

Two post office meetings set

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

The U.S. Postal Service has earmarked Kanorado and Edson as two rural post offices to be considered for closing, and community meetings are being planned for each town.

Letters have gone out to the postal patrons of each community to let them know about the plans. The two post offices are part of a national list of 3,700, with 137 from Kansas, which the postal service is considering for closure to reduce costs.

The Kanorado community meeting is planned for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25, to be held at the Kanorado Senior Citizen Center.

The Edson community meeting is planned for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 26, to be held at Cochran Farm Supply a mile west of town.

In Kanorado local citizens are planning a community meeting to be held at 6 p.m. prior to the postal hearing to discuss the closing.

A letter being circulated in Kanorado said, "Local citizens served by the Kanorado Post Office should seriously consider the consequences of the U.S. Postal Service's proposal and be prepared to voice their concern at the meeting. Only the citizens of the community may take action to prevent the closing of their post office, and prevent service from being transferred to a contract community post office or station, and/or rural or cluster box delivery.

"To preserve their post office as it now exists — a regular United States Post Office operated by career postal employees — local citizens must speak up now."

Citizens can present their views and specific reasons for not closing the post office at the Kanorado and Edson community meetings. Written comments for both towns may be submitted to the district office of the Postal Service addressed to District Manager



Kanorado Post Office lobby facing change, closure. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Rick Pivovar, P.O. Box 199505, Omaha, Neb. 68124-9505.

The U.S. Postal Service has to give notice 60 days prior to a final decision to close a post office.

After a final decision about closing the post office, citizens have appeal rights for local citizens if the final decision is in favor of closing. The appeal from local citizens must be in the hand of the Postal Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., within 30 days after the written determination for closing.

Post office processing changes for all the communities were changed in mid-September, with consolidation of the processing in Colby and Hays being moved to Salina. This has meant a move up in collection times of about three hours per day for the post offices in Kanorado, Goodland and Edson.

At the same time the consolidation was taking place, the postal service announced plans to conduct a study at the Colby Mail Processing Center to examine the feasibility of consolidating its operations into the Denver Process-

ing and Distribution Center.

"This Area Mail Processing study involves a review of the mail processing and transportation operations to determine capacity needs within the postal network in order to increase efficiency and improve productivity," said the official news release.

The study, which is expected to be completed early next year, comes as the Postal Service faces one of the most difficult challenges in its history.

"Annual mail volume has declined by more than 43 billion pieces in the past five years and is continuing to decline. Total First-Class Mail has dropped 25 percent and single piece First-Class Mail — letters bearing postage stamps — has declined 36 percent in the same timeframe.

"Even when the economy fully recovers, the Postal Service does not expect mail volume to return to previous peak levels, and is projecting annual deficits for the foreseeable future. Because the decline has created substantial excess mail processing capacity, the Postal Service is initiating studies to look at reducing the size of its mail processing network nationwide.

If the feasibility study reveals an opportunity to consolidate mail processing operations, the Postal Service will hold a public meeting to explain the proposed operational changes and potential impacts on service, and to solicit public feedback which will then be considered before a final decision is made."

The U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

'Technology in education' conference at Northwest Tech

Northwest Tech is taking the initiative to look at ways educators, community leaders and citizens can strengthen and enhance quality of life for rural communities.

The Third Annual Rural School and Community Development Conference will be held on Friday morning in the Student Union on Northwest Tech's campus.

The college is addressing the issues by bringing nationally renowned and top leaders to share their expertise during insightful presentations.

The guest speakers include: Steve Anderson, State Budget Director, who will represent Gov. Sam

Brownback and talk about the Rural Opportunity Zone programs.

Dan Senstock, Account Executive in Higher Education with Apply Inc., Senstock works with universities and colleges in Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, and hosts workshops centering around curriculum integration of mobile tools into learning environments.

Dr. Ed Mills, Northwest Tech President is in his third year as president of Northwest Technical College. He holds his doctorate from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He has taught at the high school, community college, and university levels.

