

THE AGONY OF DEFEAT

NEBRASKA BRINGS TIGERS' DEFENSE OF BIG 12 TOURNAMENT TITLE TO A SWIFT CONCLUSION

T COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

46 pages — 50 cents ■ Columbia, Missouri ■ www.columbiatribune.com

THURSDAY, March 11, 2010

CASTS AWAY

RIGHT: Kim Martin's son Tyler, 3, shows his scar where he had surgery to repair a broken leg after a bicycle accident. The surgery was performed by Daniel Hoernschemeyer at University Hospital with a new technique that uses a stainless steel plate instead of a traditional cast. BELOW: Hoernschemeyer holds a stainless steel plate similar to the one he placed in Tyler's leg.



Photos by Don Shrubshell/Tribune

A FASTER BONE FIX

MU doc helping create leg plate.

BY T.J. GREANEY

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After 3-year-old Tyler Martin went tumbling off his Spider-Man bicycle down a hill in August, he was facing a pretty unpleasant recovery.

Tyler had fractured his femur at midshaft when he hit the pavement and, based on traditional methods of healing, he would likely be laid up in a cast for six to eight weeks. For an active youngster still learning about the world and not far beyond potty training, that seemed like an eternity.

"We sat around for a night, I guess, thinking about what we were going to do," said his father, Chad Martin, "because he was going to have his leg at what, a 90-degree angle?"

"We were just really worried about him being comfortable," Tyler's mother, Kim Martin, said. "He's very active, and the thought of him being in that cast for six to eight weeks, immobile, horrified both of us."

But University of Missouri



orthopedic surgeon Daniel Hoernschemeyer, who specializes in pediatrics, gave the family another option. Over the past couple of years, Hoernschemeyer has been part of a group of surgeons from across the country submitting input on the design of a new "plate" or stainless-steel rod specifically designed to fit the femurs of young patients.

The tiny plate, which looks something like an automotive tool, has a series of holes where it can be attached to the bone by screws. And, most important, the plate is designed to match the unique curve and size of the pediatric femur.

This is particularly important for patients such as Tyler because the femur has growth plates at each end. Any interference with

those plates at this crucial time of his life could lead to deformities. The plate, called a PediLoc, is manufactured by OrthoPediatrics of Warsaw, Ind.

Hoernschemeyer said that during the design process, he and other doctors extensively examined a collection of skeletons at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Through this, doctors and engineers figured out a way to aim the screws through the metal plate at precise angles to avoid hitting the growth plate.

The device received FDA approval in May, and its first use occurred in Jacksonville, Fla. Hoernschemeyer has used it about seven times since then.

Hoernschemeyer said the fairly noninvasive surgery to insert the plate offers patients the ability to

be up and walking again within one or two weeks. That's far different than what many parents describe as a nightmare of a cast.

"I've had families tell me they literally hadn't slept and were taking shift changes," Hoernschemeyer said of patients who are given casts. "I've just been down that path with many families. Some docs even call it the tool of the devil because you're sending the family home with a real big challenge."

The cost of choosing surgery and the PediLoc device over a cast can be significant, but Hoernschemeyer said families have to weigh that against other factors.

"You kind of weigh that versus a parent losing a job or taking six weeks off because their child can't go to day care," he said.

For Tyler, his parents said, it's been a clear benefit. Tyler will have the plate removed next month. He was up and walking two weeks after the surgery and bouncing on the family's trampoline within three weeks.

"He was just so much happier," Kim Martin said. "We were glad he could get back to being ornery as fast as he could."



We're not trying to make everyone happy. ... We're trying to make sure everyone is a part of the process."

— CARRIE GARTNER, SBD executive director

District aims for downtown law on noise

SBD to suggest plan to council.

BY DANIEL CAILLER

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After the Columbia City Council tabled a vote on a proposed downtown noise ordinance Feb. 15, the Special Business District formed a noise committee to work on a solution that represents the needs of people other than just bar and restaurant owners.

"We're not trying to make everyone happy. That's impossible," said SBD Executive Director Carrie Gartner. "We're trying to make sure everyone is a part of the process."

The committee wants to build the ordinance from scratch as opposed to tinkering with individual elements, Gartner said.

The committee is expected to have something on paper by the time the issue surfaces again before the city council on April 19. Although no details are final, the committee has conducted an online survey, held a public meeting and researched how other college towns handle noise.

More than 260 people took the survey, offering input as to what is reasonable and unreasonable regarding noise downtown.

Nearly all respondents felt that indoor and outdoor music and conversation were acceptable. The real issue seemed to be yelling/shouting, car stereos and horns/whistles, all of which about 75 percent of respondents found unacceptable.

Only about 33 percent of respondents said noise from a club or bar up to a block away, day or night, was reasonable. A city block is about 300 feet in length. The current noise ordinance sets the minimum distance for noise at 100 feet during the daytime and 50 feet at night, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Police Chief Ken Burton, who has offered suggestions to the committee, said he'd like to see

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decibel levels used as a tool to measure noise. "It would make it simpler to enforce," he said.

He also has suggested replacing "plainly audible" in the ordinance with "unreasonable" when it comes to noise. He said some businesses by their surroundings are going to allow for a higher level of noise. "If you've got a bar that's surrounded by other bars, we're not going to get any complaints. The ordinance needs to have enough flexibility that you're not policing and mandating certain decibel levels where it's not needed," he said.

