

# Stearman Fly-In this weekend in St. Francis

**By Karen Krien**  
*The Saint Francis Herald*  
The 24th Stearman Fly-In has been set for Saturday and Sunday at the airport in St. Francis. Planes, skydivers and balloons will start arriving on Friday night. If the weather is good, the sky will

be filled with skydivers, who will land on the practice football field on College Street. Early Saturday and Sunday mornings, hot-air balloons will take to the sky, floating over the countryside. The time for liftoff is 7 a.m. but

again, a lot depends on the weather. Throughout the two-day event, the World War II vintage open-cockpit Stearmans will be on display, as well as many other aircraft. There will be parachute jumps and tandem jumps, where a novice

can jump with an experienced skydiver. Breakfast and lunch will be available on the grounds and there will be several refreshment stands. There will be transportation to see all the planes for those who might have difficulty walking the

distance. The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a barbecue in Sawhill Park at 7 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission charge for the show and there is shade and benches to sit on, but people are asked to bring their sunscreen,

leashes for their dogs, and, if they plan to be at the airport for most of the day, they might like to bring a lawn chair. For information, log on to: www.stearmanflyin.org or call (785) 332-2251.

## Hotel staff has long day

Breakfast Wednesday morning started off with the crash of glass in the restaurant of Goodland's Howard Johnson Hotel as a deer joined startled diners.

It was the beginning on an interesting day at the hotel.

Hotel Assistant Manager Jovita Gutierrez said the deer jumped through a window in the restaurant about 5:40 a.m. The deer jumped around for three to five minutes trying to get back out, she said, and finally went back out through the window it broke. As it thrashed about, the animal knocked over tables and chairs and sprayed blood on linens and carpet.

They had to clean the carpet to remove the blood, Gutierrez said. Besides the broken window, which Dependable Glass replaced, drapes and linens were damaged.

Just as things were beginning to calm down, the lights went out about 7 a.m., she said. After checking the breakers, workers found that the transformer had failed.

Gutierrez said power was out in part of the hotel for a while, then it all went out. It took the city electrical crew about 2 1/2 hours to fix it, she said, and the hotel was without power or lights.

About 8 a.m., people noticed a pump motor at the pool smoking and burning. Gutierrez said the staff got the fire out and didn't need to call the fire department. She blamed the overheated motor on the transformer failure.

"We had a few unhappy people," Gutierrez said, "but it wasn't really too bad. Most understood."



Bob Rohr of Dependable Glass removed shards from a window at the Howard Johnson Hotel after a deer went through it Wednesday.

## Colby School Board names high school activities director

**By Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

After nearly six months of searching for a new activities director and assistant principal for the high school, the Colby School Board found their person.

During a meeting Monday, the board approved Larry Gabel of St. Francis to fill the position. Gabel, St. Francis Elementary School principal, has been in administration 22 years. He is known as one of the most successful wrestling coaches in the state.

"We did a couple more interviews," said board President Tracy Rogers, who served on the search committee. "He was the committee's recommendation for the job."

Gabel, 55, said he looks forward to the new job.

"I've liked Colby," he said. "I hope I can do a good job. I'll sure work at it."

Gabel has been in St. Francis for 32 years. Before that, he spent one year at Abe Hubert Junior High in Garden City as a health and physical education teacher. He taught the same subject for 10 years in St.

Francis before becoming principal. He was also the head wrestling coach for St. Francis High School.

Originally from Sterling, Colo., Gabel attended Northeastern Junior College before going to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where he wrestled. He has a master's degree from Fort Hays State University.

Gabel said he met Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen at meetings and knew Colby Middle School Principal Robb Ross

through wrestling. Gabel said Nielsen asked if he would consider the Colby job.

"I enjoyed my time in St. Francis and the people. It was a tough decision to leave, but I am looking forward to a new challenge," he said.

Besides working for the school district, Gabel has been the emergency medical services director for Cheyenne County for 16 years. He said he will keep his emergency medical technician certification when he comes to Colby, but will focus on his duties for the school district.

His wife, Beth, is a registered nurse at Cheyenne County Hospi-

tal and is also an emergency medical technician.

They have three grown children, Bill, who teaches and coaches at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, and once taught in Goodland; Kelly, who is working on his degree in osteopathic medicine in Kansas City; and Brandi Jones, who is living in Colby while her husband completes a pharmacy internship with Wal-Mart.

The job came open in December when the board voted not to renew the contract of Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal.

In April, the board considered high school teacher and wrestling coach Mitch Beims. There was no second on a motion to approve Beims.

Board members Gerry Fulwider and Kevan Taylor were absent from that meeting and were not at Monday's meeting.

Board member Stan Molstad said there were at least 10 new applications for the job after the April meeting. Those were added to the existing pool.

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## Economic Development donates to fireworks' fund

The Sherman County Economic Development Council agreed Tuesday to back the revived Freedom Fest fireworks show with a \$500 donation.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, Project Coordinator Kay Younger asked the council if they would contribute to the fireworks. She said she had put out jars for donations to help the effort.

