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Airport apron gets federal aid for concrete

By Andy Heintz

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aheintz@nwkansas.com

Colby's Shalz Field Airport should be getting \$162,010 of a grant to help replace bad concrete on the apron, where planes are parked.

City and airport officials have been working on the project, Airport Manager Mark Ostmeyer said, adding that some of the concrete dates back to 1952.

The money will come from a grant from the federal Airport Improvement Program, which uses money collected from the aviation industry and airports. The program is run by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We need to do everything we can to keep air travelers safe," said Congress Jerry Moran in announcing the grant. "This funding will increase the safety of airfield operations at Shalz Field."

Moran is a senior member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where he serves on the Subcommittee on

Aviation.

On Tuesday, the Colby City Council approved an agreement with the federal agency to pay for replacing concrete on the apron at the airport. The federal government should end up paying about \$348,650, or 95 percent of the cost, while the city will pay \$18,350. The total estimated budget is \$367,000.

The airport will not begin work on the project until the agency releases all the grant money, Ostmeyer said. Mike Rottinghaus, who is with the Federal Aviation Administration's Central Region office in Kansas City, told the city he is confident the money needed to start the project will be available by July or August.

HWS Engineering had been hired to design plans and specifications for the project, City City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said.

Acceptance of the \$162,010 will still need to be approved by the city council at its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, said Armstrong.



MARGE BROWN/Colby Free Press

State Highway Patrolman Terry Honas has been assigned to work in Thomas County.

State patrolman joins troop in Colby

Terry Honas has joined the Kansas Highway Patrol contingent assigned to Thomas County.

Honas is a graduate of Ellis High School and Fort Hays State University, where he majored in biology. He said he was working in his father's brick masonry business when he started the 22-week course at the patrol's training academy in Salina.

He is now doing his field training with Master Trooper Andrew Schippers of Colby. He will be on road patrol here after that.

"I liked the idea of a job where you are helping people every day," Honas said, "and possibly making a difference in their lives."

Honas said he and his father en-

joy driving around and getting out in the country.

"On weekends during January, clear up to March, when I'm not working," he said, "Dad and I like to drive around in the country and look for antlers, deer have shed. We have a big collection that we store in my parent's basement."

"Dad has a large hunting den there where we display the largest ones and we store the rest. It's just good to get out in the country and spend some time with Dad."

In June, he plans to marry Megan Weber of Ellis. She has just completed her nurse's training at Fort Hays and has been hired by Citizens Medical Center as a registered nurse, he said.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Kensy Garrett, second grader at Colby Grade School (above front) browsed at the school's book fair on Thursday while her mother Lindsey Garrett and little brother Kelby, a kindergartner, looked at other choices at the grade school's book fair on Thursday. Third grader Hayleigh Washa (below) examined a Jonas Brothers item at the fair.

Books offered at fair

The annual Colby Grade School book fair and the middle school book fair has had students' heads buried in their reading all this week.

While the grade school has been holding the fair for 15 plus years, the middle school is in its second years after not holding a fair for several years.

The fair offered lots of choices included humorous, picture and history books. Students could buy books about SpongeBob SquarePants, famous super heroes such as Batman and Spiderman or a history of the presidents.

"There are picture books for preschoolers and books for middle school students," said Becky Peterson, vice president of the Colby Grade School Parent Teacher Organization, which sponsors the event.

The books costs between \$3 to \$20. Profits will help buy new books for the library and classrooms, said Peterson.

The books are provided by Scholastic Books, a Kansas City company.

Marilyn Friesen, chairperson of the book fair committee, said the fair has really grown over the last four years because of increased sales.



Briefly

Enjoy soup and the Trojans

The Colby Community College Farm Bureau Club plans a soup supper at the Trojans-Dodge City basketball game at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the community building. They will be serving chili, chicken-noodle and potato soup.

Library has books for sale

Pioneer Memorial Library will hold its annual Book Lovers book sale in the basement from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, with a wide selection of used books available for sale.

Church plans meal

The Colby Berean Church will have a Valentine Banquet from

6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at the church, 1000 S. Franklin. Tickets include dinner and entertainment and are available for \$12 at 890 S. Range, or call 460-0550 or 462-7219 before Tuesday.

Sorority offers soup at game

Kappa Upsilon sorority will hold a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, before the Colby Eagles vs. Dodge City basketball game at the Community building. They will be serving chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable soup with homemade cinnamon rolls and cookies, to benefit Puddle Duck Preschool.

Tax help available

Free tax help will be available for with low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older,

from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through April at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The program is sponsored by American Association of Retired Persons. Call 460-2645 for information.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Woman to detail range wars

Edna Hoyt Ward of Goodland will talk about range wars between ranchers and homesteaders from noon

to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The talk is a part of the Food for Thought program, which features a soup lunch and history program on the third Thursday of this month and next. A different presentation will be offered March 19. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for details.

Cancer group selling daffodils

Once again, the American Cancer Society selling flowers for its Daffodil Days fund raiser. Colby project leader Kim Barnett will be taking orders at home, 462-2997, at work, 460-2761, or by e-mail at umccolby@st-tel.net. Prices include a flower bunch for \$10, a "sunshine bouquet" for \$15, a bear and a bunch for \$25, a half case (25 bunches) for \$225 and a full case (50 bunches) for \$350. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 1.