



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

City plans to spend on street repair

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Maintenance and repair projects on city streets are set for next year, helped along by some state money.

Spending on street improvements is outlined in the city's 2013 budget and Capital Improvement Plan, both of which the City Council approved during its Aug. 7 meeting.

The five-year plan, described by city Finance Director Debbie Zerr as a budgeting tool, has to be approved each year. It outlines what different city departments hope to spend money on for the next five years.

The 2013 section of the plan is included in the city's 2013 budget,

but the expenses suggested in the plan for subsequent years have not been budgeted yet, she said.

"If everything goes as planned, this is what we're planning to do in the next five years," Public Works Director Omar Weber said.

The biggest single entry in the 2013 plan, just over \$212,000, covers the city's share of a project made possible by the Kansas Department of Transportation's 2014 City Connecting Links resurfacing program, known as K-Links. The money is used to maintain streets that carry state highways through town.

Zerr said that the program includes three small projects rolled into one:

- Fourth Street (U.S. 24) from

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Colby native to hold lecture

A Colby native, Dr. Mark Hansen, will be coming home for a lecture Wednesday at Colby Community College.

Hansen, son of John and Joyce Hansen of Colby, graduated Colby High School in 1977 and studied at Colby Community College.

He will be the first speaker of the year at the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. His free presentation will be on "Coming Together or

Coming Apart; America and the 2012 Election."

"It's about American politics in general," said Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens, college instructor. "I don't know how he would address it, but he's pretty up-to-date."

Davis-Stephens said that Hansen will speak informally with students Wednesday and Thursday mornings at the Bedker Memorial Complex on campus, and that the

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Aquatic park closes early

Don't be fooled by the website. City officials say they will have to close the Colby Aquatic Park a day early this year because there won't be enough people to run it.

Sunday is the last day that the park will be open this year. The

pool usually is open for Labor Day and then closes for the season the next day.

The water park will be open Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. After that, it will be closed for lack of lifeguards.

Three Colby artists to be featured in Russell art show

The Deines Cultural Center in Russell is featuring the sixth edition of its biennial favorite, "Chrome, Smoke and Flames," where three Colby artists' work will be displayed.

Eric Abraham and Lucas and Josh Schwartz, all of Colby, will show their work in the exhibit, which opens Sunday.

The show, put together by Larry Zvolanek, Osborne, showcases "Art and the

Automobile," including a "cruise-in" during the opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. It will be up through Sunday, Oct. 14.

Owners of special vehicles are encouraged to cruise in to the 800 block of Main Street in Russell on Sunday afternoon. Additional parking is available behind the center.

Visitors throughout the show will have

a chance to win art by Zvolanek. A drawing for one of his prints will be held at the close of the show.

More than 15 artists are participating in the exhibit. Greg Johnson, Wichita, will be bringing large sculptures made from auto body pieces. Bob Mix, Great Bend, and Harold Reidel, Salina, will show vehicles made from found objects.

"Art and the Automobile" will be re-

lected in photography submitted by Dough Reed, Wichita, and Dan Greenberg, Parker, Colo.

Zvolanek will be showing paintings and drawings, along with drawings by Gordon Mai and Wilson and Kathy Gregory, all of Assaria.

Paintings from Kansas artists Kevin Lundy, Wilson; Brenda Strecker, Salina; Mike Boss, Hill City; and Pattie Wall,

Lebanon are ready for the exhibit. Mark Logan, LaCrosse, is bringing custom models.

The center is open from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. It is located at 820 N. Main and is accessible to those with disabilities.

For information on the show, call the Deines Center at (785) 483-3742.



Cheer clinic held here

Instructors from the Universal Dance Association (above) reviewed a dance routine with high school and middle school cheerleaders Thursday during the Kansas State High School Activities Association Spirit Spreader clinic at the Colby High gym. Cheerleaders from Grinnell Middle School (left) practiced the routine before performing it to music. The Colby High cheerleaders played host for the event, and 19 schools turned out with a total of 222 girls and 32 coaches.

KAYLA CORNETT
Colby Free Press

Truck convoy headed to Colby

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There's still time to sign up for the Sixth Annual World's Largest Truck Convoy on Saturday, Sept. 8, held to raise money for the Kansas Special Olympics.

You can register for a truck and bike show being held in conjunction with the convoy starting 5 p.m. next Friday at the Oasis Travel Center, and also be in the convoy itself.

A dinner will be served that night for a donation. Entertainment will include fireworks, weather permitting. Final registration for the show will be at Oasis from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 8.

The east leg of the convoy will start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Mitten TA Travel Plaza in Oakley. The west leg will also start at 8:30 a.m. (Central Time) at Wilken's Truck and Trailer in Goodland. Registration requires a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

Truckers need a donation of at least \$100 to register. Any car, truck or bike can register for the convoy, and drivers of vehicles with four wheels or less should bring a donation of \$50. Show up an hour beforehand at either location to register. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at both towns.

The two legs will meet in Colby at 11 a.m. and park along Horton Avenue to form a parade around

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Kansas has no money for route

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Kansas, Colorado and New Mexico transportation officials have notified Amtrak that they do not have the millions of dollars the passenger rail service said are necessary to repair and maintain deteriorating tracks in western Kansas.

The three states sent a letter to the railroad this week saying no money is available to fix tracks between Hutchinson and Garden City that are in such disrepair that trains have to slow down on their daily run from Chicago to Los Angeles. The tracks are owned by BNSF Railway, which maintains them just enough to allow its

freight trains to go 30 to 40 mph.

The current route agreement between Amtrak and BNSF ends in 2016, after which Amtrak would have to pay the full cost of maintaining the Kansas line.

Amtrak officials warned the states that if a solution is not found by 2014, it would move the Southwest Chief route south, through Oklahoma and Texas, with a stop in Wichita replacing those in western Kansas. BNSF routes most of its transcontinental traffic on this line, which it maintains for 70 mph.

That would take service away from Hutchinson, Garden City

and Dodge City.

Amtrak has asked the three states to spend a combined \$100 million over the next decade to improve the tracks and also split \$10 million a year between the states, Amtrak and BNSF to maintain the route.

After stakeholders in the route met in Garden City in April, the three states' transportation departments were asked to determine if money was available, Dennis

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