Local pilot puts his emergency training to the test

What started out as a routine flight in his Beechcraft Bonanza six-passenger airplane on Sunday morning, Aug. 5 became a test of Jonathan Berkley's flight training when Jonathan heard a loud bang in the engine. Jonathan's parents, James and Vicki Berkley had driven to Lawrence on Saturday with their daughter Renee to help her settle back into her second year of college life at Kansas University.

The plan was for Jonathan to pick them up the next day at the Lawrence airport since they had traveled to KU in Renee's car.

Jonathan had taken off from the Stockton Airport at around 8:00 a.m. and had been in the air for about an hour and a half. After the initial engine noise, the plane began shaking with some of the warning lights lighting up on the instrument panel. Jonathan first thought it might be the alternator as he could see oil coming out of the engine compartment, though most of the oil had probably leaked out the bottom of the plane.

Jonathan, who was flying at about 6,000 feet, notified air traffic control of his engine problems at approximately 9:30 a.m. By that time smoke was coming out of the engine and into the cabin. Jonathan shut off the fuel system to prevent a fire since it would only take a few minutes for any fire to get through the airplane's firewall.

Radio control out of Topeka/Lawrence was in constant contact with Jonathan as he visually looked for a place to land. Highway K92 was visible with Jonathan then radioing in his plan for an emergency landing. Since the engine had been cut, Jonathan was set to glide the plane down. After gearing down and putting the wing flaps down, Jonathan slowly made a shallow turn of the plane to line it up with the highway. Though most of that particular highway is hilly, Jonathan found a stretch of road that was flat, perfect for this type of emergency. But, there was still one obstacle Jonathan had to overcome and that was to glide his plane under a powerline that went across the road.

When the plane finally touched down, Jonathan turned it off onto a county road located somewhere just northeast of Perry Lake and two to four miles west of Osceola.

Jonathan opened the engine compartment to check on the damage shortly after he landed with the Kansas Highway Patrol and several local people stopping by to give assistance in any way they could. The exact cause of the engine trouble will be determined after it has been inspected, though a broken connecting rod has been discussed as the probable cause.

The Kansas Highway Patrol filled out the aviation accident form stating to Jonathan that he had literally found the only straight stretch of road on Highway K92. Plus, this was one of the few times the plane and pilot...
Local pilot puts his emergency training to the test

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were literally unscathed by the emergency landing.

Jonathan said it was a forced landing due to engine failure, and it is one of the many flight safety scenarios that a pilot learns during his training. Jonathan has had his pilot's license since 1999, which he has to recertify every two years and update his instrument currency every six months. Also, the aircraft had had its routine inspection about a month ago.

Reflecting back on the emergency landing, which took at this point in time probably the longest ten minutes of his life, Jonathan said several factors came into play. First off, Jonathan usually flies by the instrument flight plan, but since it was such a nice day with no clouds, he chose to monitor air traffic control. That means he was in constant contact with them for the entire flight saving him from having to radio in when the trouble first began. Also, another plane flying in the vicinity was able to relay in Jonathan's location. Jonathan is not sure if the highway patrol had cleared the road or not, but during his landing there were no cars in the vicinity.

Jonathan said he has flown with his grandpa, Jack Berkley, and his dad, James, for years and never in all those years of flying had anything like this ever happened to any of them. Not even when Jack flew his 30 missions during World War II.

Jonathan said after the initial shock of the situation was processed, the many hours of training took over. The reaction of his ordeal came into play after he was safely on the ground and with his parents.
It's time to start talking about competence

The last (but unfortunately not the final) “debate” among Republican presidential candidates aired Sunday morning in the apparent hope that no one would watch.

Few did. But among those who watched or who read the transcript, ideology once again seemed to take precedence over something the voters might consider of greater importance in next year’s election. That something is competence.

While Sen. Sam Brownback and Gov. Mitt Romney sparred over who was pro-life first (the Republican version of the Democrats’ battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton over who was first to oppose the war), I suspect most people are more interested in which candidate is best equipped to run the government.

The Washington Post had reported the Pentagon has lost about 190,000 AK-47 assault rifles and pistols it had given to Iraqi security forces in 2004 and 2005. The Government Accountability Office found the distribution of weapons was “haphazard and rushed” and established procedures weren’t followed. The head of security training during the period the arms disappeared was Gen. David Petraeus, who will report to President Bush next month on the progress of the surge.

Perhaps the Pentagon should have affixed bar codes to the weapons. Like a book or a box of cereal, they would have been easier to track. As it is, more of our tax dollars have gone down the hole with no hope of a rebate, and some of the weapons have probably fallen into the hands of insurgents who will surely use them to shoot Americans.

