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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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Thursday

August 6, 2009  
Volume 120, Number 122  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## City council to revisit town budget

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
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The Colby City Council decided to put off approval of a 2010 budget Tuesday after several councilmen raised concerns about a proposed 32 percent increase in property tax revenue collected on the city's behalf.

Councilman Mark Beringer said he had received several calls from people who were concerned with the increase in property taxes that the city proposed to pay for the new fire station. Other councilmen who favored extending discussion about the budget included Tim Hutfles, Dave Voss and Fred Taylor.

"We've all had enough calls," Beringer said, adding that he thought more things could be trimmed from the budget.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the proposed levy increase, from 32.564 mills total city levy to 41.319 for 2010, about 27 percent, was due to the costs of the fire station and the new lighting at Colby Recreational Complex. She said the two projects together cost more than \$2.8 million, financed by a bond issue of \$2,860,000 million.

Increases in property valuation would allow the city to collect 32 percent more with a 27 percent

levy increase.

In the end, the council agreed to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday to discuss what additional cuts could be made to the budget. The budget must be approved by Saturday, Aug. 15, said Armstrong.

Despite the tax increase to cover bonds and interest, the manager said, the 2010 budget would have been less than this year's. The 2010 total would have been \$2,523,179 and the 2009 budget was \$2,662,876.

In other news, the council:

- Agreed to accept the bid of \$14,350 from Colby Glass to replace the insulated window glass at the south and east side of the airport terminal and the panels beneath the bottom of all the windows in the terminal. Armstrong said water had been leaking after getting between the panels and the inside walls.

- Approved buying a 1996 IHC Truck from Money Chevrolet of Hill City for \$29,950 and a 3,000-gallon tank from McDonald Tank and Equipment of Great Bend for \$14,950.

- Approved a National Recovery Month parade at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, for the Regional Prevention Center. It will begin on Webster Street at the corner of the Harrison Chapel and Franklin and

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## Hospital offers new radiology machines

By Vera Sloan

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Citizens Medical Center has a couple of new diagnostic devices which will allow people to have tests done closer to home, rather than driving out of the area.

The Colby hospital has added nuclear medical imaging, using radioactive dyes to determine how an organ is functioning. Imaging is done with a Single Proton Emission Computed Tomography machine.

The technique can be used for cardiac stress testing, or to check stomach, liver, thyroid, gall bladder, kidney and bone problems, to see whether or not a cancer has spread, and many other functions. Radioactive material is injected into the bloodstream to produce enhanced images, said Jim Lambert, director of radiology at the hospital.

Rebecca Hanson, nuclear medicine technologist, is certified by the American Registry of Registered Technologists and the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board.

The amount of radioactive material injected is not dangerous, Lambert said, and the technique has been used for more than five

decades. There usually are no side effects.

"The hospital is in the community to address any concerns patients may have, and we are excited about being able to provide nuclear medicine services," Lambert said.

Another piece of equipment recently added at Citizens is an echocardiograph, an ultrasound device used to produce three-dimensional images of the heart.

The hospital says the echocardiogram produced by the machine can give an accurate assessment of the velocity of blood and cardiac tissue at any point using Doppler ultrasound.

It allows for assessment of the heart's valves and function, any abnormal communications between the left and right sides of the heart, any leaking of blood through the valves and calculation cardiac output.

"The purpose of the equipment is to diagnose cardiovascular diseases and is one of the most widely used diagnostic tests for heart disease," said Pat Howell, chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services at the hospital.

One of the biggest advantages to echocardiography, she said, is

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VERA SLOAN and KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Construction projects in full swing around town

Construction projects are taking advantage of the good weather around Colby this week. Work crews have been installing copper-finished steel panels (above) on the roof of the new Farm Credit Services building at College and Range. They also have been compacting and grading the building's parking lot. Contractors working for the city began the first stages of a new street heading north (right) from West Willow Street next to Taco John's and started the foundation for a standpipe (below) on the northwest side of the I-70 to Country Club Drive. The standpipe will be a backup for the city's water tower.