Member Don Newell from S&T Communications said he had been at the meeting on May 25 when a group decided to revive the fireworks show on July 4. He said that so far, the city and county have

pledged \$1,500 each, plus \$1,000 from Wal-Mart and \$500 from Kiwanis.

Newell said Sherman County Community Services, which runs the homeowners carnival, might take the Freedom Fest on beginning next year.

"We think there will be the basics this year," Newell said.

Younger said the council gave \$400 last year. Western State Bank President Steve West made a motion to give \$500. Harlan House seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## Couple has pretrial hearing

**By Pat Schiefen**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

A Goodland couple had a pretrial hearing on Monday on 14 counts of animal cruelty in a case involving neglected horses.

The attorney for Tim and Shauna Armknecht, Cal Williams of Colby said negotiations are in progress. If the case goes on to trial, he said, it will be in August or September.

Ten horses were confiscated Feb. 28 from a field north of town after a

report they were not being fed came to the sheriff's office. Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated went to the Armknecht's home at 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Deputy Showalter reported finding 10 horses in need of food and water by their appearance. Four dead horses were in with the others. The county seized the horses and moved them to Prairieland Animal Clinic for care.

The horses were sold at the Colby

Livestock Auction Monday, April 3, following an agreement by the parties, said Scott Showalter, who is handling the case for the Sherman County attorney's office.

The Armknechts are facing 14 counts of animal cruelty, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor, and four counts of unlawful disposal of dead animals, an unclassified misdemeanor with a possible fine of \$100 for every 24 hours for each count.

## Bird City man guilty in bargain

Gunshop owner pleads guilty to misdemeanor

A Bird City man plead guilty to a misdemeanor and will pay a \$1,000 fine and court costs after leading officers on a high-speed chase from St. Francis to his home south of Bird City in August.

The plea avoided felony convictions which might have prevented the business owner from continuing his work as a gun trader and even prohibited him from owning firearms.

Vertie Bolyard, 70, was in Cheyenne County District Court on May 11, when a plea agreement was reached with Cheyenne County Attorney, Justin Barrett.

Bolyard had been charged with two counts of criminal threat, a level 9 person felony; one count of aggravated assault, a level 7 person felony; and one count of fleeing or attempting to elude the police, a level 9 person felony. The criminal threat and assault charges stemmed

from incidents with reported to the Cheyenne County sheriff by Bolyard's estranged wife Rose, who lives in Bird City.

The criminal threat and aggravated assault counts were being dismissed, the county attorney said, because the victims' situations made it difficult to proceed. The plea agreement said the charges were dropped with prejudice, meaning they cannot be refiled. The count of fleeing or attempting to elude police officers was dropped from a felony to a Class B non-person misdemeanor.

Under the agreement, Bolyard pleaded guilty to the amended count and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,000 and costs of \$117.

Bolyard led county law officers down country roads south of Bird City on Aug. 8. Troy Gardner, Cheyenne County sheriff, said Bolyard took off after being told during a traffic stop that he was under arrest for a domestic violence situation

with his wife.

He was reported to have been going at least 80 miles per hour on dirt roads. He stopped at his home nine miles south of Bird City.

For the next seven hours, the officers tried to contact him by phone. They staked out near his home and Bolyard was seen going in and out of his house and sitting on his lawn mower.

About 24 officers of the Kansas Highway Patrol Special Response Team, dressed in battle gear and riding special dark utility vehicles, drove into the yard. They made contact with Bolyard, and he turned himself in and was taken to the Sherman County Bastille.

Once the troopers arrived, a team of four to six were dropped behind a tree line on the north side of the property about 4 p.m. They moved into position to be able to see the house and surrounding buildings.

An hour later, a second group of Special Response Team members went to the house, followed by the sheriff, area troopers and Sherman County sheriff's officers.

The Goodland Star-News Editor Tom Betz and St. Francis Herald Editor Karen Krien contributed to this story.

## matters of record

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**April 14** — Corey R. Carter, \$120 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Miguel A. Esparza, \$132 for speeding.

Heidi C. Johnson, \$120 for speeding.

Annie J. Miller, \$144 for speeding.

Rosa G. Palacios, \$360 for first conviction of driving while suspended and \$100 for no Kansas registration.

Sherry L. Plank, \$180 for speeding.

Julie L. Sanchez, \$240 for speeding.

Terrence W. Wilson-Walls, \$112 for motor carrier safety rules and regulations.

**April 16** — Fidal G. Angel, \$132 for speeding.

Janathan R. Bonsar, \$132 for speeding.

**April 17** — Brian K. Kirkpatrick, \$186 for speeding.

**April 18** — Jordan C. Hunter, \$150 for improper parking.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**Come Dunk our Managers!**  
Wal-Mart's Relay for Life team is having a carnival east of the Garden Center 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 10  
We have games of all kinds, our favorite - a dunk tank. We will also have hot dogs, chips and pop.  
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