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State senator files for 2012 election

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By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer has filed for re-election in 2012.

second term, said he filed now because it around, none of us are going back." people had been asking whether or not

kbottrell@nwkansas.com he wanted to serve two terms and then on education, agriculture and business isevaluate where he and the state were at sues to see where his priorities are. before he decided to run for a third.

"The state's not in good shape," he said, said. Ostmeyer, a Republican serving his referring to the economy. "If we can't turn

"I'll just do what I've been doing," he

County. The district may pick up more territory during the redistricting process.

Norton County Commissioner John Ostmeyer, a farmer and rancher from Miller filed in May, challenging Ostmey-Grinnell, serves on several committees in er for the Republican nomination. Ost- plans to stay involved in the issues and to Beyond growing the state's economy, the Senate, including natural resources, meyer said he and Miller are acquainted, he would run, and he wanted people to Ostmeyer said he didn't want to make a agriculture, federal and state affairs, local and said the two are on the same page on Kay, and their 18 grandkids.

know he was in the race. Ostmeyer said laundry list of campaign promises, but government and reapportionment. Ost- a lot of issues. However, he said, Miller when he was first elected, he told people said people can look at his voting record meyer's 40th district covers 18 counties - doesn't have a voting record the way he the largest in Kansas - including Thomas does, so it is hard to gauge how he'll vote in the future.

> 'You don't really know a person's issues until they get there," he said.

> Ostmeyer said that if he doesn't win, he enjoy spending more time with his wife,



City projects making progress

Three big Colby construction projects saw a lot of progress this week. One project is the rebuilding of Willow (above). Crews have been compacting dirt and pouring concrete along the road while traffic is detoured to a temporary road to the north. City workers (right) were putting the finishing touches on a textured ramp on the sidewalk at Franklin Avenue and College Drive. This new section of sidewalk is part of the new walking trail. Crews from McCormick Paving have also nearly completed the repaving project on Range Avenue.



Officer given diversion

By Carlleen Bell

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After months of court proceedings and negotiations, a former Norton police officer accused of sexually assaulting two women was freed, with stipulations, Wednesday after a motions hearing in Norton County court.

Ryan L. Zweygardt was released on a two-year diversion just one week before he was scheduled to go to trial on charges of rape and aggravated battery.

Zweygardt was originally charged on April 21 with two counts of rape, one count of aggravated criminal sodomy and one count of aggravated battery after two women accused him of sexually assaulting them in two separate incidents. The charge of aggravated battery was later dropped.

Since his April 21 arrest, Zweygardt has been held in the Graham County jail and was slated to go to trial next Thursday.

Norton County prosecutor Doug Sebelius reported, however, that he and Zweygardt's attorney,

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Group donates money, time to community garden

By Christina Beringer

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Youth members of the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial group in Colby presented a \$100 donation to the community garden Aug. 27 during an afternoon of gardening.

"There were nine elementary and middle schoolers who came and learned how to garden," said Orvella Romine, Thomas County Coalition member and community garden volunteer. "We were so appreciative when they presented us with a donation. It will be used to help purchase needed supplies for the garden."

The two hour training session was the brainchild of Modern Woodmen representative Shawn Carney,

who asked Romine to teach the kids how to have a healthy lifestyle through growing their own produce

Romine explained the importance of having the soil tested for the right nutrients, the benefits of water conservation and about different types of mulching to conserve the water and reduce weeds.

'They were very interested," commented Romine, "and asked a lot of questions. The kids were especially interested in learning about the importance of a soaker hoses versus regular sprinkler systems and why we have flowers in the garden."

Romine said flowers in the garden help keep certain bugs away and also help with pollination. She said that the soaker system better directs water flow

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Shawn Carney (right) and youth volunteers from the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial group helped out in the community garden this summer.

Like most major events, the 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. has left a lasting impression in the minds of those who witnessed it. In this week's Colby Free Press, staff members will share their memories of that fateful day 10 years ago.

When I think of September 11, 2001, I think of other people.

The number 50,000 stuck in my mind as those who worked in the World Trade Center not only the towers, but the whole complex. I am still grateful that this enormous disaster was not THAT enormous.

My son, who spent the day working as a cashier at Love's here in Colby, came home in state of shock. The fear that swept across the country sent many to the gas pumps as people lined up to fill their tanks "just in case." And of those who did, and those who walked inside to write a check, the question, "What's the date?" came over and over and over to the guy at the register. I'm sure James will never forget saying over and over "9-11" - "9-1-1" - "September 11."

My brother. While he lives near Spokane, Wash., he travels all over the country installing and servicing software for manufacturers. He lives alone and doesn't maintain contact very consistently, so when the planes hit my parents died. Somebody did know some-



and I started going down that mental list of family, all I knew was that he had been working in New York two or three months before. Tried his home phone – no answer. Began to get worried. Finally sent him an e-mail with two quick questions – where are you and are you OK - figuring he would get it eventually. Within a day he called. He was in Philadelphia, as it happened, and not planning to travel very soon. Which was good, as by that time we could tell a lot of travelers had been stranded.

My cousin. I hadn't hear anything about him in years, a combination of youthful wanderings and the end of obligatory all-family gatherings when my grandmother and then

thing, though, because a family member let me know that "Billy no longer works in the Pentagon, and the section where he did work wasn't the one hit." Though I haven't seen him since high school - and I'm quite sure no one still calls him Billy - it's good to know the family wasn't wounded in that way.

My community. Most of us waited for the dust to settle, in shock because of the attack, in horror as the details began to come out, in awe of the heroism of firefighters and rescue workers, of just plain people reaching out a helping hand - and of the passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 as they discovered what the plan was and acted to serve their country. The earthshaking events of our days somehow shrank in significance as we faced an attack many compared to Pearl harbor.

And, like Pearl Harbor, September 11, 2011, is "a day that will live in infamy" and a day that changed the way we look at the world around us forever.

The Colby Free Press would like to encourage readers to share their memories of Sept. 11, 2001. Letters may be sent to 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701; hand-carried to that address or e-mailed to colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Highway Patrol records show a safer Labor Day weekend

found fewer crashes, drunk driv- made 37 drunk driving arrests, ers and speeding motorists on the compared to five and 48 last year. roads this Labor Day weekend.

when many Americans hit the urday and Sunday and another road, whether for vacations or family get-togethers. The American Auto Association estimated that 31.5 million Americans would likely travel more than 50 miles over the weekend, with top destinations being Branson, Mount Rushmore and Kansas City.

Patrol kept a record from 6 p.m. last Friday to 11:59 p.m. Monday and then compares that record to last vear.

The Patrol worked only one fatal crash last weekend, compared to two last year. It also investigat-

The Kansas Highway Patrol ed two alcohol-related crashes and

The Patrol worked two injury Labor Day weekend is a time crashes in Gove County on Satinjury crash Tuesday in Thomas County, which was not within the Labor Day reporting period.

> The Patrol issued 1,149 speeding tickets and 973 warnings during the three-day period as well as 322 adult seat belt tickets and 25 child restraint tickets, all decreases from last year. However, the patrol issued more warnings to teens who weren't wearing seat belts than last year.

