



## College board, president spar over procedure

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After some heated debate with Colby Community College President Lynn Kreider, the college board agreed to table a resolution that would have forbid the president's administration from hiring people without the board's approval.

The board also issued a referendum that prohibited the administration from signing any bills or employment contracts except for routine spending of less than \$2,500 at their meeting Monday in room 108 at the student union on campus. This referendum was also tabled for further discussion.

The meeting drew a big crowd of about 60 citizens, as well as faculty members who were wor-

ried about how the resolution would affect their respective departments. Towards the end of the meeting, the board and administration decided to form a committee to try to work out their differences. The committee is composed of Kenton Krehbiel, vice chairman of the board; Kreider; John Gatz; Michael Thompson, director of the department of criminal justice; and Nance Munderloh, director of adult education.

Dr. Paula Davis, vice president of academic affairs at the college, said she was happy that a committee was formed.

Board member Arlen Leiker said he thought the board should be approving every spending measure until January when the college gets the half of the revenue

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## City to lower taxes in 2011 budget year

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The Colby City Council approved a 2011 budget of \$23,208,964 at its meeting Tuesday - \$3,942,120 more than this year's budget though property taxes dropped from 35.33 mills to 33.95.

The property tax money that had been used to make bond payments on the new fire station and swimming pool, will be replaced by money made off of the 1-cent sales tax that was approved in a city vote. This allowed the city to either give what remained of the property tax back to the city via a tax cut or transfer the remaining property tax money into the

general fund. The city chose the latter.

Although taxes will not be going up next year, by state law, the city will have to report its spending level to the public because they will be reallocating property tax money from bond payments to the general fund.

Armstrong said bond payments that lead to an increase in taxes don't have to be reported under the law because the city has a legal obligation to pay for the bonds, but they don't have any obligation to pay for many items in the general budget.

The city spent \$2,369,900.92 from the general budget this year and the adopted budget will allow

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Bill Buchholz of Camden, Maine, zips up the window of his custom-built high-gas-mileage car Monday. Buchholz equipped the car with flexible plastic windows instead of glass in order to keep the weight down.

## Colby plays host to fuel efficient cars

By Vera Sloan  
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You can attract a lot of attention with a car like the one Bill Buchholz of Camden, Maine, drove around Colby late Monday afternoon.

Buchholz and two other drivers stopped in Colby on Monday as part of Rally Green, a cross-country six-day race for 100-mile-per-gallon cars.

Buchholz said he is a boat builder by trade, and strangely enough, people who see the car say how much the back resembles a boat. He left Lincoln, Neb., Monday morning and was concerned that the "high" altitude of the plains didn't allow him to make the miles per gallon he usually gets.

He said that cruising at around 65 miles an hour on the highway he only made 75 miles to the gallon that day. However, he said if



Buchholz' car, nicknamed the Dirigocar, can get as much as 100 miles per gallon depending on speed and elevation.

he had dropped his speed to 50 he could have made 85 mpg.

Buchholz said his inspiration to build the car was because the Green Grand Prix was offering \$10 million to whoever could design, build and manufacture a practical, driveable two passen-

ger car that would travel 80 miles an hour, had room for cargo and would go from zero to 60 in 12 seconds.

He said when they ran out of money, they were funded with donations from non-profit organizations and foundations, and

then dropped out of the competition in February of 2009.

"The judging is taking place now," he said, "but we just didn't have the manpower to do it. But we finished the car."

The rally started in Knoxville, Iowa. Day two was from Lincoln to Colby. Buchholz said he enjoyed the drive, especially when an interesting thing happened to him when he reached the Nebraska-Kansas border.

"There was a beautiful church, just sitting on the prairie with nothing around it," he said, "so I decided to take a look around. And then a lady in a big pickup truck drove up. And then a couple more ladies drove up, and they kept coming. Before long there seemed to dozens of them. They were charming older ladies who had come to clean the church; they gave me a tour and asked if I needed anything. I thought it

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## Center gets new concrete



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Citizens Medical Center will be closing the front entrance Monday to replace the concrete walkway. Foundation Director Tama Unger said people who want to come inside the hospital should follow the signs to the northeast entrance. The front entrance will be closed from Monday to Thursday.

