



COLBY FREE PRESS

Council gives nod to pursue issuing bonds

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The council gave its city manager the green light to begin the process for issuing industrial revenue bonds to one Colby business planning an expansion project.



J. Woofter

Jason Woofter, Oasis Travel Center manager, approached the council requesting \$1 to \$1.5 million in industrial revenue bonds to build a truck lube, scales and Idle-Aire center to the south and east of the main building.

The project could also mean 30 to 40 new employees at the center, but when asked by a council member if that was a realistic number, Woofter said with five lube bays open 24 hours a day and seven days a week, it was.

As part of the Petro franchise, Woofter also told council members that the Idle-Aire portion of the

project would allow trucks to shut their engines down for fleet economy.

Although Woofter wasn't aware of all the specifics, he did say that the Idle-Aire system would provide heat and airconditioning, internet, movies and other comforts that otherwise required engines idling throughout the night. The way this system works, he said, is that a snorkel-type tube is attached in such a way to allow the semi to use that energy source rather than the engine.

Another concern voiced by the council related to how many other businesses in Colby offer these types of services. Woofter said other than Truck Town providing maintenance at the time of sale, there really weren't any.

As for the expansion being outside the city limits, Armstrong said the truck facility would be willing to consider annexation with approval of the industrial revenue bonds.

Armstrong said she would begin the process by having a financial feasibility study done.

President to speak Monday at K-State

MANHATTAN — (AP) Amid the national debate over his foreign policy and domestic spying program, President Bush will speak Monday at Kansas State University about U.S. efforts to fight terrorism.

Bush's address will be part of the university's Landon Lecture series and is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. CST in Bramlage Coliseum on the Manhattan campus. White House press secretary Scott McClellan confirmed to reporters in Washington that the speech would focus on terrorism.

With violence in Iraq continuing,

the Republican president faces criticism about his 2003 decision to go to war.

He also has come under fire for an October 2001 decision to allow eavesdropping on e-mails and telephone calls from people within the United States, without court approval.

Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political science professor who formerly served on Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' staff, said the Landon Lecture is a good opportunity for someone on a "public information offensive."

Breakfast, 'magical' speaker part of annual Orange and Black

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A little magic will be part of the Colby High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes annual Breakfast of Champions Saturday.

The event will feature Buffy "Mr. Magic" Coleman as the speaker, said FCA sponsor Jesse Vincent.

The athlete-only breakfast will be 9 a.m. in the Little Theatre at the Colby Community Building.

The public is invited to hear Coleman speak at 9:30 a.m. in



B. Coleman

the gym at the community building.

Coleman once tried out for the Harlem Globetrotters but didn't make the team because of an injury. Instead, he turned to motivational speaking and performances.

His show will include basketball tricks and a presentation on drug and alcohol prevention.

"This is our main event for the

year," Vincent said.

Student captains this year are Lauren Cox and Ashley Barnes, who, along with the rest of the group's members, organized the event.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a Christian-based support group for athletes.

He and teacher Beau Sheets are

the sponsors.

The group meets each Friday morning before school.

The meetings average about 25 kids a week.

They have doughnuts, play a game and share a Bible reading or devotional.

Vincent said they also try to take a trip to Denver to attend a Nuggets

game, or other sporting event.

The group does several fundraisers throughout the year. Those include half-time raffles at football and basketball games and working concession stands.

He added they have had "great support" from the Thomas County Community Foundation and the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Leading by example



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press



ABOVE: Margaret Hall with the American Red Cross, left, readied Thomas County Emergency Medical Services Director Ken Gatlin to donate blood during the first blood drive of the year Thursday at the Colby Community Building. Jo Cheney, one of the organizers, said 134 productive units of blood came from 147 people. There were also eight first-time donors. **LEFT:** David Orth with the American Red Cross readied donated blood for shipping Thursday. He processes the blood, then packs it in coolers before it is sent to Wichita.

Volunteers train to help others

Volunteer tax preparers attended a training session etoday at Colby Community College with the goal of using those skills to help others prepare their 2005 tax returns.

The training, sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons or AARP, included Ardis Stark and Bill Beamgard, both of Atwood, demonstrating the tax preparation software to training participants.

The association's tax-Aide program has nearly 32,000 volunteers staffing 8,500 sites across the United States, said Alvin Volk of Colby, one of the coordinators.

When the training is completed, those taking the coursework will be certified Internal Revenue Service volunteers and able to provide free tax counseling and preparation services to



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Alvin Volk of Colby (seated) spoke with Bill Beamgard of Atwood today during a training session held at Colby Community College to assist with tax preparations.

millions of low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older.

As in year's past, Volk will be available at the Pioneer Memorial Library certain days of the week to

assist in tax preparation.

Frances Bader of Jennings will provide help in the Jennings and Norton area with Stark and Beamgard available in the Atwood area.

Dates and times for sessions in

Colby will appear in a later edition. For those with questions about how to use this program, either call Volk at (785) 460-2645; Bader at (785) 678-2659 or Stark at (785) 626-9639.

State school board candidate visits city

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Sally Cauble of Liberal, a candidate for the State Board of Education's District 5 seat in this year's election, was campaigning in Colby this week.

Cauble spoke briefly at the Colby School Board meeting Monday and at Tuesday's Colby Rotary weekly meeting.

"We're out visiting with people," she said.

She is running on the Republican ticket. District 5 encompasses 77 school districts in 41 counties.

Her opponent is Connie Morris of St. Francis who currently holds the seat. She has not yet filed to run for re-election. Cauble served on the Liberal school board eight years



S. Cauble

and decided to run for the state board.

"I would like a little more local control," she said.

Her motto is "Cauble for Common Sense," and if elected, wants to focus on providing students with a quality education, giving local schools the flexibility they need to provide an education and give a "common sense" approach to financial responsibility.

Cauble is from western Kansas and has a background in education. She taught at the elementary level for 10 years and was a member of the Liberal school board for eight years. She has also served on various other boards and programs.

Issues currently facing the board are school finance and intelligent design.

However, Cauble said she wanted to run for the state board before either came to the forefront.

"Mainly, I'm for the children of Kansas and I want to make sure they have a quality education," she said.