Ben Coumerilh, Northwest Tech Chief Information Officer. Coumerilh has been professionally involved in the technology and marketing field for nearly 15 years. As the owner of Branded Ideas, he has led businesses in discovering their untapped potential through current trends in technology and marketing.

He has designed and procured a cutting edge technology plan for the campus. He developed an iPad Mobile Learning Initiative for the student population.

To register or for additional guest speaker information, please visit the college website at nwktc.edu. Registration fee is \$40.

Three interviewed for vacancy

By Ava Betz

abetz@nwkans.com

City Commissioners held an early morning meeting Thursday to interview candidates to fill the remaining term of Josh Dechant, who moved out of the city limits and is therefore no longer eligible to serve on the commission.

The term ends following the next city elections in April 2013.

Three candidates were scheduled to be interviewed Thursday: Gary

Farris of Farris Manufacturing; Mike Campbell, Farm Service Agency district supervisor; and Dylan Warden of Frontier Ag.

When the meeting opened at 7:30 a.m., Warden was not present, so City Manager Doug Gerber contacted him by telephone and was told he was held up by an emergency at the Kanorado Elevator.

Mayor John Garcia and Commissioners Bill Finley, Chris Zimmerman and Annette Fairbanks decided

to proceed with interviews of the other two candidates.

Following question and answer periods with the candidates and a brief statement from each candidate, the commissioners announced a decision on the commission vacancy will be made at the regular meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday.

Gerber was to contact Warden to determine if he will be available for an interview Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Man arrested after standoff with police sent to Larned for mental evaluation

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkans.com

The Goodland man arrested by the KBI after a more than 10-hour standoff last week was ordered to be sent to the state hospital in Larned for a mental evaluation, court records show.

Ronald Kernal, 47, who was arrested after the standoff, was in Sherman County District Court last week, and Karan Thadani of the Milliken Law Office of St. Francis was appointed to represent him.

The court ordered Kernal to be taken to Larned for a mental evaluation.

Kernal is charged with possession of a firearm. He previously has been convicted of a person felony dating back to his 1982 conviction in Sherman County for second degree murder. Kernal spent 19 years in prison and was released in June 2002.

He is charged with aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer for pointing the firearm at Sergeant Greg Krosky.

Krosky said he called in the KBI because he was short of officers. He said he did not know what kind of gun Kernal had pointed at him, and he was not going to take a chance.

He said the KBI had used tear gas, pepper spray and a stink bomb to try to get Kernal to come out before they entered the apartment.

After the KBI had entered the apartment and arrested Kernal, Krosky said he and Kody Hansen had done an incident search of the apartment and had seized one pellet rifle and one pellet handgun.

He said he did not have enough officers to guard the apartment, and on Wednesday got a search warrant to go back and see if they had missed anything.

He said when they went back to the apartment on Wednesday they did not find anything else.

Krosky said he felt the KBI did a good job.

