Topliff before the meeting. He said the airport board members were willing to listen to Topliff's pro-

posal.

"The original direction was to demolish the hangar," Hill said at a city commission meeting on Oct. 20. "I would like to sit down with Mr. Topliff about the hangar. Tell me which way to go."

"Pursue it to see if it is feasible to fix it up," replied Mayor Rick Billinger.

Commissioners agreed to delay the destruction to give Hill time to contact Topliff.

"We need to be equitable to both parties," Commissioner Dave Daniels said. "Pursue it, and we have to take into consideration the lease with Collette."

"That is a point," Hill said, "we do have a section of Collette's lease that says he has the right to use the hangar."

"Collette does the upkeep for the airport," Daniels said. "He mows and it is his tractor. We need to see what he thinks."

"We do have the right to demolish the hangar," Hill said.

Topliff said Monday he thought the hangar could be saved.

"It is a matter of money, and what can be worked out," he said.

One option, Hill told the commissioners, would be to tear down the hangar and build a new one over the same floor. Estimated cost for a new metal hangar is \$190,000.

# Voters' turn on Election Day Tuesday

ELECTION, from Page 1

Congressman Jerry Moran of Hays faces two challengers, Democrat John Doll of Garden City and Reform Party candidate Sylvester Cain of St. Mary's.

The major statewide race is for governor and lieutenant governor between incumbent Democrat Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson and the Republican challengers, Sen. Jim Barnett and Rep. Susan Wagle. There are two other teams on the ballot, Libertarians Carl Kramer and Kalor A. Hebron and Reform Party candidates Richard Lee Ranzau and Ellen L. Verell.

In the race for secretary of state,

Republican incumbent Ron Thornburgh faces challenges from Democrat David Haley, Libertarian Rob Hodgkinson and Reform Party candidate Joseph L. Martin.

Incumbent Republican Attorney General Phill Kline is facing a tough challenge from Democrat Paul Morrison, a former Republican who is district attorney in Johnson County.

Incumbent Republican State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins is facing Democrat Larry Wilson.

Incumbent Republican Commissioner of Insurance Sandy Praeger is being challenged by Democrat

Bonnie Sharp of Kansas city and Libertarian Patrick Wilbur.

In District 121 for the state House of Representatives, incumbent Republican Jim Morrison of Colby faces Libertarian Dannis Robison of St. Peter and Reform Party candidate Art R. Richmond of Selden.

There will be a new member of the state Board of Education from District 5, where Democrat Tim Cruz of Garden City is facing Republican Sally Cauble of Liberal to replace Republican Connie Morris of St. Francis, who lost to Cauble in the primary.

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**WRITE-IN**

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**DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY**

