

Explosion destroys office and injures 3

By Jeff Zeleny
Editor

GRESHAM — A Tuesday mid-afternoon explosion and fire at the farmer's cooperative elevator office here gutted the building and sent three people to the hospital.

At 1:52 p.m., an explosion rocked the Farmer's Cooperative Business Association in Gresham, a community of about 250 located 24 miles northeast of York. Witnesses said at least one worker was thrown from the one-story building, which was destroyed in the blaze.

Ken Crook of Rising City, manager of the co-op, suffered burns to the upper part of his body. He was transferred from York General Hospital to St. Elizabeth Hospital's burn unit in Lincoln, where he was listed in critical condition Tuesday evening, a St. Elizabeth's spokeswoman said.

Kurt Rhodes of Gresham, who also works at the elevator, sustained multiple fractures to his back. He was transferred from York General Hospital to Lincoln General Hospital Tuesday afternoon. Rhodes was transferred to Bergan Mercy Hospital in Omaha late Tuesday evening, a Lincoln General spokeswoman said, where he was to undergo specialized back surgery.

The explosion occurred during the height of the fall harvest season. Records and other debris were thrown from the building and scattered around the co-op.

Ed Schultze, an area farmer, also was injured in the explosion. Witnesses said Schultze was sitting in a tractor which was parked on a scale in front of the office. He was transported to a hospital, witnesses said, but his condition was unknown Tuesday evening.

The explosion remained under investigation late Tuesday, said Gresham Fire Chief Tom Bredwell. Although the cause of the explosion was not known, Bredwell said, officials were investigating a propane gas line near the building.



Fire fighters work to extinguish a hot spots after an explosion ripped through a grain elevator office early Tuesday afternoon in Gresham Nebraska. The explosion injured two people and completely destroyed the office.

Gerik Parmele/DN

“Until the fire marshal has concluded the investigation, I can't tell you anything,” he said at the explosion site.

Bredwell said he arrived on the scene about 15 minutes after the blast and smoke engulfed the building.

Witnesses said the structure crumbled slowly as the fire was extinguished.

Bob Sleight of the state fire marshal's office sifted through what

was left of the 30 foot by 40 foot building Tuesday afternoon, as firefighters from Gresham, York, Waco and Utica doused the smoldering rubble.

News... in a Minute

Palace purged in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Hundreds of U.S. troops took over the National Palace on Tuesday, sweeping away the last vestiges of Haiti's military-backed administration before President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return.

About 500 American soldiers entered the sprawling white building and other ministries, escorting out employees of the government set up by the military leaders who overthrew Aristide in 1991.

Aristide's Cabinet ministers fired all employees hired under a civilian figurehead government installed in May by military strongman Raoul Cedras, who resigned Monday.

“From now on, we the people are responsible for the country,” said Aristide. At dusk, about 2,000 joyful people paraded outside the National Palace.

Game theorists win Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Two Americans and a German won the Nobel prize in economics Tuesday for pioneering work that shows companies do business, governments make decisions and armies fight battles much the way people play poker and chess.

Sharing the \$930,000 prize are Hungarian-born John C. Harsanyi, a retired professor from the University of California at Berkeley; John F. Nash, a mathematician at Princeton University; and Reinhard Selten of the University of Bonn.

The physics and chemistry prizes will be announced Wednesday, followed on Thursday by the literature prize. The peace prize will be announced Friday in Oslo, Norway.

Shuttle returns with 3-D images

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — Space shuttle Endeavour and its six astronauts glided to a landing in the Mojave Desert on Tuesday after 11 days spent mapping the Earth in 3-D with the most powerful civilian radar ever flown.

The spacecraft orbited at an unusually low altitude — as low as 127 miles — as it took a path stretching from the Aleutian Islands in the north to near the Antarctic Circle.

Astronaut Thomas Jones said the mission gathered “new facts about the geology of the Earth” and tested a new technique offering “potentially a way to map the 60 percent of the Earth's surface that's really not well surveyed at all.”

During the environmental research mission, the radar was used to study mountains, volcanoes, oceans, deserts and forests.

Thick clouds at Cape Canaveral, Fla., forced Endeavour to divert to a mid-morning landing at the opposite end of the country.

NASA prefers to land shuttles at Cape Canaveral to save the \$1 million it costs to fly the spacecraft back to Florida atop a jumbo jet.

Allies continue troop build-up across the border from Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Skeptical of Saddam Hussein's intentions, the United States and its allies pursued their massive military buildup in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday despite signs that Iraqi troops were pulling away from Kuwait.

Washington was assembling its biggest force since the 1991 Gulf War to face down the Iraqi leader: Tens of thousands of Americans were still ordered into the Gulf along with hundreds of the most potent U.S. aircraft and warships.

Five days after the crisis began, “there's fairly broad movement” away from combat positions by the 80,000 Iraqis assembled at the Kuwaiti border, Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the Pentagon.

“Considerable (Iraqi) units” remain in the area, he said.

The Iraqi deployment toward the Kuwaiti border “wasn't just some innocent exercise that they were on and we misread it,” Shalikashvili said. “I'm not at all prepared to say the crisis is over in any way.”

Baghdad claimed its forces began moving Monday night to a position north of Basra, 35 miles north of the

“I'm not at all prepared to say the crisis is over in any way.”

GEN. JOHN SHALIKASHVILI

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Kuwaiti border.

The official Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted Foreign Minister Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf as saying the pullback was largely completed Tuesday. Only two brigades, about 8,000 men, were still near the border and would withdraw soon, Sahhaf said.

Another agency dispatch said the Foreign Ministry has asked the Russian and Chinese embassies to send their military attaches to verify the pullback.

Journalists on the road to Basra said troops and military equipment

were moving in both directions, with heavy artillery heading south.

Baghdad had claimed the buildup was a routine rotation and training exercise. But the mobilization was alarmingly similar to the one that preceded Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Kuwait's information minister, Sheik Saud al-Sabah, said Tuesday night “there is evidence that they are reinforcing, not withdrawing so therefore we should not in any instance take these statements as valid.”

Earlier, he told The Associated Press, “We cannot tolerate this kind of cat-and-mouse game being played. Saddam has always been playing these games with us for the last two years.”

The United States suggested imposing a wide off-limits zone on Saddam's ground forces near Kuwait's border.

“There's a no-fly zone now (in southern Iraq) but we are looking at ways to kind of move them back and make sure that they stay behind a certain area so that we are not faced with this kind of thing again,” said Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor	Jeff Zeleny 472-1766	Night News Editors	Chris Hain Doug Kouma Heather Lampe Dave Vincent
Managing Editor	Angie Brunkow	Art Director	James Mehling
Assoc. News Editors	Jeffrey Robb Rainbow Rowell	General Manager	Den Shattil
Opinion Page Editor	Kara Morrison	Production Manager	Katherine Policky
Wire Editor	Deb McAdams	Advertising Manager	Amy Struthers
Copy Desk Editor	Mike Lewis	Asst. Advertising Manager	Shari Krajewski
Sports Editor	Tim Pearson	Publications Board Chairman	Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258
Arts & Entertainment Editor	Matt Woody	Professional Adviser	Don Walton, 473-7301
Photo Director	Kiley Christian		

FAX NUMBER 472-1761
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258. Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1994 DAILY NEBRASKAN