



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Thursday

September 3, 2009
Volume 120, Number 138
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Citizen says bond pairing not popular

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

A Colby businessman told the City Council on Tuesday that he thought most people were against combining a vote on bonds to pay for a new fire station and new swimming pool.

Larry Oren, owner of L&M Steele, voiced his opposition to a plan for a single vote on a 3/4-cent sales tax to pay for the new fire station and a new pool in a special election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The council approved the plan, including a \$7.5-million bond issue, at its meeting on Aug. 18.

Oren said he had read in the Colby Free Press that many people wanted the pool and fire-station is-

sues to be voted on separately.

"I think you are being totally irresponsible for even putting the pool in the question," said Oren. "You're not listening to the people you are representing at all."

Oren said the people he'd talked to had been opposed to both issues being in the same question. He said he supports the fire station, but not the pool.

"I don't think they're representing what the people want, their representing what they want," he said. "One councilmen said he voted for it because he didn't want his ward to make a mistake. It may seem like a mistake to him and not to them."

Councilmen Omar Weber said

See "COUNCIL," Page 3

Man booked for two accidents

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

A Colby man was booked into the county jail twice Friday for causing two car accidents Friday — one of which landed him in the hospital — driving through a farmer's corn field and driving on a suspended license.

Jail records show that Edward Miller, 40, was booked early Friday morning on a hit and run outside the B-Hive downtown on Fourth Street. He was charged with driving with a suspended or revoked license and criminal damage to a parked vehicle. He was released later that morning on a

notice to appear in court.

Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor said his office got a call that evening, about 6:20 p.m. about a possible drunk driver in the Levant area. A few minutes later, they got another call that the car was heading toward Colby. Taylor said drove west on College Drive while sending a deputy west on U.S. 24 to see if they could intercept the car.

Miller apparently was heading east on College Drive when, about three miles from Colby, his car slid sideways, hit an embankment and rolled. Taylor said he found the car after it had hit the embank-

See "ACCIDENT," Page 3

Field day begins with seed discussion



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Doug Heatwole, district sales agronomist for Mycogen Seeds, talked with area dealers about the company's products Wednesday morning at test plots in Bill Dible's field along U.S. 83 just east of Rexford. After learning about new products

from Heatwole, of Garden City, and Bruce Keiser of Colby, and lunching on steak sandwiches, the crew was ready for a field day that evening for area farmers. About a dozen dealers attended the session.

Patrol to spend less time driving roads

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas Highway Patrol troopers will spend less time driving as one of several steps the patrol is taking to save money.

Trooper Edna Buttler, a patrol spokeswoman, said troopers will cut traveling time on state highways by 10 percent and will spend more time parked on the side of roads watching for traffic violators.

Fuel is one of the patrol's highest costs, and the changes are being made to reduce that ex-

pense, she said.

"The economic situation has really forced us, and many other agencies, to reduce costs where we can," Buttler said.

Details about how much money the fuel reduction would save the state were not immediately available.

Officers will still respond to calls and do not intend to write fewer tickets, she said.

"The patrol continues to manage its resources so we can provide the level of service that is

expected of us and still respond where we are needed," she said.

The patrol, which employs more than 800 workers, is also taking several other cost-saving measures including making fewer oil changes, not buying new or replacement uniforms, having troopers share rides to training and limiting out-of-state travel.

The effort comes after the state has made four rounds of spending cuts this year to prevent a budget deficit, with more cuts possible.

Colby sports broadcaster has long association with college

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Colby sports fans have the unique advantage of being able to choose between two radio broadcasts for this season's high school games.

Fans can listen to the games on KTCC 91.9 FM, a noncommercial station run by Colby Community College, or they can tune in to 100.3 FM, KR DQ, owned by Rocking M Radio of Manhattan. In most towns this size, people are lucky to get one station to broadcast the games.

"Options for people are always nice," said Sacha Sanguinetti, general manager of KXXX and KR DQ. "You get to hear the games described from two different perspectives."

Sports broadcaster Rich Epp used to buy time on KR DQ, do the broadcast and sell his own commercials, but the station decided not to renew his contract after Rocking M bought the operation in the spring of 2007.

Epp makes money by getting businesses to sponsor his sports broadcasts through his firm, J & R Marketing.

"They are a group of broadcast boosters who make all the sports broadcasts possible," Epp said.

J & R, run by Epp and his wife Judy, handles radio and television advertising for several businesses and promotes concerts in northwest Kansas, he said.

In the summer of 2007, after falling out with KR DQ, Epp signed a contract with the college allowing him to use time on KTCC for \$2,500 a semester to cover college and high school athletics, said President Lynn Kreider. He does volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball and softball for the college and baseball, basketball, wrestling, volleyball and football for the high school.

Epp has broadcast sports for over four decades and has been named Sports Broadcaster of the Year by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters on two occasions. He graduated from the college radio program in 1972, in the first class of radio students in the school's history.

Both Epp and Sanguinetti dismissed ideas that a rivalry exists between the two radio stations.

"Rich does what he does and he does it very well," said Sanguinetti. "We do what we do, and I prefer to

See "RADIO," Page 3



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Sports broadcaster Rich Epp broadcast the game between the Colby Community College volleyball team and Garden City on Wednesday evening.

Briefly

Community building dance Friday

A singles and couples dance is planned from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building. Music will be provided by the Calhouns. For information, call Lue Duffey at 855-2341.

Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for "Coffee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every Saturday after home and away football games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

Softball tourney Saturday

Sign up now for a softball tournament fund raiser at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Colby Recreation Ball Fields. Proceeds will go to Colby School District

athletics department. There will be a team meeting at 8:15 a.m.. Cost will be \$100 per team. To register, call Matt Ludwick at 462-2271.

No trash pickup on Monday

Colby city sanitation trucks will not run next Monday because of the Labor Day holiday. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, said Public Works Director Chris Bieker. Have your tipper cans to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call the Public Works Department at 460-4420.

Offices closed for Labor Day

The Thomas County courthouse and office complex will be closed on Monday for Labor Day. The county transportation van will not run that day. The Thomas County landfill will close at noon Saturday and reopen on Tuesday. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Food sign up to be next week

Prairie Land Food sign up will be next week at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, Sept. 26, at Sacred Heart School, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 5-year-old female shepherd mix, a neutered male dachshund/yorkie cross — a dorkie — and two white, fluffy kittens available for adoption. The kittens are not yet old enough to take home. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck din-

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

City picking up grass clippings

City crews continue to pick up grass clippings. Clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on your regular trash day in a separate tipper can from household trash. Put clippings in the tipper loose, not in plastic bags. For questions, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3