



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby City Council told Street extension would further development

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Extending Sewell Avenue to the south was one of many topics taken up at Tuesday night's Colby City Council meeting.

Tuffy Taylor, co-owner of Frontier Autoplex and local developer, said he hoped the council would consider including this proposal when doing street projects next spring.

Taylor said extending Sewell from Davis to Willow Avenue would benefit in further development of that area. Plans are in the works to relocate Frontier Autoplex in the spring, he said. "The new location would be east of the Holiday Inn Express and the front of the business would be to the east and south," Taylor said. Charles Davis, landowner, was also at the meeting to support the idea of extending Sewell Avenue the quarter of a mile distance or so in the interest of development.

"I would like to see this happen," Davis said. "There is undeveloped land on the west side and (if there was a street) consideration would be given to development on that side." However, Davis was quick to point out that no development would be done on the east side.

Dave Starkey, representing Davis, added that he believes it would be worth considering Sewell as a project this spring based on the fact that the city could bid this project into the other street improvements already planned.

Colby Mayor Warren Hixson said he agreed with Taylor, Davis and Starkey that the city would like to see a street there as well.

The question Hixson brought up, though, was who would be paying for the additional quarter mile of roadway.

Hixson directed the city staff to continue working on the idea, but did not make any promises or guarantees on the proposed extension of Sewell Avenue.

In other council business:

- Unanimous approval was given to the resolution supporting the U.S. government and expression of sympathy for the loss of human lives in Washington, D.C. and New York City.
- The council approved the change in an employee position for Chris Trundle, who works at the Colby Community Building. C.W. Cheney, the city's recreation director, requested the change which would allow Trundle to work in May, June, July and August with the public works department and the rest of the time would be with recreation.

In addition, Cheney requested the council allow him to create a secretarial position to assist in those summer months when Trundle is working with the street department, along with taking calls for the community building, recreation department, and swimming pool when no one else is available.

"It would be a real plus for the recreation department," he said, "and could easily replace two-part time summer workers."

The idea, Cheney explained, is a way to get the most out of employees and assist other departments during busier times of the year for them.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tuffy Taylor, co-owner of Frontier Autoplex and a local developer, asked the Colby City Council on Tuesday to consider extending Sewell Avenue at Davis to Willow Avenue, which runs in front of the Holiday Inn Express and Taco Johns.

Local legislator proposes plan to help declining enrollments

TOPEKA (AP) — Rural legislators announced a plan Tuesday to provide \$12 million in relief for school districts facing declining enrollment.

Reps. John Faber, R-Brewster, and Doug Gatewood, D-Columbus, propose a bill crediting credit each school with a funding increase of \$774 for every student lost in enrollment since 1995.

"Schools which find themselves in this situation (declining enrollment) have no choice but to cut programs, staff and or combine lower grades," Gatewood said.

"All of which are detrimental to the students' education and the communities as a whole."

Faber said the funding is not enough "but it's a beginning."

The funding increase will only cover a small portion of the estimated \$30 to \$40 million needed to maintain current levels of school funding next year, Gatewood said this week.

The funding would be distributed among the districts by subtracting the current number of students per district from the district's total enrollment in 1994-95, said Gatewood about the plan.

Districts would be able to add 0.2 students for every student they lost in enrollment to their official headcount.

European trip offers some new perspectives

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

Colby High School Spanish students Shanda Draper and Jamie Quenzer told the school board Monday night that their trip to Spain and France was a real eye opener.

"It was an awesome experience," said Draper. The visits in Barcelona and Madrid, Spain allowed her and other students to use their Spanish as well as experience new things.

Draper said one unexpected benefit was new friendships with other Colby students also on the trip. Many of the students in the group, about a dozen in number, did not know each other very well before departing on the trip.

"I made some new friends at Colby High School," she said.

Quenzer said the visits to historic European castles and other sights gave her a new appreciation for history.

"Our country is such a baby," she said, comparing America's few hundred years of history to Europe's thousands. "I want to go into foreign affairs," she told the board. Quenzer said she had always been interested in history, but the trip made her more aware of how cultures need to work together.

Leanna Wylie, Spanish and French teacher at the high school, was one of the sponsors of the trip. She said the group also visited the south of France and Paris before coming home.

Colby Spanish and French students have been making trips like this since 1985, she told board members, and said they were planning to go to Costa Rica next year.

"We started planning last spring," she said. "Students have been raising money since the summer and we have

It was an awesome experience. I made some new friends at Colby High School.

— Shanda Draper

eight students and two adults signed up."

Students must raise their own funds to go, she said. Wylie said they usually fly from Denver. The school system has provided transportation to the airport in the past, but parents normally pick up their children at the airport upon their return.

"Most parents are so eager to see their children, we don't need a bus (to get them back to Colby)," she said.

Wylie said she had been assured by the travel agency that the flights would be secure, although one student wanted to cancel in light of last week's events.

"I told them they can cancel later, if they want," she said, adding that she hoped they would reconsider.

The trip to Costa Rica will be a little different for students. "Our European visits have been historical trips, but we will see more natural events this time," she said.

The itinerary will include a stay in a jungle lodge and, Wylie is hopeful, a visit to her relatives who have farmed in the country since the early 1970s.

