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# COLBY FREE PRESS



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## Lack of cash delays work on state roads

By Andy Heintz  
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The Legislature hasn't faced the need for a new state transportation plan, meaning that there's virtually no money for the state, or for Colby or any other city, to upgrade and repair Kansas highways, the City Council heard Tuesday.

Repairs and improvement to the state's roads have been paid for under the Comprehensive Transportation Program, which expired in June, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong and Public Works Director Chris Bieker told the council. The Legislature hasn't yet come up with a replacement, meaning the Department of Transportation has only a minimal fund for anything beyond repairs.

Armstrong and Bieker reported this depressing bit of news from a Transportation Department meeting they attended Oct. 26 in Hays. Not having a highway plan could affect the conditions the main highways that run through Colby, Interstate 70, K-25 and U.S. 24, Armstrong told the council at a meeting Tuesday at City Hall.

"The gist of the meeting was that the Legislature has not provided the funds to continue the highway program, so most of the programs have been eliminated," she said, "and unless things changed dras-

tically, by 2020 we will be back where we started (before two major highway programs) in 1989, with deteriorating highways and no new construction."

Armstrong told the council that the city had received qualifications from three bidders interested in supervising the runaway expansion project at Colby Municipal Airport: HWS Consulting Group, based in Lincoln, Neb.; Kirkham-Michael/Midwest Right-of-Way Services, two firms based in Omaha; and Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, with offices in Great Bend and Goodland.

The runaway will grow by 1,000, with the city adding 2,200 feet to the north and removing 1,200 feet of the existing runway to the south due to encroachment by homes and outbuildings. The city will have to buy about 40 acres of Gary Baumfaulk's land and about 123 acres of unimproved ground, obtain an easement on a one-acre tract, get the Thomas County commissioners to close the road north of the airport and agree to grant the city an easement.

In other business, the council:

- Denied a request from professional counselor Bill Davis of Turning Point Counseling Services to rent office space at the Colby

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STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

## Elevators pile milo as harvest rolls along

Jeff Wessel, who farms in the Selden area, (above) watched as a load of his milo was added to a growing multi-layered



pile west of the Hi-Plains Co-op elevator on U.S. 83 there. Wessel said his yields were good, running around 100 bushels an acre, but the grain was immature and the quality probably wasn't too good. He and co-op grain technician Robert Hollars (right) caught some of the golden flow (left) to check the kernels. Both men live near Dresden. Wessel said the summer was just too cool in August for the crop to mature before an early frost this fall.



## Veterans Day parade to begin at Fike Park

The Colby Veterans Day Parade will begin at 5 p.m. Wednesday on Franklin Avenue west of Fike Park.

An honor guard will lead the parade carrying the colors. Colby Community College will provide a ride for veterans from the Veterans of Foreign Wars post home on Lake Street through the parade route and back to the post.

Bands from Colby Public Schools will march and play.

The route will be south on Franklin and then east to the veterans' memorial at the Thomas County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend the ceremony

and for a potluck meal afterward at the post. The VFW will provide the main course, and everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Quenzer, a veteran of the Iraq War with the Kansas Army National Guard, will speak. The band will play the National Anthem and Dale Deaver, master of ceremonies, will lead the crowd in patriotic songs. The ceremony will close with the playing of "Taps."

In the event of bad weather, the ceremony will be moved to the American Legion hall at 1850 W. Fourth St.

## False 'alarm' leads cops to train

A Colby police officer responding to a call to "check on what's making noise behind my house" Thursday night found something that looked to be pretty alarming in residential neighborhood:

A railroad tank car with a hazardous material placard, a flashing red light and what sounded like a whistling alarm.

When dispatchers checked the reference number 1005 on the placard, the answer was not reassuring: it showed the car carried anhydrous ammonia fertilizer, which produces a

gas which can overcome people if inhaled.

Responding to the report of a possible hazardous material problem, Fire Chief Bob McLemore arrived shortly. About that time, the train's conductor showed up, apparently having noticed the commotion at the back of his train. He had to hike back most of a mile from the engines, parked near K-25, to the rear car.

