



Taking donations for Genesis



Taking advantage of a break in the weather, members of the Colby Community College track and cross country teams and the Cub Scouts canvassed for canned food around Colby on Saturday. The groups were joined by the Colby Girl Scouts,

the Catholic Youth Organization and the college Presidential Scholars. The food they collected went to the Genesis-Thom-

JAMES ORTIZ/Colby Community College

City may get \$1 million runway loan

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby City Council discussed borrowing nearly \$1 million in economic development sales tax money to pay for land for expansion of the airport runways when members met Tuesday at City Hall.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said she and Mayor Ken Bieber had met with the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance board last Thursday and board members had approved a motion recommending the city get \$1 million to pay for the land. She said \$50,000 will be a grant to the city and the remaining \$950,000 will be a temporary loan.

The council will be reimbursed for 95 percent of the runway costs through the Federal Aviation Administration. The agency has said the money will be available when Congress approves its budget.

Dave Voss asked Armstrong how sure the agency was that the money will be released. Armstrong said the they were confident the money will be there.

In other business, the council:
• Approved an ordinance allowing farm operator Lon Frahm to buy the former Farm Credit Building at 375 S. Range Ave. Armstrong said he is going to convert

the building into a home for himself, his mother and guests. She said the Thomas County Planning Commission had ruled the rezoning the property from a neighborhood commercial to a single-family dwelling was appropriate for the area.

• Denied a request by Dave Peterson, on behalf of SIColby LLC, that the requirement to build a sidewalk on the south side of the Sleep Inn Motel and Suites be waived until the hotel has been built. The firm purchased the land the hotel will be built on.

Council member Mark Beringer of Beringer Hardware said the council added the ordinance requiring commercial properties on major streets to install a sidewalk because these sidewalks were not being built. He said the fact that Walmart not building a sidewalk running by its store prompted this move. Beringer added that he saw no reason the firm couldn't build the sidewalk now.

• Approved a request by Peterson and SIColby to close Sewell north of Willow Avenue while the Sleep Inn is built.

• Approved a request by Colby Community College to place a 10- by 50-foot trailer on campus to provide temporary office space until the end of next year. Deb-

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Lecture series to begin with sustainable agriculture expert

A Kansas State University expert on sustainable and organic agriculture will be the first speaker of the school year in the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College.

Dr. Rhonda Janke will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. She has over 25 years experience in sustainable agricul-

ture research and extension work in sustainable cropping systems.

A graduate of Cornell University, Janke worked at the Rodale Institute for eight years, overseeing cropping experiments and later as a research director. She now teaches sustainable and organic agriculture at Kansas State University.

Janke and her husband have a 10-acre

organic farm near Wamego where they raise and sell lambs, wool, eggs, vegetables and fruit crops. Her professional interests, combined with her personal interest in farming, motivated her to write the book "Farming in the Dark."

She said being a small, part-time farmer coming home to feed the sheep after the sun had gone down, and realizing

that many of her farming neighbors were doing the same thing, inspired the title. However, she believes there are many other issues being kept "in the dark," such as a farm bill that subsidizes some crops and not others, and farmers being used simply as a pass-through for subsidies. She believes farmers do not really gain by the current farm policy.

"Energy issues will play a bigger role in the future of agriculture and are another area that we'll all be 'in the dark' about soon if we are not motivated to a more proactive approach," she said.

For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528.

Nov. 3 election to decide fate of pool, financing for new Colby fire station

By Marj Brown

Colby Free Press
mjbrown285@hotmail.com

Colby kids and their parents will be anxiously awaiting the results of a special election Tuesday, Nov. 3, when voters will determine the fate of a .75 of 1 percent sales tax to pay for a new swimming pool in Colby and the new fire station.

The three-fourths of 1 percent addition would bring Colby's city sales tax to 7.3 percent, including state and county levies. It would be effective for 10 years beginning April 1.

A "yes" vote would add 75 cents on every \$100 of purchases in town. Sales tax rates in many area towns are similar or higher.

The sales tax in Atwood is 7.05 percent, in Garden City 7.45 percent, Hays 7.55 percent in the at-large district and 8.3 percent in the downtown development district, in Oakley 7.05 percent, Oberlin 6.3 percent, WaKeeney 6.8 percent, Salina 7.2 percent, Hoxie 7.3 percent and Selden 7.3 percent.

Supporters point out that unlike the property tax,

the sales tax isn't paid just by Colby or Thomas County residents. According to the City of Colby website, the last information from the Kansas Department of Revenue shows that, "Thomas County has a population equivalent to 10,997 people with the visitors who shop here; that is 3,529 extra people paying sales tax in Colby.