## County department heads plead case for raises

By Vera Sloan  
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No one from the general tax-paying public attended the county budget hearing on Monday during the Thomas County Commissioners' meeting, but several county department heads came to plead their case for a little more money for their budgets.

Clair Schrock, road supervisor and noxious weed director, said he wondered if the salary increase indicated in the budget was an across the board increase, and wanted to express his thoughts about his department's salaries being brought a little closer to the City of Colby pay scale for employees.

Chairman Ken Christiansen said he had wanted to set an amount for salaries for each department and let the department head hand out the salaries, when they first began the budget discussion with the department heads earlier in the summer.

"But I was told no, that it would be better for the three of us to set the salaries, and now it looks like it was wrong," he said.

Schrock said he doesn't understand why the clerical people start a job at \$9 an hour, and his men, who operate big machinery and do all kinds of work are given a starting wage of only \$10 an hour.

Commissioner Steele said the county has only so much to work with, and the health insurance took up a great deal of it.

"We didn't work off of the five percent you suggested in your budget, but did give three percent," Steele said. "We went person by person, and anyone who had a pretty good increase this year, we didn't raise that much, but tried to raise the guys at the bottom."

Sheriff Rod Taylor who came to listen to the hearing proceedings, said he thought maybe the commissioners might want to consider job classification in the future, but Steele countered that it costs a lot to get a classification schedule set up, and although they had thought

of that, they had made the decision that rather than spend money on setting up a classification schedule, they would put that money into salaries.

County Extension Agents Diann Gerstner and Clint Milliman complimented the commissioners for the great job they do in putting things together. However, they said this will be the third year they haven't received a salary increase, and would like to see the county raise their budget more than the \$500 increase they are to receive in 2011.

They said the vehicle used for the extension services is 11 years old, and is used a lot. A portion of their budget was for a reserve fund for future purchase of a better vehicle, so that when it's time to buy one, the county won't get hit with a big amount. The 2011 budget request for the Extension Office was for \$137,448, and the county budgeted \$125,000.

The commissioners agreed they probably

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## Briefly

### Red Cross coming to get blood

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Donors must be at least 17, or 16 with a parental consent form. To reserve a time to donate, call (800) 733-2767. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Claim prizes from county fair

Prize checks for 4-H and Open Class exhibit winners from the 2010 Thomas County Fair are ready to be picked up at the county Extension office, in the county office complex, 350 S. Range Ave., from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, call the office at 460-4582.

### 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. Sunday 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 event, which starts 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

### Catholic youth ordering fruit

The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization is taking orders for peaches, pears and apples until Monday. Pickup will be Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the 4-H Building. To order, call Megan Augustine at the

rectory, 462-2179. Some fruit may be available for those who do not order ahead of time.

### Church plans rally next week

Trinity Lutheran Church is planning a rally at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 29, in Fike Park. There will be Bible games for all ages and a pot luck lunch at 11:30 a.m. Bring a favorite dish, lawn chairs and bug spray. In case of bad weather, all the activities will be held at the church. For information, call the church office at 462-3497.

### Outdoor skills day next month

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department and Colby Community College will hold the Northwest Kansas Youth Outdoor Skills Day and Outdoor Expo from 9 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 and 11 at the college and the Colby Trap Club. Activities include shotgunning, archery, compass and map

reading, fishing and more. Register at Colby Lumber by Friday, Sept. 8. For information, call Wildlife Specialist Matt Bain at 462-3367.

### Wildlife Dept. offering hunter ed

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department will hold a field day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Colby Trap Club to accompany a new online hunter education course. Registration is required. Online instruction and quizzes are available now, with classroom instruction and the test from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, at Colby Community College. For information or to register, call Wildlife Specialist Matt Bain at 462-7993 or 462-3367.

