8 pages

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College trustees continue to air wellness center

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Plans for a wellness center at Colby Community College are still in limbo.

For the second time in less than a month, the college's board of trustees discussed the issue at their Monday meeting.

College President Dr. Mikel Ary reviewed the information on the proposed center and the steps that have already been taken.

He also recommended forming a committee to discuss a site location and to get community involvement.

Ary told the board the process has included trips to the wellness centers at Lamar (Colo.) Community College, Sterling (Colo.) Junior College and the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

That was followed by recommendations on what a center should have, a survey of people at the last community wellness fair and sending out solicitation letters to try to gain funding.

Ary said more than 100 people were surveyed at the wellness fair and responded that they would use an indoor walking track if it were available.

An architect has also been selected, Glen Strait of Strait Associates in Colby.

The school has also filed for federal funding to help pay for the project.

A proposal was submitted to Congress in February and is making its way through the Congressional Appropriations Committee in Washington.

He said it's an amendment to federal legislation for money for different projects. The school should find out no later than January if it will receive the funding.

No specific amount of money was asked but they did specify the cost of the structure, which was estimated at about $3 million.

Ary said the board could have some potentially large decisions to make.

"You can't minimize the magnitude of what you're talking about," Ary said.

In other business, the board approved the purchase of a 2000 Buick Century from Taylor Motors. The school solicited bids from Tubbs and Sons Ford and Taylor Motors for a vehicle for the college motor pool.

The low bid was for $10,400 for the car. He said the Tubbs and Sons Ford bid for a Taurus was only $17.44 more than the Taylor bid.

Ary did point out that a car wasn't purchased last year but it was in the budget this year because a new vehicle was needed.

He also updated the board on the college's enrollment initiatives.

He said the new college view books were just received.

"We're very proud of that," Ary said, adding the books are used to attract students and provide information on the school and admissions applications.

He also said the school's Web site is proving useful since students are using it to pre-enroll.

"For the moment, we have a very attractive Web site," Ary said.

Signs going back up

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

City of Colby workers put road signs back up at the intersection of Fourth Street and Range Avenue (Highway K-25) on Tuesday. The barriers and detour signs were removed and the highway project, that included removal of the viaduct, is now open.

Council approves building for public works

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Colby's public works department will soon have another building located near its current complex at 195 N. Sterling Ave., following approval by the city council on Tuesday night.

The council went with the only bidder, Stephens Construction in Colby, for materials at a cost of $14,552 with city employees doing the actual labor.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said she was pleased with the cost since first estimates were anticipated at about $19,000.

The pole building will be 30 x 45 and serve as an office to combine the public utilities in a more centralized location, she said.

The structure will be located just south of the main complex on the east side.

The location is in the vicinity of Dennen field A pole building differs from other metal-type buildings in that the frame is pressure-treated wood for the main supports as opposed to metal girders, according to information provided.

The council also approved buying a skid steer for the public works department. There were four different companies in Colby bidding on the skid steer with Colby Implement's bid on the John Deere 270 (no track) being accepted at a cost of $24,811.

Other bidders and models included Martin Tractor with a CAT 246 at a basic cost of $25,021 with additions of metal tracks at $2,404; soft tracks at $3,485; and hard tracks at $2,593 if needed and a CAT 277 with rubber track at $38,998. Sellers Tractor submitted bids for a JCB 190 Tracked Robot at $38,635, a Mustang 2095 at $33,095 and a Mustang 2074 at $27,605.

There was $40,000 in the budget for the skid steer, Armstrong said.

The council agreed to allow the Colby Municipal Airport board to hear presentations on scope of service and negotiating fees for the layout plan and apron/taxi lane projects with HWS Consulting. Representatives will be here, Armstrong said, for their board meeting next Tuesday to discuss those issues. However, final approval of the scope and fees will be that of the council and contingent on grant money, she said.

Mayor Warren Hixson recommended appointing Vernon Flanagin to the Colby Tree Board to fill the unexpired term of Randy Brown set to expire in April of 2006. The council approved the appointment.

In addition, the council gave its approval to the request by the VFW to hold a veterans day parade on Tuesday, Nov. 11, starting at 5 p.m. The parade route will begin at 8th St. on Franklin Ave., south on Franklin to 2nd St. and east on 2nd St. to the courthouse.

Christmas parade theme is announced

Jada Tubbs, the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce executive director, told the *Free Press* this morning that the theme for this year's Christmas parade is ""Lighting the Way."