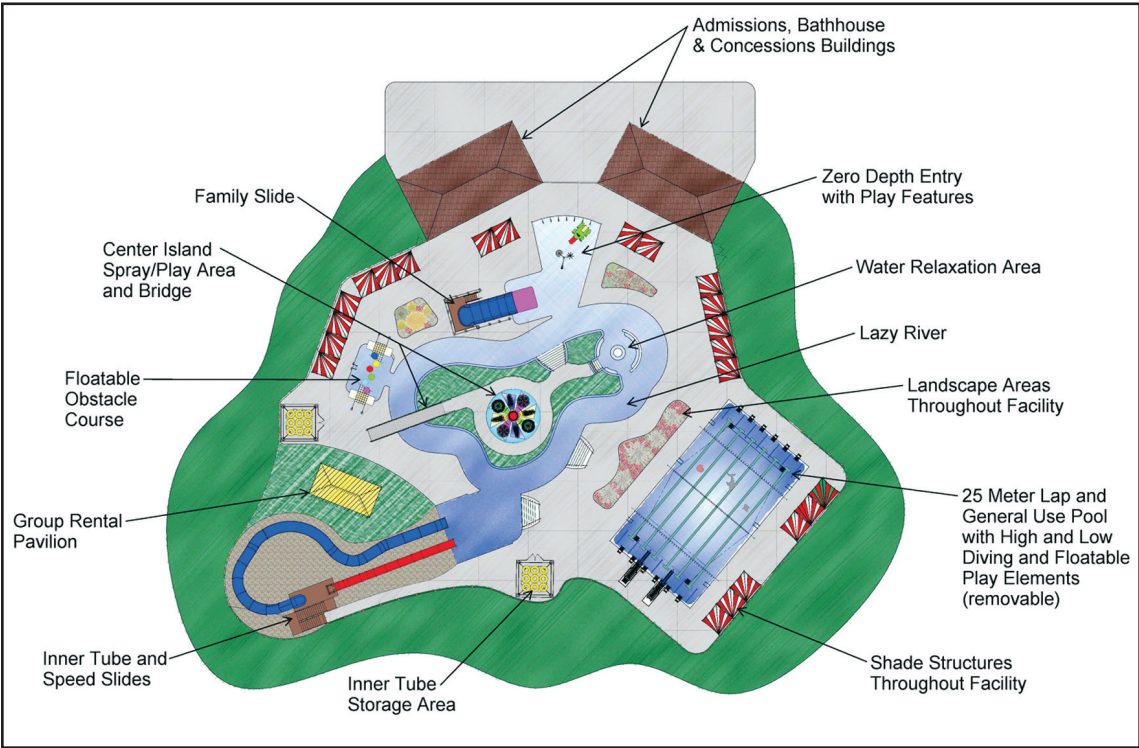
"Every dollar spent by visitors to Colby would help make the payments for the fire house and pool."

Colby's new fire station was financed with temporary notes that will need to be paid off. The original plan was to issue bonds and pay for them by raising property taxes for 20 years, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. However, if the money comes from sales taxes, city officials say the fire station and the pool could be paid for in half that time.

With property taxes, the bonds would be paid off in 20 years, but with a sales taxes, it could be paid off in 10. That would save taxpayers about \$462,300. in interest, the city says.

One advantage to the sales tax, the city says, is

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This conceptual design for the proposed new Colby pool was created by Aquatic Design Consultants. A bond issue to pay for a pool, along with the city's new fire station, will be decided at a Nov. 3 special election. Some features may change as work proceeds.

Briefly

Extension voting this week

Ballots for the Thomas County Extension Council election are available at the extension office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 16. All ballots must be submitted to the office by 5 p.m. Friday, said Extension Agent Clint Milliman. For information, call the office at 460-4582.

Spooky sale at Pioneer Library

The Pioneer Memorial Library will hold its Spooktacular Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Bring the kids. For questions, call librarian Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

Heartland Fall Festival Friday

Heartland Christian School's annual Fall Festival will begin with games and supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday. Soup will be served for a donation. A

volleyball scrimmage will follow from 8 to 10:30. For information, call Deena Bandy at the school, 460-6419.

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 games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

Town hall meeting Tuesday

The City of Colby and the Colby Pool Committee will hold an open "town hall" meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Building to discuss the proposed sales tax that will pay for the fire station and a new pool. For information, call City Manager Carolyn Armstrong at 460-4400.

Students to give free massages

The Therapeutic Massage Department at Colby Community College will hold its last public clinic of the month on Wednesday in Thomas Hall, Room 402. Cubicle and chair massages are 30 minutes, starting at 6:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Massages will focus on feet this week. Donations are accepted. To make an appointment or for information, contact Director Debra Waites at (785) 460-5427 or e-mail debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

Hospital auxiliary needs help

The Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to greet visitors, operate the gift shop and help patients and their families, among other things. If you'd like to become involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

Transit bus' day to be brief Nov. 6

The Thomas County transportation van will run only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 6. For information, call County Clerk Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

Food bank taking applications

Genesis-Thomas County food bank has forms available for families who will need food baskets this holiday season. These can be picked up from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Genesis office, 350 S. Range Ave. Suite 13. Applications are due by Tuesday, Nov. 10. For information, call Genesis at 460-7930.

