



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Thursday

July 22, 2010
Volume 121, Number 113
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Handmade from a hand towel



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Seven-year-old Jenna Reineart strolled down the walkway at the 4-H fashion review Tuesday night to show off the full apron she made from a kitchen hand towel. She received a blue ribbon for the construction and a blue ribbon for modeling. This is her first year in the Colby Comets 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Shaun and Cindy Reineart of Colby.

bon for the construction and a blue ribbon for modeling. This is her first year in the Colby Comets 4-H Club. She is the daughter of Shaun and Cindy Reineart of Colby.

Asphalt plant may seek new location

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansan.com

Fifteen concerned home and business owners showed up on Monday morning for the public hearing on the proposed location of McCormick Asphalt and Excavating, a permanent asphalt plant.

The Stratton, Colo., company's owner, James McCormick, had asked the county to consider rezoning a parcel of land on U.S. 24 about a mile east of the city limits belonging to Budweiser Distributing, property formerly owned by Colby Implement.

The particular parcel where McCormick wants to build his asphalt plant is about 10 acres in the southeast corner of the property.

Rick Dickman, code enforcement officer for the city of Colby, reminded the commissioners that the area is zoned as B1, which is business retail, and according to zoning laws, the plant does not meet criteria for that particular zoning code.

Damon Andrews, who said building the plant there would make it within 1,000 yards of his home, voiced concern about smell and truck traffic.

"The revenue would be good for the town, but the company

needs to find a different location," he said.

Another objection came from Mary Smith, who said her property is only 1,000 feet from the proposed site, and she feared it would devalue her property for future sale.

Commissioner Paul Steele asked McCormick what the near proximity his Colorado plant was to the Stratton city limits.

"It is right next to the city limits," McCormick said, "and there are no complaints. There is no stockpile of asphalt, because you can't stockpile asphalt. Our only supply of stock would be rock and sand."

He went on to say the plant would be in operation only about 40 days a year, but his hopes are that he can increase his production days to a few more days each year. He said he doesn't take on big jobs like re-building portions of the interstate; his focus is on smaller state, county and city jobs.

He also said the traffic would be about the same as it is now, except for the few asphalt trucks, because aggregate is already used as a "back haul" for local truckers in the grain hauling business.

Truckers are always looking for

See "PLANT," Page 3

College board looks for budget savings, more revenue

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansan.com

The Colby Community College board voted to raise the mill levy by four percent to compensate for less money coming in from the state next year.

The levy is currently at 32.665 mills, but if the increase passes it will go up to 36.665 mills. Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs at the college, said the levy increase would generate about \$340,000 for the college. The last time the levy was increased was in 2006.

The state will only cover 16 percent of

the college's budget this year. The percent of the budget covered by the state has decreased by 9 percent over the last three years. The shrinking budget has to do with how the state divvies up the money between the 19 community colleges in Kansas.

Dr. Lynn Kreider, president of the college, said a new law pertaining to how money is allocated to each community college was put in place in 1999. The law set up a system where the amount a college receives is based on how much they increase their enrollment each year. This law hurt the college because it only grew by a little over two percent last year, while

other community colleges increased enrollment by an average of 12.5 percent. Since Colby didn't come anywhere near a 12.5 increase, their allocation was cut by \$530,000.

The college has \$10,440,260 in its 2010-2011 budget, which started on July 1. The board approved several measures to deal with the budget crisis. They have placed a moratorium on buying equipment, except for equipment they can buy with grant money. This measure will save the college \$360,000, Waites said.

The college made cuts in a few other areas including a \$80,000 cut in facilities and infrastructure and \$58,000 cut in in-

stitutional awareness (promotion, travel, supplies and advertising), Waites said.

The college will hold off buying a new boiler and a utility load controller. These two items would have cost about \$150,000 and \$35,000 respectively. They are both included in the moratorium on equipment funds.

Both Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs at the college, and Waites expressed concern about the college not replacing its old boiler. The boiler that was going to be replaced was installed in 1964. Kaaz said the new boiler the college will eventually buy will be 94 to 99 percent more efficient than the old boiler depending on

which system they buy. He said replacing the boiler will save the college a substantial amount of money. The board discussed people buying tax credits to help pay for the boiler.