The parade, she said, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Low in teens

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie forecast

.**Tonight**...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday**...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. South winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the north around 5 mph in the afternoon. **Thursday night**...Partly cloudy. Lows around 18. Northeast winds around 5 mph. **Friday**...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. **Friday night**...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. **Saturday**...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. The extended forecast calls for highs in the **50s on Sunday** and in the l**ower 60s on Monday**, and then falling back into the 40s on Veterans Day.

By the numbers:

Tuesday's high, 48

Low this morning, 25

Records for Nov. 5, 84 in 1945 and 8 in 1967

Year ago today, 52 and 23

24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.02

Month's precipitation, 0.13

Year's precipitation to date, 14.39

2002's precipitation to date, 12.54

Soil temperature, 48

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Still time to enter Colby's second Veterans Day parade

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Thomas County veterans still have the chance to be involved in the second annual "Veterans Day parade," which is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Jim Vap, one of the event's organizers, said any veteran who wants to take part still has time to do so.

The parade will start at Fike Park and go down Franklin to Second Street and will end with a short presentation in front of the Thomas County Courthouse at the Veterans Memorial.

The gathering on the courthouse lawn will feature a 21-gun salute to veterans who have died.

Veterans walking the parade route will be given a small flag to carry and a cap to wear.

The Colby High School and Middle School bands will march in the parade.

Older veterans can ride along in the parade in one of several school buses that will provided for just that purpose.

After the parade, veterans and their wives are invited to attend a dinner at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6882 at 220 N. Lake Ave.

Reservations are still being taken and people can bring desserts or salads to help out.

For information or reservations for the dinner, call (785) 462-3493.

Commissioners announce hiring of health department supervisor

Interviews were conducted on Monday, and agreement was reached on Tuesday

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners on Tuesday hired Juanita Dewey as the county health department's new administrator.

Commissioner Ron Evans said the commissioners interviewed Dewey and another candidate on Monday and offered Dewey the job, which she accepted Tuesday afternoon. She'll start Nov. 10 with orientation, Evans said.

Evans said Dewey recently moved here from Denver, where she has an extensive nursing background.

Dewey replaces Kathy Ryan who was the acting administrator until a replacement could be found.

Ryan was the department's administrator since August 1998.

"I'm going to continue on as one of the staff nurses at the department," Ryan said.

She said she resigned from the administrator's position because she thought it was time to go in a different direction.

Her resignation as head of the department will be effective when Dewey takes over.

Ryan said she's glad the health department has someone new and is looking forward to meeting the administrator.

Briefly

Donations accepted for fire victims

A residential fire last week caused major smoke damage to the home of Willie and Melinda Enfield at 655 W. Walnut in Colby. Ever since the incident, many people have asked Melinda's mother, Linda Dible, if there was anything they could do to help the family. Dible said that for those wanting to offer a monetary gift to the family, donations can be made in their name through Farmers and Merchants Bank in Colby. For those wanting to help the family by offering time or with inquiries on how they can otherwise help, call Tim Morris, Berean Church, 465-7460. The fire resulted in extensive smoke damage to the bedroom and main floor of the home, but the family escaped uninjured.

'Pray for Rain' event planned

There will be a "Pray for Rain" event on Saturday, Nov. 22, in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. "Those who have drought in their area are encouraged to come to the meeting from 3 to 6 p.m.," said Leonard Kinkade of Brewster, who is coordinating the event. He said he would like those planning to attend to send a card or letter with their name, address and telephone number, along with bringing a scripture, comment or prayer the day of the meeting. Cards can be sent to: Pray for Rain, P.O. Box 275, Brewster, Kan. 67732. For questions, call (785) 694-2671. For those unable to attend because of distance, Kinkade suggests they send a card representing their area.

Names wanted for Heart Tree

The family and friends of the late Dr. Jeff Jennings are once again sponsoring a Heart Tree in his memory. If someone knows of any children in the Colby area whose Christmas wishes should be placed on the tree, call 462-2179.

Landfill hours change for winter

The Thomas County landfill has now started its winter hours, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. Effective this week the hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Childbirth classes scheduled

Colby Childbirth Education will be holding classes on the four Tuesdays of the month, which are Nov. 11, 18 and 25. This is a change from the published classes from earlier this year. Class will begin Tuesday, Nov. 4 from 7-10 p.m. at the Health Science Building at Colby Community College. For information, call Tina Schrick at 462-6845.

College offering certification courses

Colby Community College is offering certification courses for social service designees. The courses will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 10 in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. Four college credits and two certificates will be awarded for attendance at all eight classes.

Two college credits and one certificate will be awarded for six classes.

To enroll or for more information, call (785) 462-3984, Ext. 286.