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Firm plans senior apartments here



An artist's conception of the finished 10-apartment senior independent living complex that will be built directly south of the college campus on Sewell Avenue. Wes Bainter, owner of Bainter Construction in Hoxie, said construction should begin soon.

Total of 22 units would free up housing

By Vera Sloan

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The market has been plagued by too many houses for sale in some areas, but not in Colby.

With a growing need for housing and too few houses to choose from, the news of a two-phase apartment project coming to town should sound sweet to home seekers.

A perceived lack of housing also has been a concern for officials trying to plan for the proposed move of several dozen state workers to Colby.

"This should free up a few homes for the market needs that are taking place in Colby now," said Wes Bainter, owner of Bainter Construction in Hoxie.

He said his company will be building a new addition on Sewell Avenue on land he purchased from Colby Community College.

Bainter is known for his spacious apartment proj-

ects in Hill City, Hoxie, Stockton, Hays and Smith Center, and a brand new one which opened in Cimmaron in January. The builder said he is close to beginning dirt work to start the construction of Phase I of the Colby project, 10 apartments for senior independent living directly south of the college. The units will be spread out for spaciousness and privacy, he said.

Since the project will be privately financed, he said, it can focus on the needs of the residents and not be limited by government restrictions.

The 1,200- to 1,300-square-foot dwellings will feature two bedrooms and two baths, plus a living room and kitchen. The project also features garages, a meeting or commons area for coffee drinkers and card players (approved as a tornado shelter), a utility/laundry area, beauty shop and commercial kitchen, and a dining area for noon meal service Monday

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Guard troops from this area going overseas

By Marian Ballard

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Roughly 80 Kansas National Guardsmen of the 170th Maintenance Company based in Colby and Norton will be honored at a departure ceremony at 10 a.m. Sunday in Salina before they leave to train for security duty in Kuwait.

Those being deployed include 17 from the Colby armory, four of whom live in Colby, said Staff Sgt. Mark Reasoner of Goodland. While deployed, he said, the unit will operate a security detail mission for American citizens and contractors and participate in base security.

Reasoner said the company has soldiers from eastern Colorado and southern Nebraska as well as Kansas as far east as Junction City. He said 14 members deployed last year, including him. Thirteen of those were with the 778th Heavy Equipment Transporter Company; they returned Oct. 23. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mark Baxa of Salina is still serving with an agricultural development team in Afghanistan.

Reasoner said the Colby-based soldiers left for Salina on Jan. 23 to train for their deployment and get medical and administrative clearance at a guard base there. They will be going to Camp Shelby in Mississippi before going overseas.

"I have every confidence that these soldiers will perform their mission with the disciplined pro-

fessionalism and pride that has become the hallmark of our Kansas National Guard soldiers and airmen," said Maj. Gen Lee Tafaneli, state adjutant general and commander of the Kansas Guard. "We wish them well, God-speed and look forward to the day we welcome them home."

"The soldiers of the 170th Support Maintenance Company have been preparing for this deployment for several months," said Capt. Scott Weber, company commander. "As we move into the final stages of our mobilization training, the troops are engaged, motivated and diligent. They are a prime example of what a well maintain and disciplined unit should be."

"These soldiers will represent their communities, state and country with loyalty, honor and respect. The 170th has not deployed since Desert Storm, and I am honored to embark on this mission with each and every one of them, while we place down another milestone for the 170th."

The soldiers of the 170th will go to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center near Hattiesburg, Miss., where they will receive additional training before deploying overseas, the Guard says.

The 170th is a subordinate unit of the 287th Special Troop Battalion, based in Hays. The unit is headquartered in Norton, with a subordinate unit in Colby.

The departure ceremony at Hangar 600, 2720 Arnold Ave., near the Salina airport, will be open to the public.



CYNTHIA HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Adults, kids use library

Marlene Carpenter (right in above photo) was getting copies and talking to librarian Carol Bohme at the Pioneer Memorial Library recently. David Ketchum, a member of the High Plains Art Club, was asking about a mural the library is planning to have done. And, proving that you can start young to use the library, Easton Mann, 1, (right) and his sister Delaney, 2, children of Kurt and Lindsey Mann, were playing with toys and looking around.



Former Catholic pastor here, Father Galen Long, dies at 67

Father Galen Long, 67, who was pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby for eight years, died early Tuesday at Salina Regional Health Center from complications involving several health issues.

Father Long, a priest in the Salina Diocese for more than 20 years, most recently had been pastor of parishes in Plainville and Stockton. He served in Colby from 1997 to 2003.

A funeral Mass is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Beloit. Father Barry Brinkman, diocesan administrator, will celebrate, and retired Bishop George Fitzsimons will preach.

Burial will be in the church cemetery in Beloit with full military honors. A vigil will begin at 7 p.m. Friday at the church.

Dave Everett, principal of the Sacred Heart



Father Long

School in Colby, said Father Long did a tremendous amount of work for the school and the parish during his time here. He was involved with youth activities, raised teacher salaries so that they were competitive with public schools and even stepped in to teach fifth graders when they couldn't find a teacher.

"He hired me in August 2000 and served as my mentor for my first three years," Everett said. "It was my first administration position, and he helped get my feet wet. Father Galen worked hard for the school, and helped to make it the great school it is today."

Since July 2008, Father Long had been pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville and St. Thomas in Stockton and their parochial school, Sacred Heart

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Kodak to exit camera line, focus on printers, software

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Eastman Kodak Co. said today it will stop making digital cameras, pocket video cameras and digital picture frames, marking the end of an era for the company that brought photography to the masses more than a century ago.

Founded by George Eastman in 1880, Kodak was known all over the world for its Brownie and Instamatic cameras and its yellow-and-red film boxes. But the company was battered by Japanese competition in the 1980s, then couldn't keep pace with the shift from film to digital technology.

The Rochester-based company, which filed for bankruptcy last month, said it will phase out the

product lines in the first half of this year and instead look for other companies to license its brand for those products.

It's an especially poignant moment for Kodak. In 1975, using a new type of electronic sensor invented six years earlier at Bell Labs, a Kodak engineer named Steven Sasson created the first digital camera. It was a toaster-size prototype capturing black-and-white images at a resolution of 0.1 megapixels.

Through the 1990s, Kodak spent some \$4 billion developing the photo technology inside most of today's cellphones and digital devices. But a reluctance to ease its heavy financial reliance on film

allowed rivals like Canon Inc. and Sony Corp. to rush into the fast-emerging digital arena. The immensely lucrative analog business Kodak worried about undermining was virtually erased in a decade by the filmless photography it invented.

Today, the standalone digital camera faces stiff competition, as smartphone cameras gain broader use. Kodak owns patents that cover a number of basic functions in many smartphone cameras. The company picked up \$27 million in

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