Tom Atkinson, a majority owner of Shiloh Bar & Grill — which opened in March 2008 at 402 E. Broadway — believes he is on the short end of that stick.

"I think it's an unfair business environment to me that I can't have a band on my patio after 9 p.m. and other businesses can," he said.

Gartner said there is "the luck of the draw" in terms of business location and that no solution is 100 percent equal.

Other things under consideration by the SBD are allowing special noise permits for events such as Missouri football game nights and festivals; treating music differently than shouting as noise ordinance violations; and ticketing offenders rather than business owners for noise outside their establishments.

Gartner said there is a lot of consensus among downtown stakeholders, and she remains confident that the SBD board will be able to present the city council with a workable draft ordinance next month.

"We should really protect this music and lively club atmosphere and reduce this hooting and a-ho-lering," Gartner said.

Shelter hopes longer hours ease adoptions

BY JODIE JACKSON JR.

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New business hours should help increase adoptions at the Central Missouri Humane Society, interim Director Alan Allert said yesterday.

The shelter at 616 Big Bear Blvd. is also inching "closer and closer" to beginning a "makeover" that it won nearly a year ago as a result of communitywide support for a Zootoo.com contest.

Allert said he had a conference call yesterday with Zootoo CEO Richard Thompson and found out that most of the contracts are in place for renovation of the kennel and lobby areas.

"He was thinking that we could possibly be starting construction within five or six weeks," Allert said.

The process to obtain city building permits has begun. "I'm not sure how far it's gotten," Allert said.

The renovations are aimed at increasing kennel space and the lobby area to better facilitate animal adoptions. A push to increase adoptions is also behind the decision to increase the shelter's hours of operation, Allert said.

Beginning April 5, the shelter will once again be open on Tuesday and Wednesday and will stay

open until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. The shelter will be closed Sundays. The shelter's hours had been cut by former Director Patty Forister as a cost-saving measure.

"I didn't agree with that at all," Allert said, explaining that staff was still working on days the shelter was closed to the public, and staff would still take in animals. "The problem was we weren't adopting out any animals then," he said.

The CMHS board of directors met Tuesday night and approved the new hours. Board member Jim Loveless said that being closed but still accepting animals while not

adopting out to new owners was a "no-win situation."

"The board is always supportive of the staff when they come up with suggestions of ways to adopt more animals out because that's what we like to see," Loveless said.

Upcoming renovations will be done during a time when the shelter's activity typically increases.

"It's going to be tough because we're getting into the busy season for us," Allert said. The shelter will have to relocate at least a portion of its animal population and services during the renovation, he added.

The board had discussed the

possibility of finding temporary, alternative housing for shelter animals at the Boone County Fairgrounds.

"The only thing that's available are the covered, open areas," Allert said, noting there are dirt floors in those areas. "That's probably not going to work for us," he said. "I have people beating the bushes for an empty warehouse or a place where we can set up temporarily."

The board also heard Allert's plea Tuesday night for an isolation area separate from the existing shelter. The space is needed to house sick or diseased animals. "That's an immediate need, and

NEW HOURS

Starting April 5, the Central Missouri Humane Society will be:

► Open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

► Open from noon to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

► Closed Sunday.

we haven't even started our capital campaign yet," he said, referring to a fundraising effort on the shelter's horizon.

Allert would like to see an isolation building on the shelter's nearly 3-acre property.

"It could probably be done fairly cheaply," he said. "The sooner the better."

Mexican telecom tycoon takes 'richest person' title away from Gates

MEXICO CITY — Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim is the first man from a developing nation to become the world's richest person — a shift that underlines the loosening of America and Europe's stranglehold on the top spots in the billionaires' club.



Carlos Slim

Slim's arrival at the top aroused both pride and anger in Mexico, where many see his fantastic nation as a poverty-afflicted nation as a sign of what

With a recovery in the value of his cell phone holdings pushing his estimated fortune to \$53.5 billion, Slim jumped past Microsoft founder Bill Gates and investor Warren Buffett when Forbes magazine released its 2010 list of the world's wealthiest yesterday.

The rise of Slim, the 70-year-old son of an immigrant shopkeeper, is just a part of the emergence of billionaires in developing countries, Forbes reporter Keren Blankfeld said.

She noted this year's top 10 richest also include two billionaires from India and one from Brazil.

"They're kind of spread. It's a nice spread," Blankfeld said of the list, which had long been dominated by Americans and Europeans.

The full list showed Taiwan tripling its number of billionaires to 18, Turkey more than doubling to 28, and Brazil increasing by 50 percent to 18. Russia also rebounded, almost doubling its number of billionaires to 62 after stock markets there recovered from severe setbacks.

Still, it is hardly time to mark the passing of U.S. dominance: The number of American billionaires rose by more than 40 to 403. That is more than six times second-place China with 64 billionaires.

Four Missouri residents made the list, including two from Columbia. Ann Walton Kroenke, 60, daughter of Wal-Mart co-founder Bud Walton, ranked No. 110 with \$2.9 billion. Her husband, real estate developer Stan Kroenke, 62, is No. 117 with an estimated net worth of \$2.7 billion.

— The Associated Press

WEATHER

Tonight



LOW 38

Tomorrow



HIGH 49 LOW 35

More weather on Page 11A

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VOL. CIX, NO. 178