



City receives clean report on its audit

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby City Council heard that the city is "very sound" from a cash standpoint, according to an audit report presented Tuesday by Brian Staats of the accounting firm Adam, Brown, Beran and Ball.

Staats went over a few key items. He said the firm started the report by giving the city its opinion based on the financial statements and provided a snapshot of its funds, including unencumbered cash, canceled encumbrances, cash receipts and total expenditures.

He pointed out that there was one negative balance in these funds under the unencumbered cash column, which would usually be a violation of accounting standards. Since the city has

grants which will reimburse the funds, he said, this negative balance is allowed.

"Financially, the city is very sound in their cash position," Staats said.

Another item the firm looks at, he said, are the reserve funds to make sure there is money set aside to cover expenses the city expects down the road.

Staats said the city has about \$4.5 million in reserve, which is right in the range it should be in.

"Keep in mind, this is on a cash basis," he said, "so we're not showing any capital assets and we're not showing any debt."

Staats then went over the funds that are under state budget law, meaning the city is not allowed to spend more from them than the budget allows. He said the city's

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Colby School Board plans budget hearing

The Colby School Board will hold a public hearing on a revised budget for the district when it meets Monday night, then later consider approving the republished budget, which will allow the schools to get an extra \$31,752 from the state this year.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. Monday at the district Administration Building, 600 W. Third St.

The district found out last month that, because it wound up with about 8.4 students more than expected, it will get more than planned from the state, said Jo DeYoung, district business manager. To get or to spend the money, however, the budget had to be republished and then readopted by the board.

DeYoung said the money will come in handy to help pay for coming expenses.

Also on the agenda for Monday are several personnel items, including resignations, employment recommendations and supplement contracts for coaches and the like.

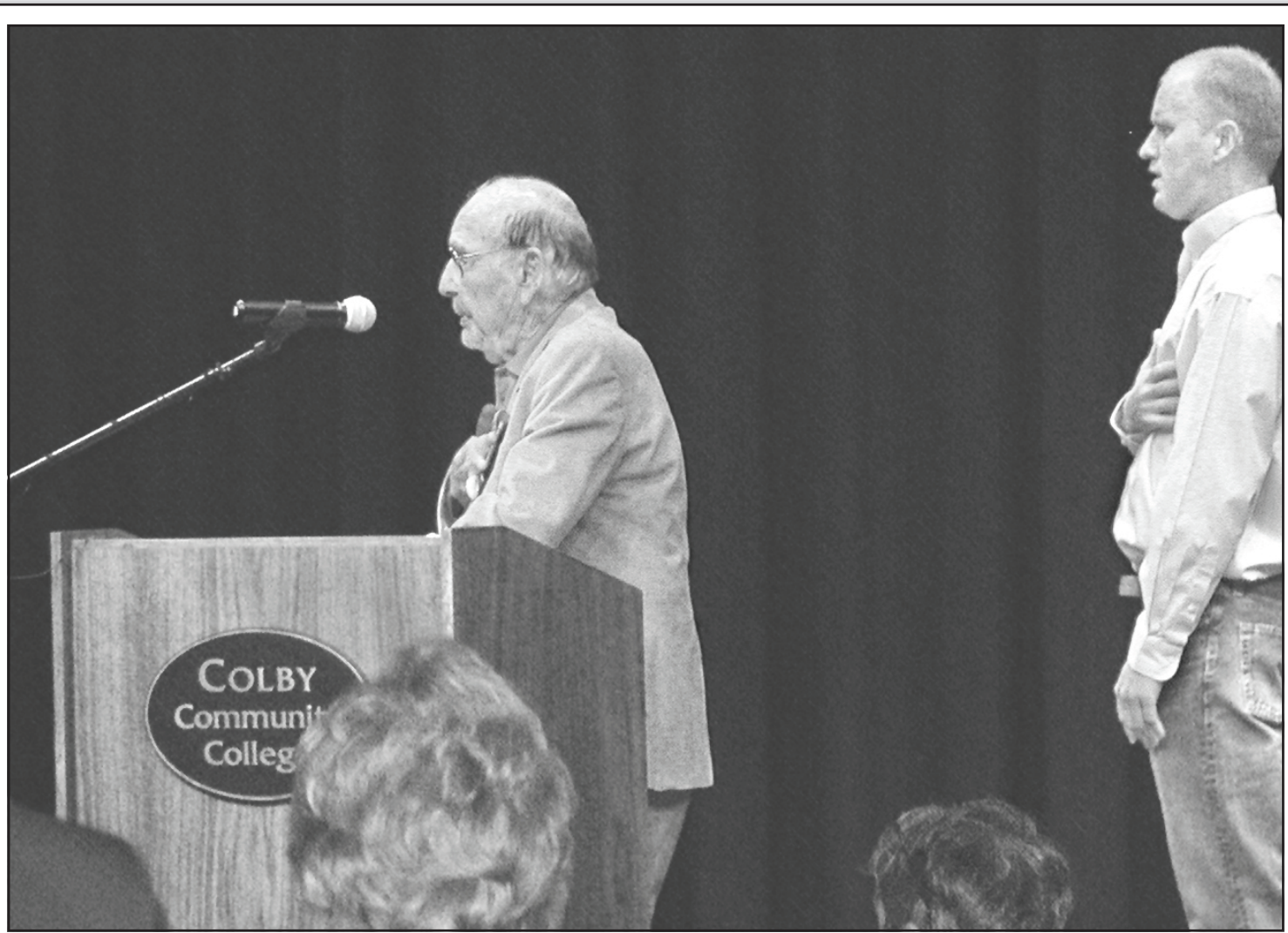
The board expects to set salaries

for administrators and nonteaching, or classified, employees and ratify the new agreement with the teacher's union, the Colby unit of the Kansas National Education Association.