He explained that the crew had run out of working time under the Hours of Service Law and had to park the train, so it would be there a while. But he reassured everyone that things

were just fine.

The tank car, he said, was empty. The flashing red light was the train's rear-end "marker," designed to keep another train from running into it. And the whistle came from the tiny air turbine which power the flasher and a radio unit which sends information to the head end about air pressure, speed and the condition of the brake system.

And everyone went home, or back to work.

## State feels budget pinch again as revenue estimates drop

By John Milburn  
Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — The news from the Statehouse was clear last week. Kansas revenues are failing to make the grade and will continue to lag for months to come.

Economists cut \$235 million from their previous tax collection prediction, translating into a budget gap that must be filled by June 30, 2010, of as much

as \$460 million, less depending on who's spreadsheet is used.

Regardless, it is almost certain that Kansas' public school districts, all 293 of them, will feel the effect of the pending cuts to be announced by Gov. Mark Parkinson.

"Districts across the state will be forced to make cuts that will have a devastating impact on student achievement and our kids' ability to compete in a global economy," said Kathy Cook, spokeswoman

for Kansas Families for Education.

Following a meeting of economists and analysts on Thursday, revenue projections for the remainder of the 2010 budget year were reduced by 4.2 percent. The conclusion was that the recession, though showing signs of ebbing, was still being felt in Kansas and likely to have an impact into the 2011 budget year.

Parkinson will announce where he is making cuts to balance the budget in the coming weeks, keeping a promise to legislators to get the budget back to zero

before they return in January. He hasn't said what would be cut, but what Parkinson doesn't want is a lot of bickering over the solution.

"The decisions and options facing the state are difficult, but elected leaders are not called to do what is simple, they are called to do what is necessary," Parkinson said Thursday. "I understand that in today's political climate, the challenges of governing

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## Briefly

### Food bank taking applications

Genesis-Thomas County food bank has forms available for families who will need food baskets this holiday season. Applications are due by Tuesday. For information, call Genesis at 460-7930.

### Talent show set for Sunday

Midwest Support and Information Services will sponsor "Thomas County Has Talent," a county-wide talent show, at 2 p.m. Sunday at Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College campus. Entry forms are available at the Midwest office at 640 N. Franklin. There is no cost to enter. For information, call Terry Drenner or Dana Schmidt at 460-1896.

### Benefit for Colby family Sunday

There will be a brunch and silent auction benefit for the Bill and Judy Kennedy family from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday in the Colby Community

Building basement. The Kennedy family has three members with Cushing's disease and the proceeds will go to help with the costs of years of travel, treatment and surgery. For information, or to make a donation, call Sue Draper at 460-6332 or Elsie Rietcheck at (785) 855-2285.

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has two 4- to 5-month-old female bishon-schnauzer mix puppies and two adult cats available for adoption. 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.

### For latest flu info, call 460-4599

A hot line for questions on seasonal influenza and the H1N1 flu strain will be available throughout the flu season at (785) 460-4599. The Thomas County

Health Department says information about the status and availability of vaccines, priority groups and the like will be available at this number.

### Meals on Wheels needs volunteer

The Senior Progress Center is looking for a volunteer to help deliver "Meals on Wheels" on Mondays every other month beginning in December. Director Kayla DeBoer said two volunteers work together to make the deliveries, and the run takes about an hour. For information, call DeBoer at 460-2901.

### 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 get involved, call Tama Unger at (785) 460-1214 or Mary Smith at (785) 462-3387.

### Study to explain Handel's 'Messiah'

The Colby First Presbyterian Church will hold a four-part Bible study of George Handel's "Messiah" beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at the church. The cost will be \$10 for the study book. The study will cover the Biblical passages behind four the choruses in the Advent portion of the "Messiah," said Pastor Carol Rahn. Call the church office at 462-6342 by next Monday to sign up.

### Sheriff can check vehicles

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office is now checking vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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