How would the presidential candidates propose making this broken system work more effectively?

What about education? We pour increasing amounts of time, attention and money into giving children, especially underprivileged children, a chance to succeed. Do the candidates really believe the problem isn’t enough money, or is it too much money and not enough choice as to which school best serves the needs of children?

Ending the education monopoly would help those languishing in substandard schools. Are the candidates — especially Democrats — so beholden to the teachers unions that they care more about winning their approval than they do about educating children? Why don’t the interrogators/moderators ask the question this way?

H. George Frederickson, a professor in the Department of Public Administration at the University of Kansas, has written a compelling essay on “Repairing Broken Government.” Noting the familiar list most people make on the reasons for broken government — the pervasive influence of money in politics, the power of interest groups and lobbyists, legislative gridlock and more — Frederickson touches on something of perhaps even greater importance: “bureaucracy, ineffective management or poor policy implementation are central elements of a broken national government.”

Frederickson calls for “substantive competence (think Katrina)” in government. He wants more competent people running things, and he suggests the way to make that happen is to amend the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

That law, he writes, “added a thick layer of political appointees to the upper ranks of federal agencies” while the ranks of merit-based civil servants were reduced from almost 3 million to about 1.8 million.

“At the standpoint of government effectiveness, this has been a deadly combination,” he says.

Where are the voices of the presidential candidates promising to clean house of political appointees and replace them, not with political appointees, but with people who know what they are doing?

I care about social issues and the eroding morality of the country, but I care more about competent government. We are spending more on government than ever and getting less for our money. A government that can’t keep track of nearly 200,000 weapons during a war does not inspire confidence.

Let’s have a little less ideology from the presidential candidates of both parties and a lot more talk of how to repair broken government.

Cal Thomas’ e-mail address is tmse4itors@tribune.com.

Tribune Media Services
Artist questions painting over murals

To the editor:

Who wants to take credit for denying Chetopa a moment in educational history? Many citizens in Chetopa would like to know the answer. Recently while attending a fundraiser in the multi-purpose room at Chetopa Elementary, it was brought to my attention the big mural was missing. “Koala-ity Education” using the Koala Bear theme.

Did all the twenty-plus murals get painted over? When asking a school official on the board what happened to the mural, his reply was, “I don’t know.”

As an alumnus of the Chetopa school, this was an honor for me to participate and work with teachers, staff, and students on the murals. Teachers and students collaborated on subjects such as reading, music, sports, or just fun stuff for each classroom.

Photographers from Kansas University of Lawrence came to photograph the murals for a book they were publishing; they were denied access to the building for viewing. We are listed, but we missed the opportunity of being photographed in the book, Kansas Murals, A Traveler’s Guide. This book has national recognition and is available in libraries throughout Kansas. Calvin Littlejohn and Joan Allen donated this book to the Chetopa City Library.

Where is the pride in our school and for our community? Why was this not taken to a vote? Who is responsible for painting over the historical murals? What will be taken from the community next?

Responses welcome
— Joan Allen
To assist students from the 10 Kansas counties hit by natural disasters this spring and summer, NCCC has announced it will postpone the first payment, which is currently due, until September 20, 2007. The college will also waive the $35 fee to set up a payment plan.

KU recently announced their plans to aide students from the following flooded counties as well: Elk, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho and Wilson and residents in five storm-damaged counties: Edwards, Osage, Pratt and Stafford. It is possible that more counties may be added to the list because of the June floods. Students must provide documentation from FEMA that their home or business has been affected by a natural disaster to qualify for the waiver and payment extension.

If you have any questions, please contact the college at 620-431-2820 ext. 508 (Chaffute) or 785-242-2067 ext. 308 (Ottawa).
KU's Dole Institute announces area 2007 public service scholarship recipients

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

The recipients, all 2007 Kansas high schools graduates, represent the largest class of Dole scholars since the program began in 2005. Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state's four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

1. Garet D. Nally, Erie High School/Pittsburg State University, Biochemistry major, 2nd District: Nancy Boyda.
2. Brenna S. Murphy, Girard High School/Kansas State University, Biology, Pre-Dental major, 2nd District: Nancy Boyda.
3. Anne M. McAtee, St. Paul High School/Kansas State University, Hospitality Management major, 2nd District: Nancy Boyda.
Health care couple new to HCH staff

By ALI HOLCOMB
Recorder Staff

After spending the past three years living in Shawnee, Wichita and Kansas City, Josh and Sarrah Moulin say they are ready to settle down in Holton and work at a community hospital.