Congregation looks to give its church away

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

After more than 100 years, the Menlo United Methodist Church is closing its doors.

Robert Dible, one of the leaders in the congregation, said it had just become too hard to keep the congregation going, numbering 10-15 and aging quickly.

"We just can't keep it up," he said. The congregation's history dates back to services held in a one-room school house in 1890. When a new school was built in 1904, the congregation bought the old school and used it for the church.

After the new building was bought, it was dedicated as a Methodist church with N.W. Beauchamp as pastor according to Cline Curtiss, author of *Thomas County, Kansas, the First One Hundred Years*.

After 32 years, the building was sold to the Union Pacific depot agent, a Mr. Lemons, who used the

lumber to build a house. A new building was laid down in 1937 and finished in 1938. A dedication was held on October 30, 1938. In 1939 that building burned down. During the war years, members of the congregation held fund-raisers and built a new building.

On June 17, 1945, the current red brick building was dedicated, with Bishop W.C. Martin in attendance.

As late as 1972, there were 44 members listed in the congregation. Dible said a closing service will be held in December or January, but a firm date hasn't been set.

"We would like anyone with stories or historical information about the church to contact us," said Dible.

Dible said the church has declined with the town. "There are only about 50 people in the town, now," he said, "but there were about 500 once."

The congregation is offering the building to any non-profit organization who will care for it free of cost, pending approval of the cabinet of the



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

The Menlo United Methodist Church is closing its doors after nearly a century of meeting.

United Methodist Church. "They said we'd have the say," Dible said, "but that will make it official."

The congregation needs to hear from any groups within 60 days.

One thing the congregation has decided is that the building won't be allowed to run down and become an eyesore.

"We won't let it fall apart," he said. "We'll tear it down if no one wants it." Any non-profit organization interested in the building can call Dible at 462-3359.

Students faring well

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

Colby principals told the board of education at their Monday night meeting that students at Colby schools are adjusting to the tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C. "pretty well."

"A lot of kids have been talking to their teachers," said middle school principal Rob Ross. School counselors are also available.

High school principal Bryan Bullington said many student groups

were making suggestions. "Some of them weren't feasible at this time," he said, "but we're telling them to look down the line."

The ribbons and flag decorations were all student ideas, said activities director Jeff Quenzer, including one student who mounted a full-size flag on the trailer hitch of his pickup.

"We haven't had this kind of unity in a long time," said Bullington. Board member John Cranston also said he had noticed a lot of unity out of the tragedy.

Homecoming fever hits

No doubt about it: it's homecoming week at Colby High School, with the theme, *Pickin' on the Plainsmen*, showing up on business windows all over town.

The Eagles will take on the Oakley Plainsmen at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Dennen Field. But leading up to the clash, expected to attract a big following, are a variety of activities.

Monday, for instance, was *pajama day* and a pep rally was held. Tuesday found students dressed in the colors of their favorite teams and decorating the

halls. Today was *opposite day* and another pep rally was held. Here is the schedule for the rest of the week: Thursday — *Nerd Day*, and a bonfire at the Thomas County Fairgrounds at 9 p.m.

Friday — *Spirit Day*, classes dismissed at 1:40, parade starts at 2:30 p.m. at Fike Park. Homecoming game vs. Oakley at 7:30 p.m. at Dennen Field, coronation after the game.

Saturday — Semi-formal dance at the high school commons, 8-11:30 p.m.

Briefly

Weather: Nice forecast

The weather for the Colby region through Saturday can be described in one word: *nice!* Tonight, clear, lows 50-55 and west winds 5-15 mph, turning to the southwest late. Thursday, partly sunny, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs near 80 and west winds 10-20 mph, turning to the north late. Thursday night, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows 50-55. Friday and Saturday, partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows near 60 and highs near 80. Tuesday's high in Colby was 63 and the overnight low this morning was 47. There was an additional 0.02 inches of rain during the past 24 hours, bringing the month's total to 3.03 inches. The

soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 58 degrees. The records for Sept. 19: 103 in 1920 and 31 in 1971. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

College pool hours released

Colby Community College swimming pool hours are: morning lap swim, Monday through Friday, 5-7 a.m., noon lap swim 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, with no noon lap swim on Thursday; open swim is Monday through Thursday, 4-8 p.m. and Friday 4-6 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday open swim 1-5 p.m.

Church acution scheduled

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Colby, is having its annual charity auction, *A Star Spangled Auction*, on Saturday, Oct. 20.

This year the auction location has been changed to the Colby Community Building. Doors open with a silent auction at 6 p.m.; the oral auction begins at 7:30. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the parish rectory, call 462-2179.

Ballot should be in mail today

The Thomas County Extension Council is conducting its annual election in the form of a mail ballot. Each Thomas County household with registered voters should have received a ballot in the mail today. If you did not receive one please contact the Extension Office at 462-4582, or stop in at the office at 350 S. Range, Suite #16.

Chamber tourney scheduled

The 8th annual Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce golf tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 27. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun tee off at 12:30 at the Colby Country Club. The format is a four-person scramble and is open to all interested golfers. The registration fee is \$50 and includes dinner and door prizes. Cash prizes will be awarded to top teams in each flight. For more information or to register contact the chamber at 462-3401.

