

'Friends of Airport' donate \$900 to charitable group

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters accepted a \$900 donation from the Friends of the Airport on Monday during a special meeting held at the Colby Municipal Airport.

For the past three years, the airport "friends" have been involved in planning and coordinating the airport's *Fly-In and Open House* to attract visitors to the facility with the added bonus of helping the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, said Mark Ostmeyer, manager of the airport.

"We wanted to give the Fly-In event a more charitable twist and make it beneficial to a local group," said Scott Barnum, one of the members of the airport friends.

Each year the board of directors for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, along with the "bigs" and "littles," have helped with cooking, serving, selling meal tickets and cleaning up after the Fly-In, said Randi Olson, who is with Big Brothers Big Sisters and is also a member of the airport "friends" board.

Other Friends of the Airport along with Ostmeyer, Barnum, Bob Kadel,

Ken Bixenman and Jesse Cooper, who were at the meeting Monday, include Dan Baalman, Walter Barker, Bill Dowell, Mark Kendrick, Jim Oliver, Carol Severson, and Neil Smith.

The "friends" meet once a month and are either active or interested in aviation with the common goal of enhancing airport awareness, Ostmeyer said.

"It's a great feeling to see the people coming out to the airport and having fun," he said.

In addition to the annual fly-in, Ostmeyer said the airport facility is open for other activities, such as political campaigns and aviation seminar classes.

On Mondays, the classroom at the airport is used for a duplicate bridge group and for the Boy Scouts, who give up their scout hut for Santa City activities during the holiday season, he said.

Also present at the special meeting on Monday was Anne Puckett, one of the "bigs," along with Kaity, a 10-year-old "little" in the program.

"My husband, Kevin and I got involved with the organization after some friends of ours were involved," Anne said.



Members of the "Friends of the Airport," along with representatives from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County met Monday to talk about the success of this year's fundraising event, which helped raise \$900 for Big Brothers Big Sisters. At the meeting, (l to r) were Ken Bixenman, Bob Kadel, Scott Barnum, and Mark Ostmeyer with Friends of the Airport, along with Randi Olson, Kaity and Anne Puckett, receiving the check.

The Pucketts and Kaity have spent anywhere from two to three hours a week with each other, Anne said, and together they have gone swimming, the movies, visited the museum in Hays and more.

Anne said she even coached Kaity's

softball team during the summer with Kaity adding that she loved softball.

Since its beginning about three years ago, the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, based in Colby, has matched nearly 50 adults with children, said Tammi Grandison, director.

The organization is always looking for adults willing to give a few hours a week to help a young person, she said.

If interested in learning more about Big Brothers Big Sisters, Olson suggested people call the office at 465-9125 or stop by 1960 W. 4th St.

Student News

Raymond Schindler

Raymond Schindler received congratulations recently from Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland president Kenneth Clouse during National Vocational Technical Honor Society induction ceremonies.

The event was held late last week at the Goodland Technical College, a public relations officials said.

"Raymond is a student in the communications technology program at the vocational college and will receive his diploma in commencement exercises scheduled for Dec. 20," Clouse said.

Ten students were inducted in the National Vocational Technical Honor Society during this week's ceremonies.

The Northwest Technical College is located at 1209 Harrison, Box 668, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

For information about the college, call (785) 899-7630.



R. Schindler

Long distance access codes using 10-10 topic of consumer questions

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

My daughter was recently given an access code by a friend to use at home when she dialed long-distance. Her friend said if she dialed 10-10 plus the access code before dialing the number she was calling, the charges would be \$.03 a minute. Our normal rate is \$.10, so she used the access code often over a four week period. When we received our phone bill we found the charges were almost \$.75 a minute and our bill was for over \$1,000.00! Attorney General Stovall, can anything be done

Carla Stovall

• Consumer Corner

about these exorbitant charges?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Your daughter's use of the access code (also known as a "dial-around" or 10-10 number) by-passed the normal long distance plan you had with your long distance carrier. Since the access code belonged to another company, the

rate was billed at a different amount than what you have through your carrier. Sometimes using a dial-around can save you money. However, in your case, your daughter received some misinformation from her friend, and the dial-around rate was a high non-discounted rate with a per-call surcharge.

As an act of mediation, my office forwarded your complaint to the phone company that billed you for using their access code. While under no obligation to refund your money, the company

reduced the bill by 50% as a courtesy.

All members of a household should be aware of the charges that can be incurred by using an unfamiliar dial-around. Choose a plan or dial-around number that meets the calling needs of everyone in the household, then make sure to educate them on the rate, fees, surcharges and details of the plan. If there are any restrictions on calling

times or limits, communicate that as well. This will help protect your residence from receiving bills such as the one mentioned above.

Editor's note: Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help people avoid becoming victims of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are

based on actual complaints. For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 1201 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kan., 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and your call will be returned promptly.

Accident on I-70 sends 12 suspected illegal immigrants to Goodland hospital

GOODLAND — Twelve suspected illegal immigrants from Chapis, Mexico, were injured Friday night when the minivan they were riding in blew a tire and rolled into a ditch on I-70 about a mile east of the Colorado state line.

A report from the Kansas Highway Patrol said at 8:55 p.m. Oscar Florentino, 24, was driving the 1996 Chevrolet van east on I-70 when the left rear tire blew, causing the van to skid into the south ditch and roll. The van, which was totaled, was towed away by Alex's Radiator and Repair.

Florentino and the 11 passengers were taken by ambulance to Goodland Regional Medical Center, where five were transferred to Denver Health

Medical Center. No one in the van was wearing a seat belt and officers couldn't find evidence that Florentino had a driver's license.

A Denver Health representative said today that Florentino is in fair condition and Ramero Roblero, 32, has been discharged. Arel Roblero, 30, and Martha Roblero, 23, are in serious condition and Pedro Mendes, 26, may have been discharged, as there is no record of him at the hospital.

Sondra Krayca, head nurse at Goodland's hospital, said today that five of the patients here have been discharged, while two remain in stable condition.

She wouldn't give names, but the rest of the passengers listed by the

Highway Patrol were Wilfredo Velasques, 20; Orlando Perez, 30, Aberam Borralliez, 26, Santos Vasquez, 27, Demetrio Dias, 27, Tito Rameres, 40, and Freme Robbliaro, 20.

A trooper said there was no evidence any of the people in the van were U.S. citizens.

He said the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service will decide what happens to the group next.

Kansas City police try new ways to approach mentally ill

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Police Department, which has seen its officers fatally shoot two suspects in recent weeks, is trying a new approach in dealing with mentally ill people.

The Board of Police Commissioners is also reviewing the department's deadly force policy.

One of the two men killed was mentally ill, his parents said; the other was a drug suspect.

The parents of the mentally ill man, Aaron Dougherty, said officers didn't have to shoot him eight times during a disturbance at their home on Nov. 11. Police said they also regret the death but that Dougherty, 26, gave them no choice; he was armed with two knives and moving toward the officers.

Four days later, an officer fatally shot a suspect fleeing the scene of a drug raid.

In the chase, police said, the suspect

turned and pointed a gun at an officer. The officer fired eight shots at Deric D. Mitchell, 21, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Two shootings in one week is something that gets our attention," Board President Stacey Daniels-Young said.

"We're not ignoring it."

Daniels-Young said she had requested presentations at Tuesday's board meeting on past police shootings as well as how officers are trained to use deadly force.

"We want to see if there are any new technologies we can use, and just make sure our policies are current," she said.

Board member Karl Zobrist also requested the review.

"I think our policy meets legal and professional standards," he said.

"But it's always a good practice to review policies, especially when you have two deaths in one week."

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