

Investigators hope to find reason why plane chose wrong runway in Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Investigators probing the fiery crash of Comair Flight 5191 want to know why it tried to take off from a runway considered far too short for commercial passenger planes. All but one of the 50 people aboard died.

Although Blue Grass Airport's main runway is 7,000 feet, for some reason the plane departed Sunday from the 3,500-foot general aviation runway. The twin-engine CRJ-100 would have needed 5,000 feet to fully get off the ground, aviation experts said.

There also were clues for the pilot: Signs marking the right way. Less lighting. And severely cracked concrete — not the type of surface typically found on runways for commercial routes.

Left now are only scuff marks on the wrong runway and the wreckage of a plane scattered into pieces across a field about a mile away from the airport.

"We are absolutely, totally committed to doing everything humanly possible to determine the cause of this accident," Comair President Don Bornhorst said Sunday, following the worst American plane disaster in nearly five years.

Bornhorst said maintenance for the plane was up to date and its three-member flight crew was experienced and had been flying the plane for some time. Both of the plane's flight recorders were being reviewed.

Amid the devastation and lost lives, there was one story of heroism: Police Officer Bryan Jared

reached into the broken cockpit and burned his arms as he pulled out James M. Polehinke, the plane's first officer. Polehinke, the only survivor, was listed in critical condition at University of Kentucky Hospital.

A light rain was falling Sunday when the plane taxied away from the main runway, which had been repaved last week. The Atlanta-bound plane plowed through a perimeter fence and crashed in a field less than a mile from the shorter runway.

It's rare for a plane to get on the wrong runway, but "sometimes with the intersecting runways, pilots go down the wrong one," said Saint Louis University aerospace professor emeritus Paul Czysz.

The crash marks the end of what has been called the "safest period in aviation history" in the United States. There has not been a major crash since Nov. 12, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 587 plunged into a residential neighborhood in New York City, killing 265 people, including five on the ground.

Aerial images of the latest crash site in the rolling hills of Kentucky's horse country showed trees damaged at the end of the short runway and the nose of the plane almost parallel to the small strip.

When rescuers reached it, the plane was largely intact but in flames. "They were taking off, so I'm sure they had a lot of fuel on board," Fayette County Coroner Gary Ginn said. "Most of the injuries are going to be due to fire-

“ Sometimes with the intersecting runways, pilots go down the wrong one.”

Paul Czysz,
Saint Louis University

related deaths.”

Those killed included a newlywed couple starting their honeymoon, a director of Habitat for Humanity International, and a Florida man who had caught an early flight home to be with his children.

Most of the passengers aboard the flight had planned to connect to other flights in Atlanta and did not have family waiting for them, said the Rev. Harold Boyce, a volunteer chaplain at the airport.

The crew members who died were Capt. Jeffrey Clay, who was hired by Erlanger, Ky.-based Comair in 1999, and flight attendant Kelly Heyer, hired in 2004. Polehinke has been with Comair since 2002.

The plane had undergone routine maintenance as recently as Saturday and had 14,500 flight hours, "consistent with aircraft of that age," Bornhorst said.

Federal investigators were at the scene, and Bornhorst said the airline was working to contact relatives of the passengers.

Gov. Ernie Fletcher, in Germany for the World Equestrian

Games and an economic development trip, was due to return to Kentucky on Monday afternoon, spokeswoman Jodi Whitaker said.

Jon Hooker, a former minor-league baseball player, and Scarlett Parsley had wed the night before the crash in a fairy-tale ceremony complete with a horse-drawn carriage and 300 friends.

"It's so tragic because he was so happy last night," said Keith Madison, who coached Hooker's baseball team at the University of Kentucky and attended the wedding. "It's just an incredible turn of events. It's really painful."

Pat Smith, a member of Habitat for Humanity International's Board of Directors, died on his way to Gulfport, Miss., to work on rebuilding houses, Habitat spokesman Duane Bates said.

Another passenger, Charles Lykins of Naples, Fla., caught an early flight Sunday so he could get home to his two young children after visiting friends and family in the Lexington area, said friend Paul Richardson.

Florida Keys evacuated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ernesto, the fifth named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, was considered likely to have hurricane force as it moved across Cuba and aimed at Florida.

Visitors were ordered to leave the Florida Keys on Sunday. "We are ready for a hurricane regardless of where it's going to hit," said David Paulison, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which says it repaired and reinforced 220 miles of levee walls, has been closely monitoring the storm, which could hit soon after Tuesday's anniversary of Katrina.

**The Board of Trustees,
Faculty, Staff
and Administration
invite you to join us
in welcoming
Dr. & Mrs. Lynn Kreider
to
Colby Community College
on
Wednesday, August 30
3:00-6:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 108**

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To have your ad placed in the Business Directory call Crystal or Jasmine today at 462-3963.

LET ADVERTISING WORK FOR YOU!!!