## Louisburg man tops Goodland bull ride

By Tom Betz

Goodland Star News  
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The cowboys and bulls met in a contest for the Western Plains Chute Out on Wednesday, and by the numbers the bulls had the better of the night, but a Kansas cowboy was able to ride two bulls to win the top prize.

The Enterprise Tour was in Goodland for the second year sponsored by the Thunder on the Plains committee and more than 40 local sponsors to the delight of a crowd estimated to be over 1,200 in the bleachers and grandstand.

Cowboy Dusty LaBeth of Louisburg was the top bull rider of the evening with a total score of 175 on his two bulls. LaBeth was one of the few in the first section of riders to make it to the 8-second horn and had a score of 87. In the final short round of 10 riders he was one of four who made it to the 8-second horn and

had an 88 score.

A very close second was Brazilian bull rider Valdiron de Oiveria who had a total of 174.5 on his two bulls. He was leading after the long round with a score of 92, but his score in the short round was just half a point short with an 82.5.

Another Kansas cowboy Skeeter Kingsolver of McCloud was the first to get a ride in the short round with an 89.5. That put him in first place for a few minutes with a total score of 174 with his first round 84.5. That was good enough for third place for the night.

Jordan Hupp of Cheyenne, Wyo., was the other bull rider who rode two bulls for the night and he was fourth with a total of 169 with a long round ride of 82 and a short round score of 87.

A couple of other northwest Kansas cowboys who gave the bulls a try were Leroy Johnson of Sharon Springs and Ryan Steven-

son of Selden.

Professional Bull Rider Cowboy Scott Cameron of Golden, Colo. kept the crowd entertained. He got close and personal with some of the audience way up in the top rows of the grandstand and demonstrated his jump roping ability on the top rail of the arena fence before the cowboy introductions. He did a chicken dinner comedy routine between the first and second rounds in the long go of 40 riders, and a special horse doctor comedy sketch between the long go and the short round.

The whole show took less than two hours to go through the 50 bulls. In the end the bulls had bucked off 36 cowboys to the 14 who managed to make it to the 8-second horn.

Doug Sederstrom of the local committee said he thought they might have had a crowd of more than 1,300. He said people were not as packed in as last year, but it was a good crowd and they seemed to enjoy the show.

## Briefly

### Logo needed for 125th bash

The Prairie Museum of Art and History and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a logo contest for Thomas County's 125th Anniversary. Entries should include the theme for the celebration: "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives on." They may be submitted on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper to the museum or the Chamber office by mail or in person by Tuesday, Sept. 15. For information, call the museum at 460-4590 or the Chamber at 460-3401.

### Crew needs Eagles' T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.

### Yearbooks available at school

Colby High School yearbooks for 2008-2009 will be available in the journalism room on Thursday, Aug. 20. Extra yearbooks may be purchased for \$50. For information, call sponsor Donna Henry at 460-5300.

### City to trim trees Friday

City crews will be trimming trees from 7 a.m. to noon Friday on School and Garfield Avenues south of Eighth Street. Trees will be trimmed to a height of 13 feet, 6 inches over streets and alleys and 8 feet over sidewalk. Residents are asked to move vehicles parked under low-hanging branches. For information, call City Hall at 460-4410.

### New student signup this week

New student enrollment will be at 8 a.m. Friday at all three Colby schools. The first day of athletic prac-

tice will be on Monday, Aug. 17, with times set by each team. The first day of classes will be Thursday, Aug. 20. The district has 2008 diplomas available for pick-up at the administration office. For information, call 460-5000.

### Sacred Heart enrollment Monday

Sacred Heart School will hold enrollment for all students in preschool through fifth grade from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday at the school, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and bev-

erage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### Rexford enrollment next week

Golden Plains School District enrollment will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, and Friday, Aug. 14. Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students will register at the Selden School, while middle and high school students will register at the Rexford building. The first day of the school will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information, call Tammy Shaw at (785) 386-4560.



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