



COLBY FREE PRESS

Storage becomes concern

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Storage containers located in commercial, industrial and even residential areas of town have prompted the Colby City Council to ask its planning commission to further review the matter.

The issue was first brought up by the planning commission at its meeting earlier in February and, in turn, they requested the city to enforce the regulation by sending those in violation a letter notifying them to remove the containers.

"Zoning regulations clearly provide that shipping containers, parts of motor vehicles or trailers, van bodies, vehicle bodies and other similar type items are not buildings and cannot be used for an accessory building," Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, told the council at its meeting last week.

Councilman John Bremenkamp said he would like to see the issue go back to the planning commission to consider changing the regulation to allow the containers in the industrial park area.

The council is expected to hear back from the planning commission in the near future with its recommendation after reviewing the matter further.

The planning commission also gave its recommendation to approve a 54' billboard on the Holiday Inn property at Willow Ave. The only concern it had was whether or not the sign would conflict with Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

The city's building inspector, Doug Lewis, said he checked with Mark Ostmeyer, municipal airport manager, and learned that the height was not a problem with the federal agency.

The only other concern with the billboard was that it would need to meet wind and snow loads.

Tourney alters school plans

The Colby Eagle wrestling team will depart on Thursday for the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament in Wichita. The public is invited to a pep rally and send-off at 9:10 a.m. in the high school. The tournament kicks in Friday and concludes Saturday night.

Due to the state tournament, there will be no classes at the high school on Friday, but school will be held for grades K-8.



Still calling for some snow

Tonight...cloudy. Lows in the mid teens. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west late. Thursday...cloudy. Highs in the lower 30s. Light and variable wind. Thursday night...cloudy with a chance of snow. Lows in the upper teens. Chance of snow 40 percent. Friday...snow likely. Highs in the lower 30s. Chance of snow 60 percent. Friday night...cloudy, then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the upper teens. Saturday...partly cloudy, then becoming cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s.

The numbers

Monday's high, 15
Low this morning, 2
Soil temperature, 32
Year ago, 22 and -1
Month's snowfall, 5 inches
Month's precipitation, 0.36
Records, 76 in 1986 and -9 in 1960



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Brook Schiffner, a former Colby resident and an architect from the firm SCH2 of Denver, presented a proposal for the new wellness and fitness center for Colby Community College. Schiffner and his partner, Doug Schooner, specialize in recreational facilities.

During two evening sessions

College board hears six proposals for new wellness and fitness center

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees met for two special sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings to hear project proposals for the new wellness and fitness center.

Proposals were presented by: from Brooke Schiffner and Doug Schooner of SCH2 of Denver; Mort Plunkett of Mort Plunkett Architect of Hill City; Paul Cavanaugh of Places Architects of Wichita; Tom Montgomery and Jan Burgess of Gossen Livingston, Wichita; Alan Stecklein and Wayne Brungardt, of Stecklein and Brungardt of Hays; and Glen Strait of Strait Associates of Colby.

The proposed center which be available students, faculty and community, and be located in the interior of the campus, south of the current gymnasium and north of the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

Dr. Mikle Ary, college president, said the center will be completely built by donations and would not be funded by tax dollars.

A capitol campaign is planned to raise the funds to build the new facility. Currently plans are to have an indoor walking track, two racquetball courts, a free weight and

fitness area, a new wrestling room and areas for classrooms and other activities.

Here are the proposals:

• **SCH2** — Schiffner, a Colby native and Schooner, formerly of Scott City, are partners who specialize in recreation facilities. Between the two of them, they have 22 years of architectural experience and have designed buildings in the states and internationally.

Their company proposed two options. Their first option connected the new center to the already existing gymnasium with bridges. The bridges would be part of a walking track and would overlook both the new section and the existing gym.

The second option showed the building completely separated from the previous building. Their building options will be around 23,000 square feet.

• **Mort Plunkett Architect** — Plunkett said he tried to make his proposal as small as possible, yet still included everything requested by the board.

The building would have ground pump heating and a walking lane, not a circular track.

His building would be 23,400 square feet and he told the board he would be on site at least once a week

during construction to oversee the project.

• **Places Architects** — Cavanaugh is the architect who designed Bedker Hall on campus. He said his design promoted high visibility on campus and easy accessibility to the facility.

The slanted glass on his design would allow outsiders to view some of the activities going on inside the fitness center. He included a three lane track inside his design on the upper level.

He said he also planned to include zone-down mechanical spaces so that the lighting and heating/cooling would adjust automatically to a lower level if the space was not in use. His proposal is 28,549 square feet.

• **Gossen Livingston** — Montgomery and Burgess have received national awards for some of their designs across the United States. Although there are 60 people in their firm, Montgomery lead the studio which specializes in design for upper educational facilities. They have designed buildings for several junior colleges in Kansas. Their building had several design features to help decrease energy bills by using solar energy.

The design also included an outdoor amphitheater and a connected

walkway through the existing building which includes the gym and swimming pool.

