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# COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Monday

July 26, 2010  
Volume 121, Number 115  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Bank bids pool bonds at low rate

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council approved a bid from the UMB Bank of Kansas City, Mo., to buy \$5 million in bonds for the new swimming pool at a interest rate of 2.35 percent on Tuesday, saving the city about half a million on interest from earlier estimates.

Theron Froggatte of the Wichita office of Oppenheimer and Co., a New York investment banking firm representing the city, recommended the council approve the offer.

Froggatte said interest rates are lower than they have ever been. He said his firm had projected the a rate of 3 1/2 to 4 percent. In the 2011 budget, the city estimated an interest rate of 4 1/2 percent, Councilman Jim Brown said. He said the lower interest rate will save the city \$500,000.

The city will pay back the loan over 10 years.

"We look like geniuses for financing the pool when we did," said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong moments before the council approved the deal.

"We better approve it then," said Councilmen Dave Voss with

a laugh.

In other business, the council:

- Approved expanding the redevelopment district – established when the city annexed Bosselman's Truck Stop – to include the Hampton Inn property. No one spoke out against the expansion during a public hearing. At the end of 30 days, a study will be done to see if the revenue from the district will be enough to pay to rebuild and pave Willow Drive from Stephens Drive to Country Club Drive, Armstrong said.

- Agreed to approve buying 45,000 pounds of material from PMSI Products, a paving company in Edmond, Okla., for \$23,810, including a month of pot rental. The material will be used by the public works department to fill wide cracks on Golden Avenue, Plains Avenue and Cherokee Drive.

Public Works Director Chris Bieker said he got bids from two other companies. Vance Brothers, based in Kansas City, Mo., offered the materials for \$26,100 and Maxwell Products bid \$24,930.

"They will clean the cracks out and fill in the tracks," said councilmen Tim Hutfles.

- OK'd holding a public hearing

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## Candidate flies in on campaign stop

By Kevin Bottrell

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Elizabeth Ensley, a Republican candidate for secretary of state, flew from Topeka to Colby for a brief interview Wednesday before heading out again on the campaign trail.

Ensley said she and her campaign staff also drive a lot, and they have worn out at least one set of tires while on tour.

Ensley, who lives in Topeka, has been the Shawnee County election commissioner for the past 18 years. She worked in the secretary of state's office for 11 years before that. She said she worked in the corporation office while in college and later managed their data entry operators, who at the time were putting corporate records on computer.

The secretary of state is the state's chief record keeper, she said, responsible for everything from rural water district records to cemetery records. The office is a central place to file business

paperwork and oversees all state elections. She said it is important for the secretary to continually check and audit records to keep fraud to a minimum.

Voter fraud can be difficult to investigate and prosecute, she said, and investigators don't always find evidence. In her time as commissioner, she said, there have been 12 convictions in Shawnee County for election crimes, including voting twice and petition fraud.

When there is an instance of voter fraud or a mistake in the office, Ensley said, her philosophy would be to get the information to the public quickly. She pointed to an incident from 2008, when several thousand votes weren't counted in Shawnee County. When the mistake was discovered, Ensley said, she immediately sent out a press release and then got to work fixing it.

"You also have to protect against voter fraud," she said, "so I support a voter identification law."

This law would require voters

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E. Ensley



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

## Gospel concert draws 1,200 Sunday

Larry Gatlin (above, pointing), lead singer of the Gatlin Brothers, took time out to ask everyone with cameras to come down to the stage for pictures of the group during their concert Sunday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Opening for the group were the Ball Brothers, another gospel group. Josh Gibson (right), sound man for the Ball Brothers, came up with a big grin as he waited for the concert to begin. Joshua Lee Ball (below left) and Daniel Lee Ball harmonized with their brothers for a crowd of about 1,200. The concert served as a kick-off for Fair Week.



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

## High schooler steps in as society editor

By Andy Heintz

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Rachel Bomba, 17, who will be a senior at Golden Plains High School this year, joined the Colby Free Press staff as a society editor earlier this month.

Bomba covered sports and school news for the journalism class at Golden Plains last year. Her articles were published in the Hoxie Sentinel and the Free Press. Bomba said she wants to be a copy edi-



R. Bomba

tor after journalism school at the University of Kansas.

When she's not in the newsroom, Bomba also works the nightshift at Wendy's five nights a week. She lives in Colby with a friend. Her parents moved to Denver to be with her 12-year-old sister, Hannah, who had to be taken there every couple of weeks to see specialists and to have evaluations and tests and for emergencies.

Hannah has several health problems, including encephalitis/encephalopathy, severe intractable seizure disorder, depression and

speech disorder.

One of Rachel's hobbies is writing poetry. She has had seven poems published in magazines such as Teen Ink and Creative Communications. The first poem she had published, called "Unzip Me," is about individuality, she said.

Bomba said all the poems she had printed in Creative Communications received high merit. Those are printed in the organization's hard-bound anthology. Bomba said she has competed in area poetry contests. Most of her poems are philosophical, she said.

## 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. Shifts are from 6:45 to 9 and 9 to 11 p.m. at the prize booth, ring toss, baseball throw and ball of chance. 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.

### Picnic, music again Wednesday

Colby's Picnic in the Park lunch-and-concert se-

ries 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.

### 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 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 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call Travis Branum at 462-8342.

### Sign up for soccer this month

The American Youth Soccer Organization fall season will start in September. Registration is \$45 until Saturday and \$50 after. For information or to set up an a time to register, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

### Chronic disease focus of class

Citizens Medical Center will offer a six-week chronic-disease support class Mondays from Sept. 13 to Oct. 18 for people with arthritis, diabetes, heart or lung disease, asthma or the effects of a stroke. For questions, call dietitian Courtney McCarty (785) 460-4849. Refreshments will be served.

### State office to close for lunch

The state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services office, 1135 S. County Club Dr., will close for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays until further notice. The office has been open during

the lunch hour. For information, call 462-6760.

### Candidate plans meet and greet

Brenda McCants, Republican candidate for the Kansas House of Representatives, will be at Smoffee's coffee shop to talk with voters from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday before the Thomas County Fair Parade. For information, call treasurer Sue Evans at 443-1149.

### Crews fogging for mosquitoes

Colby city crews are fogging for mosquitoes, south of Webster on Mondays or Tuesdays and north of Webster on Thursdays. For information, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.



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