



8 pages

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## City Council sets hearing for project

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkanas.com

The city council approved holding a public hearing on Aug. 31 to discuss a redevelopment project plan that would include paving and rebuilding Willow Avenue and Stephens Drive near Bosselman's Truck Stop.

The meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. at city hall. At the council meeting Monday, Aug. 16, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said Theron Froggatte of Oppenheimer and Co., an investment bank and full-service investment firm, suggested the city, if its recovery bond is accepted by the state, should bid both recovery zone bonds and general obligation tax increment financing bonds to pay for the project. He said recovery zone bonds do not count against the city's maximum debt limitation of 30 percent of assured valuation. After completing a financial analysis for the city Froggatte said the paving project could be financed over a 10- to 15-year period depending on the interest rates.

The city approved a resolution declaring it had experienced economic distress on July 6 in order

to be eligible to qualify for money under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. At that meeting Armstrong said Colby could qualify if they suffered "underlying conditions of distress." She added that the city meets three criteria that makes it eligible: it has experienced a decline in population, an increase in property tax delinquency and a decline in tax revenue resulting in budget cuts.

If the resolution is approved the city will apply to the Kansas Department of Commerce which will allow them to issue recovery zone bonds instead of using stimulus money for the paving project. The U.S. Treasury will pay 45 percent of the interest on the projects bonds if it's approved, Armstrong said.

Oppenheimer and Company first brought the idea to the city's attention. The area is currently in a Tax Increment Finance District that was established when Bosselman's was annexed by the city. The district includes two lots: Bosselman's Truck Stop and Wendy's and newly-built Hampton Inn lot that was recently added to the district. Tax money from the district

See "HEARING," Page 3



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Jesse Purdue, inventor of the "wobblin' wheel" on the tri-hybrid Stealth car is the son of the car's inventor, Jay Purdue. The

Perdues made a stop over in Colby last week on their way to California in a fuel-mileage test drive.

## Inventor pedals across America

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press  
vsloan@nwkanas.com

Not many people got to see the Tri-Hybrid Stealth when it rolled into town last Monday night. The cars builder and owner was on a 2,000 mile test drive to raise public awareness of the car.

Perdue said his main focus with the car actually isn't the fact that it will go from zero to 50 in under 10 seconds, or that it will make 106 miles to the gallon on its "tri-power."

He said the main focus is fitness.

"Although it would help on our dependence on foreign oil, the trade deficit and pollution," he said, "it would help to get Americans back to the state of physical fitness they used to have.

"Statistically, there's 95 percent of the American public who have exercise equipment and don't use it. They desperately need to get to moving, and with this car, they will get the cardio-vascular exercise they need."

The reason the strange looking vehicle makes people move is because a third of its power comes from pedaling to recharge the batteries for the electric portion of the combi-

nation diesel-human-electric powered car.

"People look at me like I'm crazy, when they pull up to a stop light, and I'm sitting there pedaling like crazy," he said, "but there's more of a thrust from take off from electricity than there is from diesel, so I keep the batteries charged. I'm pedaling 90 volts to the battery system."

He says he isn't just recharging his car's battery, he's recharging his own battery too. He said he began a month ago to get in shape for the trip and has kept a true log. Over

See "PEDALS," Page 3



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Members of the newly appointed Colby Community College Pool Advisory Committee listened to Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice presi-

dent of student affairs, on Tuesday as they prepared to roll up their sleeves and find some new ideas for the college pool.

## College pool committee begins work

A new advisory committee aiming to improve the Colby Community College pool met for the first time Tuesday.

The committee was appointed by the college in response to a public meeting where community members spoke about trying to improve the pool rather than close it down.

Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs at the college who chairs the advisory committee said two college students will be added to the committee soon, bringing the total number of people working to 13, plus two

ex-officio members, college staff members, Kipp Nelson and Barry Kaaz.