In other items, the board will:

- Hear a proposal on an energy study from 360 Energy Engineers.
• Take action on a proposal from the Economic Development Alliance to join in a tax rebate plan for new development under the Neighborhood Revitalization Project.
• Act on a possible grant from the Sunflower Foundation to extend the walking trail around the perimeter of the high school property.
• Approve a request to ask for bids under the Capital Outlay Five-Year Plan for a new school bus and a six-to-eight passenger vehicle.

Board meetings are open to the public and the board allows time at the beginning of each meeting for public comments.



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

World War II veteran Dale Deaver of Levant (above) led the Pledge of Allegiance on Thursday before the unveiling of a sign to mark a 270-mile stretch of U.S. 24 east of Colby as the World War II Veterans Memorial Highway. Behind him

was Jeff Stewart, district engineer for the state Department of Transportation from Norton. Later, Deaver and Leilani Thomas of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau (below) lifted a curtain to reveal the sign.

World War II sign unveiled

By Christina Beringer
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Kansas Secretary of Transportation Mike King made his first official trip to northwestern Kansas this week, visiting Hays and Oakley for special events before speaking in Colby on Thursday.

King, a McPherson building contractor, was named to head the Kansas Department of Transportation in March. He spoke at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center to honor veterans of World War II and unveil a sign designating a 270-mile stretch of U.S. 24 as the World War II Veterans Memorial Highway.

Also speaking were Jeff Stewart, northwest Kansas district engineer for the department; Thomas County Historical Society member Relda Galli; and World War II veteran Dale Deaver of Levant.

Efforts to raise \$1,600 to pay for the sign were spearheaded by Galli and her husband Tracey,



commander of the Colby American Legion.

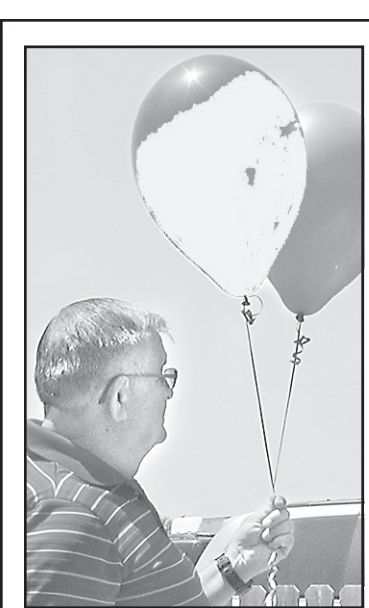
"The memorial sign," Relda Galli said, "is made possible because of the collaboration of so many individuals and organiza-

tions who came together to make it happen, simply because it was the right thing to do.

"Although this amount could have been donated entirely by any one of the individuals or or-

ganizations, it was a combined effort of so many people who care and recognize the importance of honoring our veterans,

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Seniors let balloons go

Deseret Health and Rehabilitation resident Ramona Osgood (right), originally from Texas, was excited for a chance to get out and enjoy blue skies Monday. Along with about 15 other residents, nursing home staff and Mayor Gary Adrian (above), she helped release 50 balloons in honor of National Nursing Home Week.

CHRISTINA BERINGER
Colby Free Press



Judges hear prairie dog case

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The fate of 9,000 acres harboring prairie-dog towns in Logan County - and dozens of endangered black-footed ferrets living among them - was argued Tuesday in Larned in front of three judges of the Kansas Court of Appeals.

The three-judge panel had convened to hear several appeals from western Kansas, including Haverfield and Barnhardt v. Logan County Commissioners, which concerns a fight over what to do about prairie dogs spilling over onto other ranches from the "Haverfield complex," the site of a federal reintroduction program for the endangered ferrets.

Jim McVay, attorney for the Logan County com-

missioners, went first, followed by Randy Rathbun, who was representing Larry and Betty Haverfield and Gordon Barnhardt.

Judge Michael Buser, a 2005 appointee of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, presided. With him were Judge G. Gordon Atcheson, an appointee of former Gov. Mark Parkinson, and Senior Judge David Knudson, a former district judge and retired appeals court judge.

Buser said the court has been sending out these panels more often lately, but it hasn't been in Larned since the 1980s. The court has come to Colby twice in the past several years. The court makes an effort to have cases from the region assigned to these traveling panels, Buser said, so attorneys and the parties

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Woman fights flesh-eating bacteria

ATLANTA (AP) - Faced with the prospect of losing both hands and her one remaining foot, a young Georgia woman battling to survive a case of flesh-eating bacteria that has already claimed one leg mouthed the words "Let's do this."

Aimee Copeland, 24, "shed no tears, she never batted an eyelash," her father, Andy Copeland, wrote on Facebook today about the conversation he and his wife had with their daughter the day before.

"I was crying because I am a proud father of an incredibly cou-

rageous young lady," Copeland wrote.

It was not clear whether the surgeries had already been done yet. A hospital spokeswoman referred questions to the father's online post.

The story of Copeland's battle to survive has inspired an outpouring of support from around the world. The University of West Georgia student developed a rare condition called necrotizing fasciitis after suffering a deep cut in her leg in a May 1 fall from a homemade zip line over the Little

Tallapoosa River.

She has been hospitalized in critical condition at an Augusta hospital, battling kidney failure and other organ damage. She had been on a breathing tube until recently, when doctors performed a tracheotomy, her father said.

Until Thursday, Aimee Copeland did not know the full extent

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