Get On-Line for Value!

nwkansas.com

Call 462-3963 or stop by 155 W. 5th St., Colby

The Tool Box

Kitchen & Bath SHOWROOM
Sales & Service Since 1984

Your One Stop Remodeling Shop!

- Kitchen Cabinets • Vanities • Sinks
- Faucets • Countertops & Much More
- Design & Installation Service

NEW HOURS - M-W-F 10am - 5:30 pm
Saturday Appointments Welcome!
785-460-1100 - Southwind Plaza - Colby, Kansas

Advanced Technology Auto Glass

"The Difference is Clear"

Rory Henry • 785-460-7773

Check out our low rates.

Call today for your free, no-obligation quote.

David L. Browne III
550 N Franklin Ave
Colby
(785) 462-3388

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
Auto Home Life Annuities College Retirement
www.fbfs.com

Northwest Refrigeration

THE SUMMER HEAT IS ON

24 HOUR SERVICE

Heat and Air Inc.

"We install the best...service the rest!"

785-460-3008

CALL TODAY FOR ALL YOUR AIR-CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION NEEDS!

Thomas County Insurance
has been serving NW Kansas for 100 years.

Stop in and experience the friendly service and excellent insurance products we have to offer.

490 N. Franklin • 462-3939

THOMAS County INSURANCE AGENCY

Jim McLaughlin/Agent

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

The Latest Technology and Most Complete Care Available!

- Root Canals • Orthodontics
- Implants • Wisdom Tooth Surgery

New Patients Welcome
No Referral Necessary ~ Financing Avail.

1690 W. 4th St., Colby ~ 785-460-3999
Toll Free: 1-866-305-3999

SHAWN D. JENSEN, D.D.S.

H & H AUTO SALES

JEFF HARLOW

Hours: M-F: 8-5:50; Sat: 8-4:30

930 S. Range Colby, Kansas 67701

Phone: 785-460-0828
Fax: 785-460-0829
Cell: 785-443-1082

G & S TREE WORKS LLC

1114 Main, Gem (785) 462-3501

Chuck Saddler Tracey Galli

- Tree Removal & Trimming • Full Insured • Careful & Prompt Service • Late Model Bucket Truck • Free Estimates!

ROOFMASTERS

Your Local Roofing Contractor

425 East Hill, Colby, KS
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

RESIDENTIAL 1-800-536-6642
Tamko Shingles
GAF Shingles
Wood Shingles
Metal Roofs

COMMERCIAL 1-785-462-6642
Rubber Single Ply
White TPO Single Ply
Built Up Systems
Modified Systems

FREE ESTIMATES

Elastomeric Rubber Coating For Metal Roofs

WORLDWIDE - Vacation Packages - Cruises - Tours - Groups - Flights - Hotels - Trains - Cars

155 W. 4th, Colby, KS 67701
Phone: 785.462.6999
Fax: 785-460-0852
Toll Free: 1.888.690.7077

CALL IN OR FAX YOUR INTERNET QUOTES AND OTHER ADS! WE CAN BOOK THEM FOR YOU WITH LOCAL, CARING SERVICE!!

VACATION SPECIALS

	From	# Nights
LAS VEGAS	Air & Hotel \$250	4
DISNEY WORLD	Air & Hotel \$505	3
MEXICO	Air & Hotel \$800	3
CARIBBEAN CRUISE	Cruise & Air \$1,050	5
ALASKAN CRUISE	Cruise & Air \$1,500	7
HAWAII	Air & Hotel \$740	3
LONDON, ENGLAND	Air & Hotel \$700	3
AMTRAK EXPLORE AMERICA	\$359	Max 45

Per Adult

Round Trip Travel
BOOK HOLIDAY TRAVEL NOW!
Call for Bus Tours Schedules.

All specials may be for specific dates and are subject to availability

Colby Sew & Vac

- Viking & Bernina Sewing Machines • Vacuums • Fabrics
- Classes • Nature's Air - Air Purifiers

Sales & Service

Southwind Plaza
785-460-1900

Hours: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

nost
Dry Carpet Cleaning System

Chris & Beth Lewon
650 N Grant Ave
Colby, KS 67701 - We Do Windows

New System Professional Window Cleaning

785-462-6995

www.MyWindowCleaner.net
Free estimates!

Bison

Rx compounding & Therapy

James E. Hampton, RPh, PCCA Member

416 State Street, Suite A
Atwood, Kansas 67730
(785) 626-3237
(800) 696-3214
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

Customized prescriptions for patients with unique medical situations requiring unique medical solutions.

Murray Roofing & Construction

Residential & Commercial
(785) 462-6908

Residential roofs
Flat & Low-Sloped Roofs
Metal Retro-Fit
Energy Efficient Roofing Solutions

Vinyl & Steel Siding
Decks & Patios
Wood & Vinyl Fencing
Soffit & Fascia

FREE ESTIMATES

Jeff Dreiling - Sales
(785) 443-0819

FREE ESTIMATES

Jim Murray - Owner
(785) 443-1339