Committee members are Dr. Keegan Nichols, Faye Goeken, Maxine Nelson, Dawn Stephens, Sondra Finley, Lon Frahm, Chris Gardner, Bob Clark (Oakley), Brad Bennett, Vera Sloan and Tiffany Snow.

Nichols said the responsibilities of the advisory committee will be to come up with ways to develop capital improvement plans for the pool and pool property; review and make recommendations to the board regarding creative ideas of

pool use, ordinances, resolutions and rules and regulations.

The college has also charged the committee to find ways to take the pool to a new level of excellence. Priorities will be pinpointed to increase effectiveness, efficiency, innovation and funding opportunities.

The college board of trustees requested the committee to have their recommendations to them for approval by December.

The committee has also been asked to be provided with a monthly assessment and report concerning the pool operations,

plus a yearly summary at the end of the school year.

At their meeting on Tuesday, the advisory committee put four sub committees in place to focus on funding, marketing, costs, and future direction for the pool. Sub committees will bring their ideas to the September meeting, and work off of that information.

The committee is encouraging the public to share ideas for improvement with committee members personally, or through e-mail at cccpool@colbycc.edu.

## State agency gets records out of salt mine

By John Milburn

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA — About 120,000 birth certificates and related documents have been trucked to Topeka from their storage place in a central Kansas salt mine to help health officials out of a jam caused by a computer system failure.

The failure Aug. 5 at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment prevented employees from accessing the records, just as parents were seeking birth certificates for children heading to school.

Spokeswoman Kristi Pankratz said the agency has brought in about 120,000 birth certificates and amendments to them that were being stored in salt mines near Hutchinson. Many are for children aged 4 through 6, because they're necessary to enroll in school.

"We want to keep working as quickly as we can to keep access," she said. "We wanted to do what we can manually."

Deputy Education Commissioner Dale Dennis said school districts haven't reported significant problems in enrolling chil-

dren. Most of the student records would have been provided in the spring during traditional kindergarten roundup for new students within the district.

Dennis said those seeking new copies of records are likely to be those who didn't participate in spring enrollment or who are moving from one city to another and are new to a particular school. Amendments occur when parents want to correct or change a child's name, or correct the information for a parent.

The department sent a letter to school districts about the computer problems and expected delays.

When the hardware holding all the records storage failed, it took down about 150 servers, or 85 percent of the department's total. All of the department's records were affected, including commonly requested ones such as death and marriage certificates, adoption papers and amendments to those records.

Pankratz said the agency typically receives a little more than 900 requests for records daily in August. Those requests can take four to six weeks to complete.

## 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.

### Firefighters collect for charity

The Colby Fire Department will collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Saturday at Dillons, Walmart and at the intersection of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information call Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin at 460-4454.

### Legion to serve breakfast

The Colby American Legion will hold a pancake and sausage feed from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the American Legion Post. For information, call Tracey Galli at 462-0450.

### Church plans rally this week

Trinity Lutheran Church is planning a rally at 9:30 a.m. Sunday 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.

### Catholic youth delivering fruit

Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization fruit sale orders can be picked up from 4 to 9 p.m. next Wednesday. There will be a limited amount of extra fruit boxes available for purchase that day. For information, call Megan Augustine at the rectory, 462-2179.

### Library reviews baseball book

Pioneer Memorial Library will hold a book review for "Are We Winning," by Will Leitch as part of the "Booked for Lunch," lecture series at noon next Wednesday at the library. Nancy Saddler will be the book reviewer. For information, call Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

### Extension center offers field day

The K-State Research and Extension Center will hold a free horticulture field day from 6 to 8 p.m.

next Wednesday at the center. The program includes a tour of the Prairie Star annual flower trials and discussions with K-State specialists on insects, turfgrass, tree selection and more. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. For information, call (785) 462-6281.

### City to honor retiree

The city of Colby will have a retirement reception for Gary Berens from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2, in the council chambers at City Hall. Berens is retiring after more than 30 years in the city electric department. For information, call City Hall at 460-4400.



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