Sarrah, 29, began working at Holton Community Hospital at the end of May as a physical therapist, and her husband, Josh, 28, a physician’s assistant, recently finished his preceptorship at HCFI and will begin working full time after he receives his temporary license.

Sarrah grew up in Olathe and earned her undergraduate degree from The University of Kansas. Originally an art major, Sarrah said she switched to physical therapy after spending time with children with disabilities.

“I just wanted to work with people and help them,” she said. “My mom was a nurse so I had heard about health care all my life.”

While Sarrah started off as an art major, Josh had hopes of playing baseball. After finishing high school in his hometown of Bonner Springs, Josh attended Kansas City Community College to play baseball.

After two years, he decided to go to medical school at KU for physical therapy.

“I really wanted to play baseball and had thought about being a coach, but I’ve always been a really outgoing person,” he said. “I wanted to work with people and see patients first hand and see results.”

It was at KU’s medical school where Josh and Sarrah met. With a physical therapy class of less than 50 students, the Moulins shared all the same classes together, Sarrah said.

In 2004, they both graduated with their physical therapy degrees.

After graduation, Sarrah worked at a nursing home in Shawnee and was the rehabilitation manager at a physical therapy contract work at Kansas City.

Josh decided to go back to school at Wichita State University to become a physician’s assistant.

“I really wanted to be able to see patients right from the beginning of their treatment,” he said. “As a physical therapist, you only see patients after they have been seen by a doctor, and I wanted to see them directly.”

The couple got married on June 20, 2006. That fall, they met representatives from HCH at a career fair held at the KU med center.

“They were super nice and were looking for a physical therapist,” Sarrah said. “We decided to come up and interview, and we loved the hospital and the town.”

The couple moved into a home they built in Holton on May 25.

“It’s such a close-knit community,” Sarrah said. “It nice to treat people and then see them at the grocery store. It’s so different, but we love it.”

Josh is also excited to begin practicing at HCH.

“I think it will be great to be able to treat the same family throughout their entire life — the parents, their children and their grandchildren.”

Both of them said they hope to bring new knowledge and a sense of youthfulness to HCH. They said the transition to Holton was easy.

“We feel accepted here,” Josh said. “We appreciate all the people we’ve been able to meet. I’d rather be living here than in a big city.”

In their spare time, the Moulin enjoy traveling, spending time with their family and their dog, Daisy, and entertaining people at their new home. Josh also enjoys golf and plays on a competitive softball team based in Kansas City.
Miam County Business and Professional Women's Club met for their monthly business meeting on July 11 at the Paola Country Club.

Shelly Newport, treasurer, reported that the scholarships awarded to Paola and Osawatomie high school seniors in May need to be deducted from the balance in the account in August.

Kaley Debrick, Ashley Ennis and Margo Rodewald presented interesting highlights of their week spent at the University of Kansas as Girls' State representatives of Paola High School. Ennis was sponsored by the local BPW Club.

Helen Norman mentioned various activities and fund-raisers in which the state BPW clubs are involved, and she gave ideas in which the local club could participate.

The local club voted to contribute $250 to the Osawatomie flood victims, and the check will be delivered to Rob Roberts with the local Salvation Army. Individual members have also contributed and assisted where needed.

Betty Hewitt was the winner of the drawing.

Members present at the meeting were Pat Fagan, Colleen Ewan, Gladys Prothe, Shelly Newport, Jenny Salyer, Betty Hewitt and Jennifer Haley. Guests were Susan Dunaway of Huntington Beach, Calif., daughter of Mrs. Ewan; Alisha Williamson, Paola, and Helen Norman of Garnett, Kansas BPW vice-president. Other guests were the Girls' State attendees Kaley Debrick, Ashley Ennis and Margo Rodewald, along with their mothers, Karla Debrick, Robin Ennis and Brigitte Rodewald. Katherine Meinig and her mother, Linda, were unable to attend the meeting.

The next business meeting will be Aug. 1 at the Country Club. Beginning in September, the club will resume business meetings on the first Wednesday of each month and the program meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Guests and prospective members are welcome to attend and may call any member to make reservations.

Terrell Williams, Bob Matney, Roger and Jean Shipman, Ray Rockers, Jay and Betty Bodenhamer, Lester and Leta England, Gilbert and Martha Puckett, Sharon Walters, Vic and Flossie Hines, Jack Cavinee and Bernice and Glenn Chitwood.

