



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Rezoning denied for asphalt plant

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansan.com

Thomas County commissioners voted Monday to deny a zoning change to allow an asphalt plant east of Colby on U.S. 24, saying they want the new business, but thought they needed to listen to the public's wishes.

After a public hearing in July on a zoning request for the east part of property formerly occupied by Colby Implement brought out nearly 20 people with objections, commissioners toured McCormick Asphalt and Paving's site in Stratton, Colo., two weeks ago.

Monday, they said they found nothing objectionable in its operation that would be cause for concern from smell or noise pollution.

However, some of the same people who appeared at the pub-

lic hearing came to the meeting Monday to reinforce their previous objections, including Mary Smith and Tom Sloan, who have property nearby.

"I actually measured the distance the plant would be from my property," Smith said, "and it is only 800 feet."

Although the commissioners assured McCormick that they do want his plant to have a Colby address, they said they felt obligated to listen to the public and therefore denied the rezoning.

"I don't like to do this, but I also don't like the idea of spot zoning," said commissioner Byron Sowers.

The land now is zoned B-1 business-retail, said Commissioner Paul Steele, and the firm has asked for a change to industrial.

Chairman Ken Christiansen said it sounded like everyone at the meeting agreed they wanted the plant to locate here, it was just

a matter of where.

McCormick said he had checked on other locations, but has found nothing he is at ease with. He asked the commissioners where he would be welcome, adding that there are still a couple of places he can check on.

In other business:

• Kasiah Rothchild from the county Health Department and Sue Evans of the Regional Prevention Center came to the meeting to say thanks for money the agencies received from the liquor tax and ask to be remembered in the 2011 budget. They said the money this year had enabled them to partner with the Thomas County Coalition and helped them get other grants.

They said the coalition had received over \$600 as an in-kind donation for the Community Garden

See "PLANT," Page 3



TAMA UNGER/Citizens Foundation

Dr. LaDonna Regier and Citizens Medical Center Administrator Janice McCart opened the first donation of over-the-counter medical supplies Tuesday destined for the Ama Nyame Memorial Medical Center in Ghana. The need is great and the time is short to get the supplies before Sept. 1, the women said, so they can be loaded onto a cargo ship bound for Africa.

Colby hospital administrator, doctor help build Ghana clinic

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansan.com

A dream that started as a conversation with a doctor in 2003 about what he was doing that day is about to become a reality.

Janice McCart, chief executive officer at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, said she recalls having a conversation with Dr. Kwabena Donkor in the Farmville, Va., hospital where she was working, about what he had been doing that day.

He answered that he was trying to find a couple of school buses he could send to Africa to take sick people to a clinic, McCart said.

"Let's just build a clinic, Dr. Donkor," McCart recalled saying. "We can do that, you know."

And that was the beginning of a plan to build a clinic in a remote area of Ghana to bring medical care to people who needed it desperately.

After she came to Colby in 2004, McCart said, she took the idea to the Colby Rotary Club. The clubs

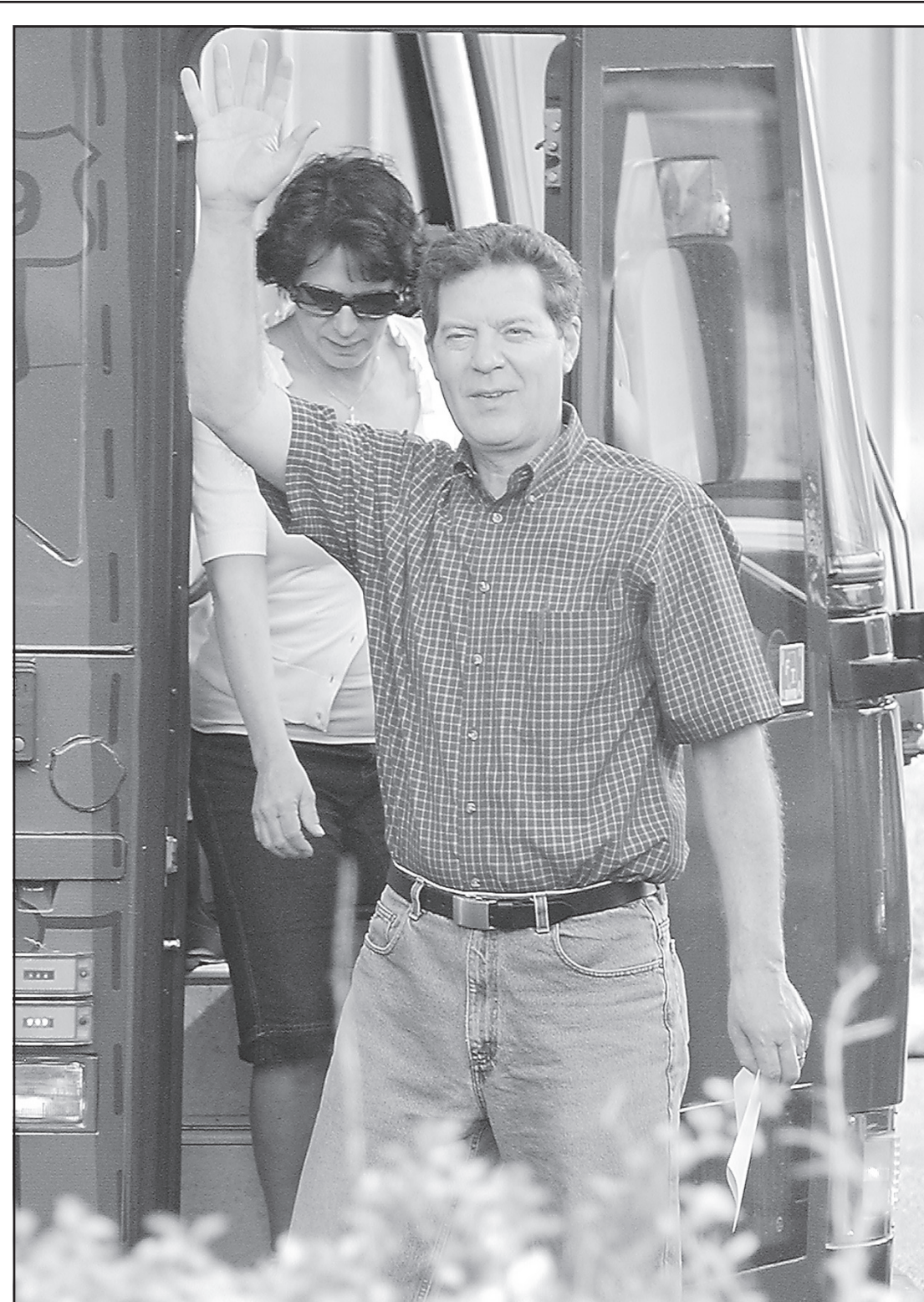
help to raise money, made its own donations, and worked to get a grant through Rotary International to bring clean water and a road to the clinic location. A Colby physician volunteered to go to Africa and help run the clinic.

