



8 pages

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## City picks contractor for new pool

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The Colby City Council voted Tuesday to contract with a Lenexa company to build a new pool and “aquatic facility” on South Franklin Avenue, hoping to replace the city’s crowded old pool by next summer.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said pre-construction activity should begin next week, with construction beginning on or around Tuesday, June 15. The plan is to have the pool open for business next May.

The low bidder, Prosser Wilbert Construction Inc., will serve as the general contractor. The company claims experience with large projects, having built casinos, municipal buildings, recreation centers and churches in Kansas and Missouri. It will subcontract with Continental Pools Inc. from Gar-

dener for the pool itself.

The city received four bids, all within about 3 percent of each other, Armstrong said. The Prosser Wilbert bid was low at \$4,654,500.

The new pool, north of Colby High School, will include a “lazy river” float area, several slides, a shallow kids’ area with a “zero-depth entry” (no steps) ramp and a separate pool for lap swimming and competition. In November, Colby voted in favor of increasing the sales tax by one cent to pay for the new pool and fire station.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said she asked the city’s fiscal agent, Theron Froggatte, to estimate the total cost of the project with interest on \$1 million in temporary notes and all other costs. Froggatte came up with a total of \$6,369,380. Armstrong said the project was about \$300,000

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Near 90 degree temperatures enticed swimmers to the city swimming pool on Tuesday afternoon for a cooling dip, or a tall dive in the case of these two.

## Municipal pool opens for last time

The Colby municipal swimming pool opened Saturday, with Jill Nech as manager. Pool hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday for open swimming, and 5 to 6 p.m. for adult lap swimming.

Warm, sunny weather made for a successful opening weekend, with dozens of kids enjoying the pool each day.

Weekend hours are 1 to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Admission is free for those 5 and under. From 6 to 17, the fee is 75 cents, and adults can swim for \$1.50. Buy season passes at the pool or at the Colby Recreation Department.

Passes are \$30 for a single,

\$45 for two, \$60 for three and \$75 for a family of four or more.

“We have some fun activities planned for this summer,” said Stacy Lee, city recreation director, “including a Father’s Day special where all dads get in free, Fourth of July races and competitions and the third annual Doggie Paddle at the end of the season.”

This will be the last year Colby’s old pool will be open. Construction is set to begin about June 15 on a new pool and “aquatic facility,” with slides, a lazy river and other features, on S. Franklin Avenue.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Work crews set up the 60-by-60-foot Chautauqua tent next to the Cooper Barn on Tuesday. It will house the main historical performances each night from tonight to Sunday.

## Chautauqua acts to begin tonight

By Kevin Bottrell  
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The Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua kicks off today in Colby with adult and kid workshops at the Pioneer Memorial Library and the first of four historical performances under the tent at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

The performers, along with the Kansas Humanities Council board, had a reception Wednesday, meeting with area residents and news reporters. The performers each gave a short in-character preview.

Serving as a master of ceremonies was Will Rogers. Rogers, a movie star, radio personality and humorist, was known as the “Speaker for the Common Man.” He was born in 1879 to a family of ranchers, but soon left to travel the world. As an entertainer, he mixed politics with humor, making fun of presidents and senators. He died in an airplane crash in Alaska in 1935.

Doug Watson portrays Rogers. A retired English professor, since 1991 he has acted in the Chautauqua playing characters such as writer Nathaniel Hawthorne and Continental Congress delegate Stephen Crane.

When not on the Chautauqua circuit, Watson takes his Will Rogers act on the road, performing in schools in and around Oklahoma.

Watson, as Rogers, introduced the other acts, starting with evan-



Fred Krebs gave a short preview of his portrayal of Louisiana Governor Huey Long at the reception Wednesday.

gelist Aimee Semple McPherson. A Canadian, McPherson joined the Pentecostal movement and traveled the U.S. in 1920s and ’30s, setting up large church tents and drawing thousands. She also helped organize disaster relief efforts, especially after the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake.

Tonia Compton, a history professor in Columbia, Mo., plays McPherson. A published historian, Compton has also played Dolley Madison.

As McPherson, Compton gave what she called a “short sermon” about the difficulties of life in the 1930s and promised a longer sermon Friday night.