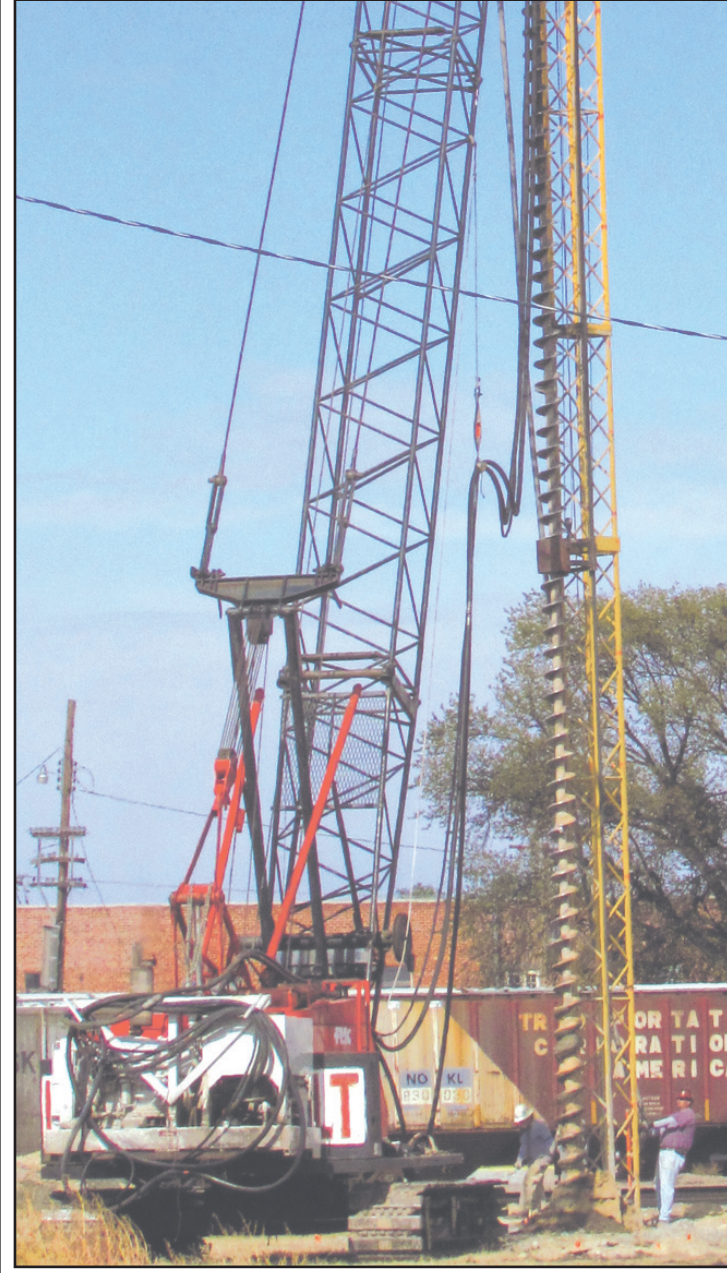
Krosky said High Plains Mental Health had asked the police to do a welfare check on Kernal because they were worried he might be a danger to himself or to others.

There has been some information High Plains Mental Health had apparently recently changed some of the medications Kernal was taking, and they asked the police to do the welfare check.

Krosky said the Sherman County Sheriff's Department asked to borrow a city police car with a cage to transport Kernal to Larned.

A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Drilling piers for tanks



Crew from USA Tank Storage Systems of Seneca, Mo., are drilling 55-foot piers for new 500,000 gallon bolted tanks to be erected for Agro Culture Liquid Fertilizer south of the railroad tracks. Each tank will take 63 piers before the slabs are poured. A spokesperson said they hope to have the slabs ready in November, and ready for the tanks to arrive.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

weather report

61°

10:30 a.m. Thursday



Today

• Sunset, 6:09 p.m.

Saturday

• Sunrise, 6:57 a.m.

• Sunset, 6:07 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 57 degrees

• Humidity 34 percent

• Sky sunny

• Winds southwest 13 mph

• Barometer 30.06 inches

and falling

• Record High today 92° (1968)

• Record Low today 22° (1914)

Last 24 Hours*

High Wednesday 66°

Low Wednesday 39°

Precipitation none

This month 1.54

Year to date 17.99

Above Normal .37 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny with a high near 67, winds out of the north at 5 to 10 switching to the east and a low around 44. Saturday: Sunny with a high near 82, winds out of the southwest at 10 to 15 mph and a low around 48.

Extended Forecast

Sunday: Sunny with a high near 67 and a low around 46. Monday: Sunny with a high near 69 and a low around 41. Tuesday: Sunny with a high near 61 and a low around 39. Wednesday: Sunny with a high near 67.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

10:30 a.m.

Wheat — \$6.25 bushel

Posted county price — \$6.46

Corn — \$5.97 bushel

Posted county price — \$5.90

Milo — \$5.69 bushel

Soybeans — \$11.08 bushel

Posted county price — \$10.87

Millet — \$5 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$28.35 cwt.

Confection — no bid

Pinto beans — \$28

(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



Cowgirls state bound!

Cowgirl Jazz Weis hit an iron shot at the regional in Syracuse on Monday. She finished third and the Cowgirls golf team qualified for the state meet. See story, photos on Page 11.