The board considered closing and draining the pool as a way to save money. That would have saved the college more than \$90,000, Waites said. But after hearing from several opponents of the idea including a physical therapist, a co-vice-president of the Colby Swim Club and several elderly members who regularly use the pool, the board decided to allow

See "BOARD," Page 3

Rodeo to be big draw for county fair

Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansan.com

The Kansas Professional Rodeo Association rides into town on Monday and Tuesday as part of the Thomas County Free Fair.

The rodeo will start at 6:30 p.m. at the county fairgrounds on both nights. The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Coronation will take place at the start of Monday's rodeo.

Bareback riding will follow the coronation. Then the men's riders will do tie-down roping. The men's event will be followed by breakaway roping for women.

Saddle-bronc riding and steer

wrestling will happen next. These contests will be followed by team roping and barrel racing. Each night will conclude with bull riding.

Clair Schrock, Thomas County Fair Board vice president, said bull riding is the audiences favorite part of the rodeo.

"They like it because of the wrecks," Schrock said.

He said the top finishers in the contests will win cash prizes.

Schrock said he expects there to be 200 to 300 contestants at this year's rodeo. There is no age limit on participation in the rodeo, but children under 18 must have a parent signature to be allowed to compete. Schrock said Terry Tin-

ny will return as rodeo clown.

Schrock said a calf dressing contest between local businesses will take place at Tuesday's rodeo. He said the businesses will have to walk a bull across a line in the arena and then they will have to dress it with a pair of socks, underwear and a bra. The business that gets the bull dressed first, wins.

The cost to attend the rodeo for adults is \$10 and the cost for children under 10 is \$5. The rodeo is free for children five and under.

Kids will be able to take part in Mutton Busting contests each night at 6:30 p.m. before the rodeo. Mutton Busting is like bull riding, but the kids ride sheep instead of bulls.

Harvest mostly complete



STEVE HAYNES/Colby Free Press

Aside from a few wet spots here and there, combines like this one cutting near Selden earlier this week won't be needed in Thomas County for a few months. The wheat harvest is mostly complete, with farmers waiting for standing water to evaporate to get into the last few fields.

Briefly

Volunteers needed for carnival

The Thomas County Amusement Association is looking for volunteers for the home-owned carnival at the Thomas County Free Fair from Tuesday through Saturday, July 31. Shifts are from 6:45 to 9 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the prize booth, ring toss, baseball throw and ball of chance. For information or to volunteer, call Holly Whitaker at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or Angie Gaede at 443-3853.

Walkers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the walking relay at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

Army has fans to beat heat

The Salvation Army has fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Kathy Ryan at the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596.

Signups open for kids' football

Signups are open for Colby Little League Football at the Sports Shoppe. The league is for kids in third to sixth grades. A \$100 fee covers equipment rent and other materials. Space is limited. The Shoppe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday to Saturday. For information, call Travis Branam at 462-8342.

Sign up for soccer this month

The American Youth Soccer Organization fall season will start in September. The organization will have early registration from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday

at the Pioneer Memorial Library. Registration is \$45 until Saturday, July 31, and \$50 after. For information or to set up an alternate time to register, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

Church plans Bible school

College View Baptist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School for kids from preschool to sixth grade from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday and 6 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the church. Registration starts Friday at 5:30 p.m. There will be a special service for families at 10:45 a.m. Sunday with hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. For information, call Pastor Wes Barnett at (361) 459-9348.

Leadership group class open

Applications are available for the Leadership Thomas County program, set for four Wednesdays in September and October. Participants will learn 21st

century leadership skills and an increased awareness of the county and state, with an opportunity to attend the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. The application deadline is Friday. For information or an application, stop by the Colby Chamber of Commerce office or call Leilani Thomas at 460-7643.

Picnic, music again Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert series continues at noon Wednesday at Fike Park with entertainment by Larry and Taylor McLemore. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

