



Board OKs \$1.5 million energy plan

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The Colby School board approved a contract for energy-saving improvements to its buildings at a special meeting Monday night.

Engineering firm 360 Energy Engineers came up with the final version of the project after doing an "energy audit" of the district's buildings. The firm took bids from both area and out-of-town contractors. Scott Strom, business development manager for the firm, has been helping the school district plan the improvements since the middle of last year.

The project is scheduled over the summer to replace the roof and parts of the heating and cooling systems in the middle school, drain pans and air and dirt separators in the high school and exterior lighting and controls districtwide. These replacements will save about \$52,000 a year in energy costs, and will cost just under \$1.5 million. Out of that, professional services for the project to be provided by 360 come to \$203,371, and the company's overhead and profits to \$274,548.

Work on the seven-to-eight-week project is scheduled to begin next month and end by the start of the school year in mid-August.

A rundown of costs for the project:

- The heating and cooling at the middle school will cost \$538,335. That includes two new condensing units and two air handlers to take over the cooling, four new hot-water boilers for the heating and improved heating for the gym.
• For the high school, an air and dirt separator will be added to help keep the heating and cooling pipes from corroding. A drain pan would be added to keep condensation from dripping from an air handler onto the wood floor of the high school gym. The separator will cost \$41,270 and the drain pan will be \$10,500
• The roof will be replaced for \$150,561. After some discussion, the board decided to go with an alternate bid in which the contractor, Roofmasters, will reuse the rock ballast from the current roof. There is some risk of water gathering on top of the roof, but the roof will be rated for 120 mph winds with a 20-year warranty.
By reusing the ballast, Strom said, this roof will be about \$50,000 less than the one included in the other bid, which would be rated for 90 mph winds and have a 15-year warranty.
• New LED exterior lights will be added to all the district buildings for \$221,107. The project includes new fixtures to protect the

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College reception to honor its retirees

Colby Community College invites everyone to a farewell reception at 3 p.m. next Thursday in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union for retiring employees and others who are leaving.

Retirees include Connie Davis, English instructor and Title III online student services developer; Sandy Hill, anatomy and physiology instructor; Tom Moorhous,

history instructor; Bob Selby, business instructor; Joyce Washburn, dean of academics; and Diane Williams, business instructor.

The college will also bid farewell to employees who are leaving to pursue new opportunities elsewhere.

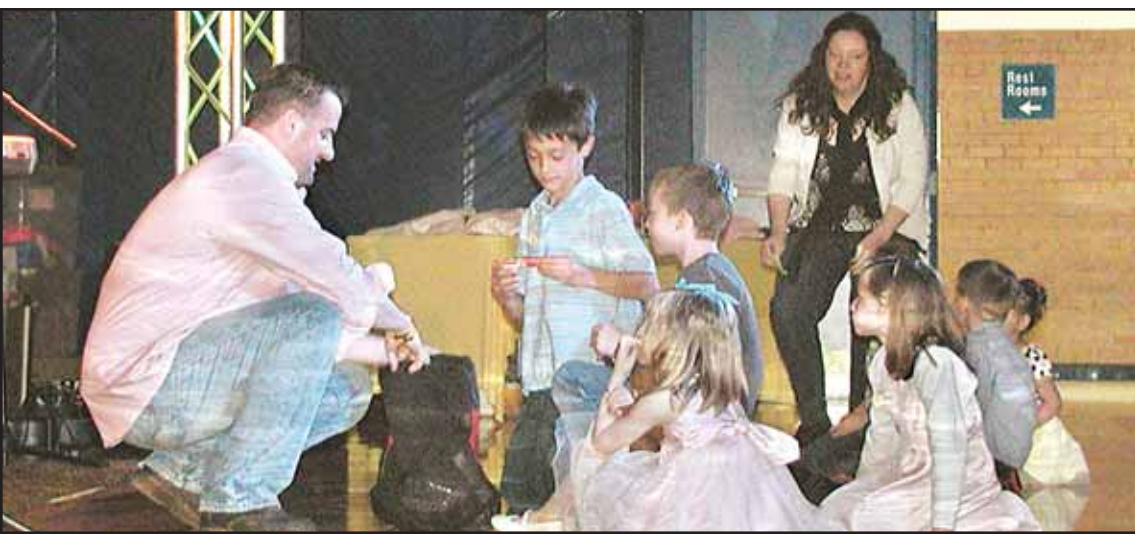
Refreshments will be served. For information, call Lisa Failla at 460-5401.



Kids get look at drug dog's work method

Undersheriff Marc Finley gave a demonstration Wednesday for Colby Grade School students on how he works with his drug dog, Honcho. He took questions from the kids (above), then introduced Honcho to them during the after-school program at the school. A tube containing drug scent was hidden on the lawn, but Honcho found it right away (below, left).

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press

Kids gathered around Eric Overmiller, campus pastor for Celebration Church, as he gave them a lesson Sunday at the Community Building.

Church marks a year in Colby

Celebration Community Church celebrated its one-year anniversary this month and recently welcomed a new campus pastor, Eric Overmiller.

The Colby church began Easter Sunday 2012 with Dave Funk as the campus pastor. He is now the worship pastor.

Overmiller said he thinks people are attracted to Celebration because "people feel very loved and love the music." The church averages 100 people each week, he said.

Celebration is based in Hays, where the church holds four services each Sunday. The Colby location often receives video teaching from pastors in Hays.

Overmiller said he attended the Hays church briefly before entering the church's leadership academy and becoming the campus pastor for Colby. The academy is a nine-month program developed by the

Hays church's pastors, he said.

"Being in ministry doesn't mean you have to be in ministry full-time," said Overmiller, adding that he works at Agco Inc. during the week and drives to Colby every weekend from his home in Russell.

With the exception of preaching, Overmiller said, he provides the same type of leadership as a traditional pastor but with the added support of the Hays church's six teaching pastors and other staff.

Brant Rice, Celebration's teaching pastor for Colby, teaches two services each Sunday in Hays and one by video for Colby, but travels to Colby about once a month to teach in person. Rice's wife, DeLynn, is from Colby, and she and their three children often come to Colby with him.

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Faculty nominates newspaper advisor for regional Teacher of the Year award

A Colby High School teacher has been nominated by the faculty as the "Teacher of the Year" for all of western Kansas.

Donna Henry teaches English and oversees the newspaper and yearbook at the school. She was nominated for the Kansas Department of Educa-

tion's Teacher of the Year award for the sprawling 1st Congressional District, which covers most of the state.

"So I'm competing with all the teachers in the 1st District," Henry said.

The department chooses a nominee from among elementary and secondary (middle and high school) teachers each year, Henry said. She has to have her paperwork in for the nomination

by the end of April, and she will know by September who wins. The department chooses an overall state Teacher of the Year from the regional winners.

"I really enjoy encouraging students to maximize their potential and not be satisfied with being average," Henry said.

She teaches sophomore and honors English, newspaper, yearbook and ACT and scholarship prep. She said

she developed the ACT and scholarship class, and is teaching it for the first time this year. She is a "technology-rich" classroom instructor who uses high-tech devices in the classroom, and serves on the district evaluation committee.

She first worked at Colby High in 1989 and has been teaching continuously since 1999 after taking a break to raise her kids. She has been a teach-

er in this area for about 24 years, she said, starting at Triplains High School in 1981 and teaching at Ellis High School from 1982 to 1989.

Henry earned a bachelor's degree in English and physical education from Fort Hays State University in 1980, and a master's degree in communications and journalism, also from Fort Hays, when she worked for the college newspaper.



Donna Henry

