



An Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter from Salina landed at the Colby Municipal Airport on Tuesday. The chopper, or one like it, will be part of the "Celebration on the High Plains" at Southwind Plaza on Saturday. Mayor Warren Hixson, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, Chief of Police Randy Jones, along with Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby/Thomas County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Jada Tubbs, Chamber director, will arrive at the celebration site aboard the chopper. Crewmembers (left) CW3 Jim Oliver and 2nd Lt. Randy Matthews from B Co. with the 1-108th AVN out of Salina scope a landing spot

Photos by Tisha Cox/Colby Free Press



Celebration on the High Plains being held in Colby

Looking for something to do the weekend after Labor Day?

The second annual Celebration on the High Plains might fit the bill on Saturday at Southwind Plaza south of I-70 in Colby.

The free portion of the event runs from noon to 5 p.m. Concerts will follow featuring Lip Riddle at 6 p.m., No Parking at 7 p.m. and headliners Sawyer Brown at 8:30 p.m.

Jada Tubbs, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, said the celebration was started last year because the town had no fall event and people thought it would be a good idea to celebrate what is here.

The event will start at noon with the landing of a U.S. Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter from Salina.

Food and craft vendors will have booths at the festival. Tubbs said they'll have items like kettle corn, barbecue, snow cones, jewelry and T-shirts. For those 21 and older, there'll be a beer garden.

The Thomas County Amusement Association will have carnival rides set up and representatives from the National Weather Service in Goodland will be on hand.

"We really encourage families to come out," Tubbs said. "It's a neat family event to come to."

"This event is intended to draw from outside this area. I think we're getting the job done."

She said people from as far away as Manhattan, Atchison and Derby in Kansas and Omaha and Denver have bought tickets to the Sawyer Brown concert.

"We are extremely excited about hosting the Sawyer Brown band," she said. "If you don't come out to see them, you're missing a show."

Tickets for Sawyer Brown are \$15 for adults (16 and older) and \$5 for kids 4- to 15 if purchased before Sept. 6.

The day of the show, tickets will be \$20 and \$8.

Seating is on a first-come, first-

served basis and Tubbs encouraged people to get there early. She said people should bring lawn chairs or blankets even though there are going to be bleachers available.

Tickets are available at several locations in town.

For tickets for information, contact the Chamber at (785) 460-3401 or (800) 611-8835.

Oakley 12-year-old appears on K-State cooking show

Like many kids his age, 12-year-old Dustin Splattstoesser's favorite thing about food is eating it.

But during a recent taping session of a cooking program featuring Kansas kids, Splattstoesser proved that he's pretty good at cooking it, too.

Splattstoesser, a sixth-grader at Oakley Middle School, will be featured during two upcoming episodes of Kids a' Cookin', a television program that airs each Wednesday mornings at 7:10 a.m. on KBSH-TV (Channel 7 from Hays), and at 6:10 a.m. (Mountain Time) on KBSL-TV Channel 10 in Goodland.

He will appear as a guest cook on the program Sept. 24 and Oct. 8. With the show's host, Karen Arnold of Topeka, Splattstoesser will help make "Orange Fluff Salad" on Sept. 24, and homemade applesauce on Oct. 8.

Splattstoesser says his experience was "fun...I enjoy being on television."

Kay Splattstoesser, Dustin's mom, said she was thankful for the opportunity given her son.

"There's a lot of opportunities in the world that (people) don't always realize or get to see," she said. "I hope that he learns to appreciate the opportunities our country has to offer, and that he understands that he can achieve whatever he sets his mind to do."

During the taping, Dustin's dad, Gary, noticed something was missing:

"He was nervous," he said. "You could tell because he didn't smile."

Dustin said he got past his early nerves by telling himself, "It's just a TV program."

"I've never been filmed before,"

Dustin said, "but I learned quickly that you don't have to be nervous if you just act regular."

Kids a' Cookin' is a project of the Family Nutrition Program at Kansas State University, which gets its budget from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's food stamp education program through a grant from Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services. It targets limited income families with tips on nutrition, choosing healthy foods and food safety.

The shows featuring Splattstoesser were taped in June at the Kansas Regents Educational Communications Center on the K-State campus.

In the show, Arnold helps kids make a food item, then the two of them sit and eat it. Nutritionists from K-State choose the recipes in the show based on nutritional quality, simplicity and seasonality. Foods also are chosen because they are fun to make, great to taste, and meet the program's educational objective of teaching healthy food choices.

The show made its debut in July

2002, and is syndicated on four stations in Kansas. It is produced in English, but also available in Spanish.

The weekly cooking segments, 2 1/2 minutes long, are designed to "fit nicely with a television station's soft news programming," said Ron Frank, executive producer and one of those who created the concept of the program.

Arnold says that while the show makes cooking fun for kids, it may also increase together time for parents and their children.

"Parents and kids need activities they can do together," she said. "An activity like cooking is even better when it's done together. It gives kids a sense of pride and accomplishment. These are basic cooking skills that they'll use forever and hopefully help them to make better food choices."

Dustin Splattstoesser said he's all game for cooking more at home, "if my mother lets me."

For more information on Kids a' Cookin', including recipes used on the show, visit the Web site at <http://kidsacookin.ksu.edu/>.

Installation of new computer generates loss for hospital in July

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

If not for the cost to install the new computer system, Goodland Regional Medical Center could have made money in July. Instead, the hospital finished the month with a \$152,425 net loss.

The hospital has been struggling to get in the black for over two years but has lost \$569,279 so far this year.

Not all of it has been a cash loss, since the hospital's depreciation expense for equipment so far has been \$381,404.

Depreciation expense for July was \$52,062, and the hospital would have had a net income of \$16,638 if not for the \$169,063 in professional fees for Siemens, the company the hospital bought the computer system from.

The hospital approved the purchase last September and has \$350,000 in tax credits, \$100,000 from Sherman County's sales tax fund and money from the Northwest Kansas Medical Foundation to help pay for the \$1 million system.

The computer is expected to save money in reduced man hours and paperwork and increase the hospital's reimbursements from Medicare, the state and private insurance through more accurate billing.

Board members questioned several areas of the budget at their meeting, last Monday, Aug. 25.

One member, Larry McCants of First National Bank, mentioned that the hospital was \$400,000 over budget on salaries and wages so far in 2003 and recommended reducing that number.

Chief Financial Officer Andy Laue said at last month's meeting that the salaries and wages were down, at \$294,041 for the month of June, but hadn't been reduced as much as officials would like.

Although the overall expense for wages and salaries was higher for July at \$303,601, Laue said, the per-day cost was lower, since there was one more day in July.

Board member Doug Irvin, a farmer, asked why less was budgeted this year for supplies but more had been spent. Irvin requested a

breakdown of why the budget was set as it was, and Laue said he would look up the information.

New board member Darin Neufeld, an engineer, asked why there wasn't a more detailed breakout of supplies, for example, setting the office supplies separate from the medical supplies.

Administrator Jay Jolly said pharmacy supplies needed to be separate and that hospital officials should work on dividing the supplies out more.

The patient count doesn't tell the whole story when it comes to the pharmacy, he said, since the severity of cases influences the amount spent.

Jolly said with the heat, the utilities expense was high because the hospital's electric bills were huge.

Utilities for July were \$22,755. The hospital has used \$133,936 in utilities so far this year but budgeted only \$90,163 up to this point.

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Again **ALL** numbers at
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Thank you

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