The walkway would allow the public to use the parking facilities to the north and not have to walk completely around the gym or swimming pool to access the new fitness center. Their facility would be 22,000 square feet.

• **Stecklein and Brungardt** — Stecklein and Brungardt both worked on the design used to build Gross Memorial Coliseum at Fort Hays State University. Their design is focused around the track and had an oval shape to the outside of the building.

They said with their design, the building would provide a dynamic visual image for the campus. The 27,000 square feet of the building would provide a four lane running track and good air circulation to cut down heating and cooling costs.

• **Strait Associates** — Strait also proposed two options. He said each design would be in the neighborhood of 26,000 square feet.

Much of the building would include light diffusing blocks instead of glass to help insulate and evenly distribute the light. His first option would face the west, while his second design is angular and faces the southwest.

Senate leader arrested

TOPEKA (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Lana Oleen has become the second member of her chamber to be arrested this year on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Oleen, R-Manhattan, failed field sobriety and Breathalyzers test after being stopped on a southeastern Topeka street about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Department said.

"I regret this has happened," the chamber's No. 2 leader said in a statement she distributed after Tuesday's Senate session.

"As a Kansas citizen, I am subject to the same rules as any other person. I intend to answer the charges against me," she said. "In the meantime, it is my intention to continue to diligently carry out my responsibilities in the Senate as I always have."

Oleen, 53, declined to answer questions after distributing the statement to reporters.

Asked if Oleen would be removed as majority leader, Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said, "Of course not."

On Tuesday, the Senate debated and voted on several bills, including one requiring those convicted of DUI to attend at least a 10-hour alcohol and drug treatment program.

Oleen remained silent during the DUI bill debate but voted for the measure, which passed 33-6.

Oleen was alone in her Jeep Cherokee when she was stopped by a deputy who saw her driving slowly and not staying in a single lane, said Deputy Martha Lutz, spokeswoman for the sheriff's department.

"The slow speed and the failure to maintain the lane is what alerted the deputy who was on routine patrol at the time," Lutz said. "She was extremely cooperative and polite."

Oleen was released from the Shawnee County jail at 6 a.m. after posting a \$1,000 signature bond. Her blood-alcohol level wasn't released by the district attorney's office. No court appearance had been scheduled.

Oleen has served in the Senate since 1989 and as its majority leader since 2001. Republicans hold a 30-10 majority in the chamber.

Saddam would be in gun's sight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saddam Hussein is being threatened with trial as a war criminal if the United States goes to war with Iraq. If the Iraqi president and his generals "take innocent life, if they destroy infrastructure, they will be held accountable as war criminals," President Bush said Tuesday.

The White House spokesman Ari Fleischer offered a grimmer scenario. Saddam and his inner circle would be legitimate targets for U.S. forces, he said.

"If we go to war in Iraq, and hostilities result, command and control and top generals, people who are in charge of fighting the war to kill the United States' troops, cannot assume they will be safe," he said.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet on Friday at 9 a.m. at the courthouse. This will be the end of the month meeting and the public is urged to attend.

Senior Center feed is Saturday

The Senior Progress Center will hold a pancake and sausage feed on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center. The cost is \$3. Proceeds will go toward the building's upkeep. The public is urged to attend.

Help available with form filings

Free assistance in filling out the Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications is available to individuals with disabilities until March 31. Free assistance in completing the Homestead Food Sales Tax Returns will be available until April 15. For information, or to set up an appointment, call (785) 625-6942 or (800) 569-5926.

'Great Strides' meeting Monday

The next monthly committee meeting for the Western Kansas "Great Strides" walk-a-thon to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Farm Credit Administrative offices, 375 S. Range, Colby. Anyone interested in getting involved should call Doris Reed at (785) 465-7907 or attend the meeting.

Sacred Heart sets enrollment

Sacred Heart School will be holding kindergarten and pre-school enrollment on Wednesday, March 5, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the school lobby at 1150 W. 6th St. School officials ask that parents or guardians bring a copy of their child's birth certificate, immunization records, social security number, and physical. For questions, call 462-2813.

Kindergarten enrollment scheduled

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2003-04 school year at Colby Grade School is from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in

the conference room at the school. For questions or what paperwork is necessary, call 465-5100.

Childbirth education series to begin

The next Colby Childbirth Education series will start on Thursday, March 6 will subsequent classes scheduled on March 20 and 27, and April 3. They will be held in the Health Science Building on the Colby Community College Campus. More information is available at 462-6845, ask for Tina Schrick.

Sweet Thunder sign-up announced

Sweet Thunder will hold its annual sign-up/informational meeting on Sunday, March 9 in Room 106, Student Union, Colby Community College, at 3 p.m. Players and parents, and others interested, are urged to attend. Call Barb Wieland, Manuel Rubio, Susan Wark, Donna Augustine or Tanya Staats for additional information. Registration forms or additional information is available on their website at www.colbysweetthunder.org.