PAID FOR BY NEUFELD FOR COMMISSIONER

**Express your opinion**

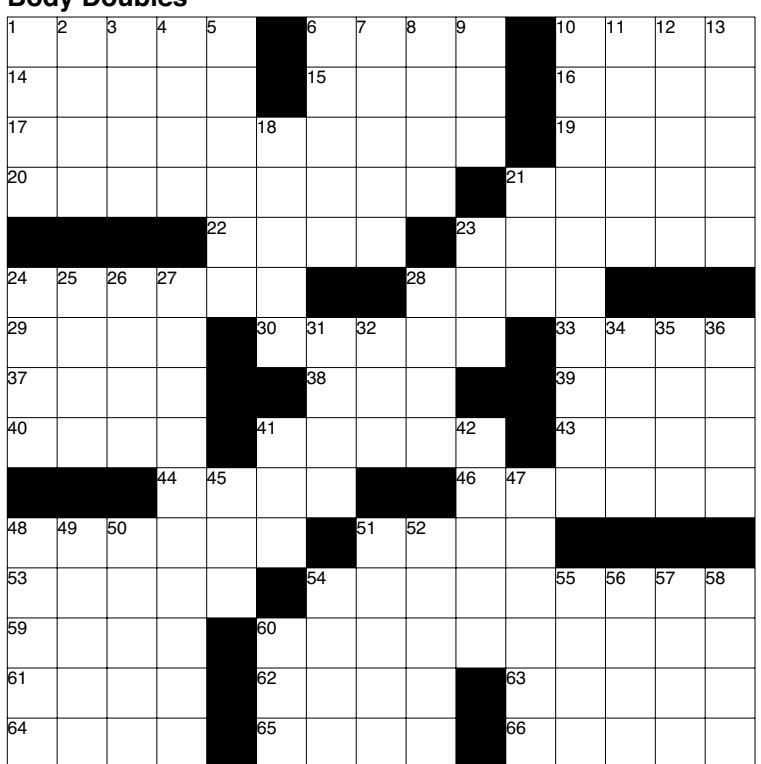
**VOTE on Tuesday, Nov. 7**

## SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday	Sunday
10 a.m. ABC College Football Teams TBA	FXSP College Football Kansas State at Colorado
ESPN NTRA Horse Racing Breeders Cup World Championship from Churchill Downs	IND College Football Washington Huskies at Oregon Ducks from Autzen Stadium
ESPN2 College Football Teams TBA	5 p.m. ESPN2 College Football Teams TBA
FXSP College Football Baylor at Texas Tech	FXSP College Football Southern California at Stanford
12 p.m. TNT NASCAR Busch Series O'Reilly Challenge from Texas Motor Speedway	IND College Football Oklahoma State Cowboys at Texas Longhorns from Texas Memorial Stadium
12:30 p.m. NBC College Football North Carolina at Notre Dame	6 p.m. ABC College Football UCLA at California
1:30 p.m. ABC Golf Tour Championship	10:30 p.m. IND College Football Washington Huskies at Oregon Ducks from Autzen Stadium
CBS College Football LSU at Tennessee	<b>Sunday</b>
ESPN2 College Football Teams TBA	10 a.m. ESPN2 PGA Tournament The TOUR Championship: Final Round from Atlanta, Ga.

## Crossword Puzzle

**Body Doubles**



American Profile Hometown Content

**ACROSS**

- Maid Marian's man
- Marshal \_\_\_ of Yugoslavia
- "Shucks!"
- Way past plump
- Bus. school subject
- Pizazz
- Laterally
- Man Friday
- Put together
- Be wild about
- Open a crack
- Like indoor plants
- Novelist du Maurier
- Sport with mallets
- Square footage
- Dice roll
- It springs eternal
- Demeanor
- Dinghy propeller
- Diabolical
- Cowpoke's pal
- "Be prepared," for one
- Has a bug
- Warty amphibian
- Walk like a duck
- Roll of papyrus
- Shopaholic's mecca
- Islands welcome
- Ballfield markings
- \_\_\_ Linda, Cal.
- One after the other
- Politico Bayh
- Suffix for the wealthy
- Neon \_\_\_ (aquarium fish)
- Fax or FedEx
- Not very busy
- Guinness brew
- Civil rights icon Parks
- Japanese sashes
- Four-posters
- "That's clear!"
- A doubles tennis partner
- Electrical pioneer Nikola
- More slippery
- Broadway's "Sweeney \_\_\_"
- White Monopoly bill
- In direct competition
- Untouchable Ness
- Core group
- Knock-\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ d'art
- "You've got mail" co.
- Sock-in-the-jaw sound
- Like a wrung-out dishrag
- Opera highlight
- Jury member, in theory
- Like close-quarters combat
- Left, at sea
- Homeboy's turf
- Lab maze runner
- "Amores" poet
- Aspirin unit
- "So, what \_\_\_ is new?"
- \_\_\_ de mer (seasickness)
- Little hooter
- Suffix with schnozz
- Parcels out
- Red-tag events
- Garlic unit
- Colosseum attendee
- PC shortcut
- Out of whack
- Get-out-of-jail fee
- "Yeah, right!"
- Defense alliance since '49
- Hosiery shade
- Three-handed card game
- Some undergrad degs.

**DOWN**

The crossword puzzle brought to you by: