



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Strategic group needs more input

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Setting a timeline and getting more community involvement were two key issues during Monday's Thomas County strategic planning meeting.

The core committee met at the Thomas County Office Complex to give updates on how its task force formation is going. But the question was raised about when they will actually have something to show for their work.

Committee member Brian Staats asked if there's a timeline established, and said ultimately, the group should have a plan to present. Other members said they would also like to see a timeline.



B. Staats

**“We have to be careful what we decide to do to make sure it's sustainable.”**

Leilani Thomas,  
Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau

Getting involvement from around the county was also brought up.

Efforts to recruit people for task forces included running a notice and survey in the *Colby Free Press*. Committee members have asked different people to come on board, and that has worked, but they want more.

Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, suggested having a town meeting. It could be used to try to recruit more volunteers, get more input and to explain what each of the task forces is doing.

Chairman Scott Focke suggested having the meeting in April, which will give each of the groups time to come up with their goals.

The next committee meeting was tentatively set for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20 at the Office Complex.

By next meeting, Focke said each group should be formalized with its members, and have its goals set. Focke suggested each task force should meet with its members before the planning committee meets again.

“We have to be careful what we decide to do to make sure it's sustainable,” Thomas said.

## Sewer project underway

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Work on Colby's sewer improvement project has gone to pasture.

The city found out Tuesday at a preconstruction conference on Phase I of its sewer improvement project there was a safety matter involving some four-legged residents of Colby.

Thaniel Monaco with Miller and Associates in McCook, Neb., said the first 1,700-1,800 feet of the new line will cut through a horse pasture.

He suggested they might look at moving the animals or sectioning off the pasture for the safety of the horses and workers.

Work in the pasture will require heavy equipment and a ditch, and

didn't want anyone, human or equine, getting hurt.

Don and Wanda Davis of Colby own the pasture and use it to board horses.

Cory Banzhaf, with Midlands Contracting, Inc. of Kearney, Neb., the contractor on the project, said the work in the pasture should take two to three weeks.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the city will install an electrical fence to keep the horses from straying into the construction zone.

Monaco outlined specific details about the project, including the scheduled start date and slated date of completion.

Banzhaf said work will begin in three to four weeks, and they will

start on the north end where the city's new water treatment plant will be.

The new line will run north to south from Country Club Drive to the new treatment plant that has yet to be constructed.

Construction for the new line will connect with a sewer line already completed.

Monaco also discussed the permits and other requirements, including all of the necessary contact information, and contract specifics.

“We have three specific permits we have to deal with,” he said.

They are Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment storm water and Union Pacific Railroad crossing permit.

## Going down



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A crane broke the Colby skyline Monday as the sign at the Oasis Travel Center was taken down by Commercial Sign Company. The travel center is making preparations to become part of the Petro franchise.

## Governor candidate schedules visit in northwest Kansas

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Overland Park resident Dr. Ken Canfield announced his bid for governor Tuesday and said he plans to visit northwestern Kansas in February.

Canfield, 52, said during a telephone interview he decided to run for governor to bring a new viewpoint to the state.

“We need fresh vision and fresh leadership in the state,” he said.

Canfield said he accepted an invitation from Pastor Jamie Bloom



K. Canfield

of Community Church in Oakley to speak at the Impact Center in February.

Topics Canfield will address at the public meeting in Oakley will include his pro-life stance, teaching intelligent design or evolution in public schools, school finance and agriculture in Kansas. The time and date for the meeting has yet to be set.

Canfield is founder of the Kansas City-based National Center for Fathering, a national organization focused on equipping men to be fathers and to get involved with their children.

According to Jesse Borjon at the Secretary of State's office in Topeka, Canfield has not officially filed for office, but has until June 12. Canfield took the first step in

## Who is Dr. Ken Canfield?

Dr. Ken Canfield was born and raised in Wichita. He earned his bachelor's degree at Friends University and pursued further studies at the University of British Columbia, Regent College, where he completed a master's degree. He and returned to Kansas to complete a PhD. at Kansas State University and while in Manhattan, he became a vice-president of the Osborne Company, specializing in construction and development.

becoming a candidate Jan. 12 when he named L. Wayne Bridges of

Canfield founded the International Family Center, a counseling and research think tank to strengthen families, and the National Center for Fathering in 1990.

While leading the center, Canfield has served as a consultant to state and community officials on ways to engage and equip fathers in local programming, and served as one of the founding members of former Vice President Al Gore's private-sector “Father to Father” Initiative and the National Fathers

Shawnee to serve as campaign treasurer.

Leadership Group.