Dr. Donkor had told her about his mother, who had been stricken with worms, something that happens to a population that goes barefoot in parts of Africa. She had no medical help, he told her, so she died. It was with something that could have been prevented if she's had access to a clinic and medications.

The first thing that had to be done, McCart said, was to obtain land. Land for sale in America takes a willing seller and a willing buyer, but not so in an African village. The chief has to personally approve any sale.

Dr. Donkor had told the chief he had a friend in America who wanted to buy land to build a clinic, McCart said, but the chief didn't believe anyone would want to do something for the people of his

See "GHANA," Page 3



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Republican nominee for governor Sam Brownback and his wife Mary got off their tour bus at Fike Park this morning, just a little behind schedule after an event in Oakley. Brownback is campaigning in much of western Kansas this week as a part of his "Road Map for Kansas" campaign kickoff tour.

Candidate's tour stops here

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansan.com

Twenty to 30 people gathered today at the picnic area in Fike Park to meet U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback as the Republican candidate for governor stopped in town on his "Road Map for Kansas" cross-state tour.

Brownback had a large entourage, including his wife Mary, and their five of their five children; his running mate, Dr. Jeff Colyer; several state legislators, including Rep. John Faber and Sen. Ralph Ostmeier; and attorney general candidate Derek Schmidt.

Brownback said he and Colyer or their wives would be visiting all 105 Kansas counties during the tour. The bus stopped in Wa-Keeneey and Oakley today before coming to Colby. From here, they planned to travel to Goodland, Sharon Springs, Tribune and Syracuse before ending the day with a fund-raiser picnic in Garden City.

Brownback chose Colby as the first place to unveil his thoughts on grain production. He said the state needs to build public-private partnerships focused on



Brownback took time to shake hands with a crowd of 20-30 people and paused to hold this baby, who was a little unhappy to be away from mama.

genetic research into higher-yielding wheat and milo.

Kansas is already seeing more corn and soybean acres, he said, because a lot of money and effort has been put into genetic research in those crops. He said similar work should be done on wheat and milo.

The state should hold a consumer show for "bio-based

products," such as cat litter made from corn, he said, to highlight all the products that can be made from Kansas grain.

Brownback said he'd like to try to halt the population decline in western Kansas.

"We've got to get our rural areas growing again," he said.

See "TOUR," Page 3

Briefly

Tennis team to meet Friday

The Colby High School tennis team will have a meeting for parents and players at 6 p.m. Friday in the high school commons. For information, call Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.

Soccer signup closes Friday

Registration for American Youth Soccer Organization teams is open through Friday for anyone ages 4 1/2 to 19. Games begin Saturday, Aug. 21. For information, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

Colby High yearbooks available

Graduates may pick up their 2010 yearbooks from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at the Colby High School office. Students and others should pick them up during enrollment, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday in the high school commons. Extra yearbooks will be available for \$50. For information, call sponsor Donna Henry

at 460-5300.

Heartland seeks young students

Heartland Christian School is accepting enrollment applications for preschool and kindergarten classes. Call (785) 460-6419 for information on the 2010-11 school year. The school is at 1995 W. Fourth Street in Colby.

Sacred Heart enrolling Tuesday

Sacred Heart School enrollment will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the school for all students in preschool through fifth grade. New students need to bring a copy of their birth certificate, Social Security number, immunization records and physical. For information, call Principal David Evert at 462-2813.

Volleyball team, parents to meet

The Colby Middle School volleyball team will

have a parent-and-player meeting for incoming seventh and eighth graders at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the middle school cafeteria. Practice will start at 3:45 p.m. next Thursday. For information, call Shirley Aramberger at 460-5200.

Vets may form chapter here

The Hays Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America will sponsor a meeting for Vietnam-era veterans at 7 p.m. next Thursday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall, 220 N. Lake Ave, to discuss forming a Colby chapter. For information, call Jack Duncan at (785) 846-7678.

Church plans carnival, picnic

The Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a free Kids' Carnival and Family Picnic with games, prizes and free supper from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 22, at

the church, 320 W. Pine. Everyone is invited. Free school supplies will be available for elementary and middle-school students of families in financial need. Registration will begin at 5:45 p.m. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

Volunteers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the relay, which is on for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122. The event has not been cancelled, she said.



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