The next breakfast will be at 8 a.m. Aug. 28 at The Whistle Stop Café on South Sixth Street, Osawatomie. All retirees of Taylor Forge are invited to attend.
LAWRENCE — To assist students from 10 Kansas counties hit by natural disasters this spring and summer, the University of Kansas announced today it will offer those students the option to defer tuition and fee payments normally due in August.

Under the offer, the university will waive late payment penalties and work out individual deferred payment plans, said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere.

"When your family home or business has been flooded out, you have more immediate concerns than a tuition due date. We hope this will give those students under hardship some time and flexibility to focus on recovery and getting their lives back to normal," Lariviere said.

KU students will begin receiving bills for fall semester tuition and fees late next week, with the first payment due Aug. 15. Ordinarily, an initial $100 penalty is assessed after that deadline and additional penalties are applied each month the bill is overdue.

To qualify for the waiver and payment extension, affected students can complete an online form at www.bursar.ku.edu/forms/disaster_deferment.aspx. For more information, students may contact the University Bursar’s office at (785) 864-3322 or e-mail bursar@ku.edu by Aug. 15.

Affected students who need additional assistance with emergency or unanticipated financial issues may also contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at (785) 864-4700.

The policy presently applies to residents in five flooded Kansas counties (Elk, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho and Wilson) and residents in five storm-damaged counties (Edwards, Kiowa, Osage, Pratt and Stafford) who were declared eligible for individual federal assistance. This includes Greensburg, which was hit by a devastating tornado in May, and Coffeyville, which was inundated by flood waters late last month and a large oil spill on July 1. More counties may still be added to that list because of the June floods, according to the state adjutant general’s office.
Boyda announces pharmacy bill to prevent Medicaid cuts

At a recent press conference at Jayhawk Pharmacy in Topeka, Congresswoman Nancy Boyda, D-Second District, announced the Save Our Community Pharmacies Act, her bill to prevent the drastic cut in pharmacy reimbursement rates that Medicaid plans to implement next year.

In announcing her legislation, Boyda said, "In so many rural Kansas towns, community pharmacists are the most accessible, best-trained health care providers for miles. But community pharmacies face growing pressures from mail-order companies and chain drug stores, and now the federal government is making their problems even worse."

In 2005, Congress ordered Medicaid to change its method for reimbursing pharmacies for generic prescription drugs to a formula based on average manufacturer price, or AMP: the price a distributor pays a manufacturer for a medication. In a recent study, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office determined that AMP-based reimbursement is typically 36% less than a pharmacy's cost to purchase a drug from the distributor. That figure does not account for the pharmacy's overhead or labor costs.

The financial loss threatened under AMP-based pricing would cripple many community pharmacies, potentially triggering a health care crisis in rural Kansas. According to Rep. Boyda, "No business can survive if they're reimbursed only 64 percent of the cost of acquiring their product. That's like forcing a bank to sell dollar bills for 64 cents."

The AMP-based pricing formula was originally scheduled to take effect last month, but in late June, in response to a letter authored by Rep. Boyda and signed by 108 Members of Congress, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) delayed the reductions until January of 2008. Now, Rep. Boyda has introduced the Save Our Community Pharmacies Act to permanently fix the AMP-based pricing problem.

Boyda's bill will reimburse pharmacies 150 percent of national median acquisition cost of each generic prescription they dispense to Medicaid beneficiaries, a figure intended to cover both the price of the drug and modest overhead expenses.

Boyda explained, "It makes no sense to reimburse an end retailer based on a wholesaler's cost. If you want to find out how much a hamburger costs, you don't ask how much a slaughterhouse pays for a cow. You ask for a receipt for the burger. That's what my legislation does."

Among the major national advocacy organizations endorsing Rep. Boyda's bill are the National Community Pharmacy Association, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the Food Marketing Institute, the National Grocers Association, and the Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

At Boyda's press conference, Melissa Rufenacht, a pharmacy student at the University of Kansas and president of KU chapter of the National Community Pharmacy Association, spoke of her childhood in Ness County, a rural Kansas county with only one pharmacy. It's important that (the one pharmacy) stays open. The closest pharmacy is sixty miles away, so the community would suffer immensely. They would have to drive an hour to get their prescriptions. Their doctors may be in Ness City; their pharmacy is in Hays, and that's just a lot of trouble, and it's very hurtful to the community.

Boyda's legislation will pay for itself by requiring states to increase their utilization of generic drugs, which are significantly cheaper than name-brand alternatives. States that already use generic drugs at high rates will be required to increase their generic utilization by one percentage point per year; states currently lagging behind will be required to increase by three percentage points per year. The savings from better use of generic medications will pay for the fairer reimbursements to pharmacies.
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