Canfield was recognized for his leadership in 1993, when he was awarded Father of the Year by the National Congress for Men and Children. He has presented at hundreds of state and community conferences and authored scientific articles and popular books.

Canfield and his wife, Dee, reside in Overland Park. They have been married for 29 years and have five children.

“I expect to file in the next 60 days,” Canfield said.

While a visit to northwest Kansas was not included in Canfield's initial campaign announcement sweep, the governor hopeful said visiting the area was a high priority.

“I apologize for not being out there sooner,” Canfield said. “It's my schedule, as I wind down the National Center for Fathers and ramp up this bid for governor, it's got me between a rock and a hard place. I've looked and scrutinized my schedule and I'll be there before the end of February.”

Voters in Wichita, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Hays, Salina, Manhattan, Topeka, Kansas City and Overland Park learned about Canfield's bid to challenge Gov. Kathleen Sebelius during a two-day swing through eastern and central Kansas today and Thursday.

## Goodland man charged with exposing himself

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Goodland man faced his victim behind closed doors Monday in Thomas County District Court.

The 16-year-old victim of Terry L. Sapp, Jr. 38, wanted his time in court before District Judge Glenn Schiffner he sentenced Sapp for exposing himself in 2004. Due to the boy's age, Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick asked Schiffner to listen to his statement in the judge's chambers.

The teen, along with Sapp, Schiffner, Wyrick, Sapp's attorney, Scott Beims of Atwood, and Thomas County Undersheriff Jason Moses were the only ones allowed in chambers.

The case against Sapp in Thomas County is a companion case to one against him in Sherman County. As part of a dual-jurisdiction agree-

ment, Sapp pleaded guilty in Thomas County to one count of lewd and lascivious behavior.

On Dec. 12 in Sherman County District Court, Sapp pleaded guilty to one count of exploitation of a 16-year-old child and one count of lewd and lascivious behavior.

Sentencing is for 10 a.m. on Feb. 13 in Goodland.

Beims argued Sapp should receive a mid-range sentence in Thomas County after losing his home and vehicle since being arrested and has not tried to have contact with any of his three victims. Beims also wanted mercy for his client for having surrendered all parental rights to his own two children offering them for adoption to his ex-wife's current husband.

“He's trying to turn his life around,” Beims said about Sapp being employed at Herl Chevrolet in Goodland. While state law does

not bind a judge to the terms of a plea agreement, Wyrick asked Schiffner to honor the agreement and to send Sapp to prison.

“It's been my general policy to honor plea agreements,” Schiffner said.

He also told Sapp since he was being sentenced first in Thomas County it would be up to District Judge Jack Burr whether his sentences would be run back to back or one after the other.

“While you were originally charged with a level 5 felony, which would mean a prison term of 10 years, I assume because of the skillful part of Mr. Beims you are getting this reduced to a level 9 (felony),” Schiffner said.

Schiffner granted Sapp a mid-range sentence and ordered him to a prison term of 14 months with the Kansas Department of Corrections and a post-release probation term of

12 months.

Should Burr follow suit and sentence in the mid-range as outlined in the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines, Sapp is looking at a prison term of 44 months out of Sherman County. Sapp also faced fines up to \$300,000; however, Wyrick and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby agreed to ask that fines not be imposed in return for Sapp's guilty pleas.

Sapp also agreed not to appeal his convictions as part of the plea agreement.

Sapp will have to submit blood and saliva samples to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation within 10 days.

And will be required to register as a sex offender immediately after serving time in prison.

That term will begin as soon as he is sentenced in Sherman County next month.

## Colby woman calls crime ‘mother's love’

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Colby woman's attorney called her crime part of a “mother's love” during a sentencing hearing Monday in Colby.

Attorney Doug Spencer of Oakley told District Judge Glenn Schiffner Connie Schiltz, 42, tried to sneak contraband into the Thomas County Jail Aug. 4 for her son, Eric Schiltz.

“I'd like the court to be advised Mrs. Schiltz has been a law abiding individual and what happened at the law enforcement center was at the behest of her son and she was trying to satisfy the desires of her son,” Spencer said. Schiltz tried to get a screwdriver, hidden

in a shirt, and a bag of chewing tobacco hidden inside a radio to her 24-year-old son who was in jail on a probation violation. He is back in jail awaiting a court date on burglary charges for the break-in at enter Murray Enterprises, Murray Roofing, JM Tree and Lawn Service and Sundance Spas located at 780 E. Fourth on Nov. 23. Schiffner sentenced Schiltz to 24 months on probation with community corrections. She'll be required to serve an additional 24 months on post-release supervision, and pay to \$852. Schiltz is required to submit blood and saliva samples to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and own no firearms for a period of five years.