Zora Neale Hurston was a

novelist, folklorist and anthropologist. She collected folk stories and wrote her own during the ’20s and ’30s. She also wrote guidebooks for the 48 states and two territories for the Works Progress Administration, which provided jobs during the depression.

Hurston is played by writer and actress Wanda Schell. Schell founded an educational theater company, which puts on programs in schools about substance abuse, prejudice, AIDS and other subjects.

Schell said she would be talking about folk tales in her performance Saturday night and would be involving the audience.

Historical performances under the tent at the Prairie Museum of Art and History:

Will Rogers – 7 p.m. tonight and Sunday  
Franklin Roosevelt – 7:30 p.m. tonight  
Aimee Semple McPherson – 7:30 p.m. Friday  
Zora Neale Hurston – 7:30 p.m. Saturday  
Huey Long – 7:30 p.m. Sunday

“I’ll tell you some folk tales,” she said, “and you all will tell me which are the funniest.”

Huey Long, Louisiana governor, was famous for his populist stance against corporations. Long wanted to tax the wealthy and regulate big business, which made him a hero to the rural poor. He planned a bid for the presidency, but was assassinated in 1935.

Fred Krebs plays Long. Krebs said he had been to Colby every time the Chautauqua has been in town, playing characters including Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Edison. He teaches history and eastern and western civilization classes at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park.

As Long, Krebs spoke about how the oil companies were ruining Louisiana – which drew

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## State attorney general announces re-election bid

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Attorney General Steve Six is kicking off his re-election campaign, touting his efforts to restore public trust in an office plagued by scandal.

Six, a Democrat, paid the \$1,489 filing fee Thursday in Topeka, then held a news conference in the Old Supreme Court Room in the

Statehouse. He is the only candidate for his party so far on the Aug. 3 primary ballot.

He was appointed attorney general in January 2008 by then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius to replace Paul Morrison, a Democrat forced to resign because of a sex scandal.

Six is making stops Thursday in Wichita and

Pittsburg and one Friday in Garden City.

Two Republicans are running. They are Ralph DeZago, city prosecutor for Junction City and a former assistant attorney general, and state Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt of Independence.

## Briefly

### Pancake feed, tours Saturday

The Colby Fire Department will give citizens another chance to check out the new fire station – now about a year old – with an open house and pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Firefighters will give tours, show off their equipment and cook pancakes and sausage. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Chief Bob McLemore at 460-4454.

### Alumni Chorus begins practice

Colby High grads are invited to join the CHS Alumni Chorus, which will rehearse at 7:30 Friday and June 9, 16 and 17 at the United Methodist Church. Out-of-town alumni coming in for the five-year reunion can join in at 5 p.m. Friday, June 18, and 9 a.m. Saturday, June 19, to be ready for a performance at the assembly later that morning. For information, call director Jan Wolf at (785) 460-3535.

### Firemen plan to test hydrants

The Colby Fire Department started testing fire hydrants Tuesday, beginning with Hill Street. Assistant Chief Sean Hankin said the testing will take about a month, and the work may disrupt some water lines near the hydrants. For information, call Hankin at the Colby Fire Department, 460-4454.

### Singles dance set for Saturday

The Colby singles and couples dance will be from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse, 1085 E Golf Course Dr. Craig Stevens will provide the music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

### Bible school coming next week

The Colby Berean Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day from Monday to Friday next week at the church, 1000 S.

Franklin Ave. This year’s theme is “Route 254.” The school will include Bible stories, crafts and games all fitting the road-trip theme. For information, call the church at 460-2763.

### Flyers plan fun day, lunch at field

The Colby RC Flyers will hold their annual fun fly from dawn to dusk Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, at the club’s field seven miles north of Colby on K-25. Flying events and prize drawings will be held each day. Lunch will be served. For information, call Dave Backus at 460-6941 or Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

### College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday this summer. Open swimming is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday

through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

### Scouts to serve pancakes

The Colby Venture Scouts will hold a pancake feed from 5:30 to 10 a.m. Sunday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Area residents are invited as well as Bike Across Kansas riders, who will be in town that day.

