



COLBY FREE PRESS



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Fly-In Fun

ABOVE: Hagan Booi, 3, and his father, Brandon, looked at the many remote controlled airplanes during the Colby Municipal Airport's "Fly-In," held Saturday. For the past five years, there has been a Colby RC Club with about 13 members active. If interested in finding out more about the remote control planes, call Dave Backus, 460-6941. **LEFT:** Chance Hoeting, 9, (right) and Jacob Antholz, 9, both of Rexford, looked over materials during the airport event. **RIGHT:** Twin girls, Cassandra (left) and sister, Melissa, one year olds, seemed to be enjoying themselves during the "fly-in" with their mother, Angela Zimmerman, Colby.

Motorcycle, car crash kills two Saturday

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Two people were killed in Colby Saturday night when the motorcycle they were riding collided into the front left corner of a Ford Excursion.

Roger Lynn Blau, 55, driving the motorcycle and his passenger, Roberta F. Casey, 58, both of Colby, were taken to Citizens Medical Center where they were pronounced dead.

The driver of the 2003 Ford Excursion, Dawnelle L. Umberger, 33, of Levant, and her seven-year-old passenger, Kaity R. Meador, were not injured in the accident.

The accident happened when the driver of the Excursion made a left hand turn into the Colby Bowl and Fun Center driveway at around 8:30

p.m., failing to yield to the 2003 Yamaha motorcycle which was headed north. The motorcycle struck the left front corner of the vehicle, resulting in the fatalities, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Troopers were unsure whether or not Blau was wearing a helmet, but did say his passenger, Casey, was not.

Dr. Gary Slavens was the physician on duty when both Casey and Blau were taken to the hospital by Thomas County Emergency Medical Services ambulance.

Umberger, and her passenger, in the Excursion were both wearing seatbelts, authorities said.

Services for Blau and Casey are currently pending with Kersensbrock Funeral Chapel.

Colby doctor's hearing to begin

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

An administrative hearing involving a local doctor will begin Wednesday in Colby.

Dr. Victor H. Hildyard will begin hearing evidence the State Board of Healing Arts has been compiling against him since a petition was filed with the board in August 2004.

Hildyard is charged with multiple violations against the Kansas Healing Arts Act. The board could revoke, suspend, censure, fine or otherwise limit Hildyard's medical license.

Representing the state's medical board will be Diane L. Bellquist, Topeka, and David Steed, Wichita, a special prosecutor hired after Stacy Cook resigned from the case to further her law education.

Presiding over the hearing, which is expected to last eight days, will be administrative law judge Edward J. Gaschler, Topeka. Hutchinson attorney Mike O'Neal will represent Hildyard.

The state will be calling witness from a pool of 13 individuals, but how many witnesses will testify on Hildyard's behalf has not been determined.

Violations Hildyard is alleged to have committed are listed in the petition as haven taken place between 1996 and 2004. Twelve of the counts allege the doctor committed acts which are inclusive "but not limited to professional incompetency and or unprofessional conduct." The remaining counts allege the doctor administered prescription medication with negligence.

The hearing will take place on both sides of the state in order to logistically accommodate those testifying.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the hearing will be in Colby at the Colby Municipal Airport meeting room. On Monday, Oct. 10 and Tuesday, Oct. 11, the hearing will move to Topeka at the Kansas Board of Healing Arts building located at 235 S. Topeka Blvd. The hearing will be back in Colby on Wednesday, Oct. 12, Thursday, Oct. 13 and Friday, Oct. 14 at the airport. Each session is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

While the hearing is open to the public, portions of it pertaining to patient information are expected to take place behind closed doors as allowed by state law.

Salina Regional Health Center plans \$55 million project

SALINA (AP) — The Salina Regional Health Center plans to build a patient tower that will give every patient at the hospital a private room and help it compete with other hospitals in the region.

Randy Peterson, president and chief executive officer of the hospital, announced the plans for the \$42 million project Friday.

"This is huge," said Gerald Cook, president of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. "

One of the growing factors in economies everywhere in the country is health care, and it's certainly a big part of the economy here."

Construction on the six-story building could begin as early as January and be completed by De-

cember 2007. After the tower is built, other parts of the hospital will be renovated, bringing the total cost of the project to \$55 million.

Peterson said the hospital and its board are still working out the best financing for the project, but it will probably include a mix of hospital revenue, bonds and private fundraising. The patient room tower

should be the last large construction project at the hospital, Peterson said.

The third floor of the tower will be empty to allow for expansion. The fourth and fifth floors will each house 36 private patient rooms, and the sixth floor will be used for labor, delivery and a nursery.

A heliport will be on top of the

tower.

"After this, we should be in pretty good shape," Peterson said.

"The wild card there is what kind of technology comes up, but that's why we have built shell space into this design. We can develop that area if we need to."

The private rooms will help patients' comfort, privacy and infec-

tion control, Peterson said.

Modernizing also will help the hospital remain competitive with other hospitals, said Peterson, noting that hospitals in Hays and Manhattan have recently undergone renovations.

About 40 percent of the 10,000 yearly admissions to Salina Regional are from outside Salina.

City council meeting Tuesday, agenda includes ordinance changes

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers to talk about changes in ordinances and more.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, will ask the council to consider approving the north and south sides of Horton Avenue as no parking, along with setting the speed limit on that roadway at 30 mph.

In addition, the council will consider vacating an alley based on a request by a resident.

Armstrong is also asking the

council to consider a voluntary assessment of about \$1,600 to the Kansas Municipal Utilities for intervention in the rate increase filed by Westar Energy.

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore and Armstrong would like the council to consider an agreement for use of the fire safety trailer, which is borrowed by many other entities in northwest Kansas because of its education and training capabilities.

Armstrong said that up until now, the city has been delivering the trailer and picking it up at no charge to the community requesting its use.

Should the council approve the proposed agreement, it would mean

that entities borrowing the trailer would be responsible for the transportation.

The city began training on the new utility billing software this week.

One correction that the utility office pointed out today was the incorrect dates on the utility bills dated Sept. 26, 2005.

The two small boxes on the left-hand portion of the bill should say "Before 15-Oct-05" and "After 15-Oct-05."

For questions about the utility bill or city council meeting, call 460-4410. All meetings are open to the public.

Scouting pancakes

Boy Scout Troop Leaders David Mruzek (foreground) and Mike Larmer said they were pleased with Saturday's turnout for the pancake/sausage feed at the Colby Municipal Airport's Fly-In. The scouts had more than 300 people attend the feed with all proceeds going to help projects and trips. Airplane rides were available Saturday afternoon and more than 75 people signed up for the flights.



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