

10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## House OK's revised bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the economy on the brink and elections looming, Congress approved an unprecedented \$700 billion government bailout of the battered financial industry today and sent it to President Bush for his certain signature.

The final vote, 263-171 in the House, capped two weeks of tumult in Congress and on Wall Street, punctuated by daily warnings that the country confronted the gravest economic crisis since the Great Depression if lawmakers failed to act.

Bush was poised to make a statement on the historic vote.

"We all know that we are in the midst of a financial crisis," House Republican Leader John Boehner of Ohio, said shortly before casting his vote for government intervention in private capital markets that was unthinkable only a month ago.

"And we know that if we do nothing, this crisis is likely to worsen and to put us into an economic slump like most of us have never seen."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said

the bill was needed to "Begin to shape the financial stability of our country and the economic security of our people."

Stocks were up on Wall Street, where there was a lot of anticipation of the vote but where investors also were buffeted by a bad report on the job market. The Labor Department said employers slashed 159,000 jobs in September, the largest cut in five years and further evidence of a sinking economy.

Even before the measure cleared Congress, the White House sought to dampen

optimism of its immediate impact on the economy. "This legislation is to fix a problem in our financial markets," said spokesman Tony Fratto. "It's not sold as giving a boost to the economy, but rather preventing a crisis in our economy... If it works as we hope it will, credit will be able to begin flowing again."

The House vote marked a sharp change from Monday, when an earlier measure was sent down to defeat, largely at the hands of angry conservative Republicans.

Senate leaders quickly took custody of the measure, adding on \$110 billion in tax and spending provisions designed to attract additional support, then grafting on legislation mandating broader mental health coverage in the insurance industry. The revised measure won Senate approval Wednesday night, 74-25, setting up a furious round of lobbying in the House as the administration, congressional leaders, the major party presidential candidates and outside groups joined forces behind the measure.

## County looking at salvage yards

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The Thomas County commissioners talked Monday about how to deal with supposedly unlicensed salvage yards in the county.

"The county attorney may have to be brought in to deal with these unlicensed salvage yards," Commissioner Paul M. Steele said.

Rod Taylor, the Republican candidate for sheriff and a former deputy, suggested the commissioners should have more oversight over expenditures of forfeited money by the sheriff.

Forfeited money usually comes in when officers arrest someone accused of selling drugs, Steele said. After the money is seized, he said, it's handed over to the county treasurer, who puts it in a "pending drug forfeiture fund" until a district judge decides what's to be done with it.

The judge will either decide the money should be given back to the person who it was confiscated from, or it will be forfeited to the police agency because it was being used for illegal purposes. If the judge decides the money will not be returned, he gives 85 percent to the sheriff and 15 percent to the Thomas County attorney.

Once the agency gets control of the money, the sheriff can use the money as he pleases. Taylor said he thought the commissioners should always ask the sheriff if his expenditures were approved

by the county attorney or other authority, such as the Kansas Bureau of Investigation or the state attorney general.

Steele said he was reluctant to do this because an assistant attorney general had told the commissioners they had no authority over how the sheriff spends the money.

In other business, the commissioner decided the county would take only one pass with a mower through the grass along the county roads this year.

"One mow width will be done on all county roads" Steele said, "and the rest of the grass will be left for wildlife, so pheasants will have somewhere to go when farmers are harvesting. Steele said the single pass will save the county some money, too.

He said the county spend quite a bit sealing the road south of Levant. The job was more expensive than usual this year due to high oil and fuel costs, said Claire Schrock, supervisor of the Thomas County Road and Bridge Department. He said the oil company the department usually bought from went bankrupt, so the they had to buy from a company in Denver that charged more.

The commission also approved a resolution to create a Tax Incremental Finance District to reimburse the city for expenditures made in conjunction with the infrastructure leading to the Bosselman's Truck Stop near the east I-70 exit, Steele said.

## Student takes over desk in paper's want ad unit

Jessica Estes has joined the Colby Free Press as classified advertising manager.

Estes is a sophomore student at Colby Community College, majoring in communications.

She moved to Colby during her second semester in college.

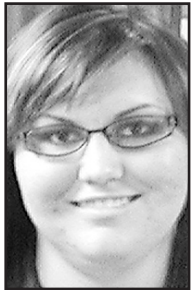
She was born in Dodge City and lived there until moving here. Estes said she enjoys being able to live on her own.

She plans to be leaving Colby next year for Manhattan, where she will attend Kansas State University. After graduating

from college, she said, she plans to go work for an advertising agency.

Estes is no stranger to the newspaper, having worked in the classified advertising department at *The Dodge Daily Globe* since high school.

"The work I'm doing here is very similar to the work I did in Dodge City," she said. Estes said she was the news editor of the school paper at Dodge City High School, but found her niche in advertising after going to work for the *Globe*.



Jessica Estes



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press



## Workers laying line close street

Workers tore out the pavement on Country Club Drive just south of Brookside Drive this week to place a sewer line to the new wastewater treatment plant east of town.

Workers for Midland Construction removed the pavement near the culvert for Turkey Creek this week. The work is part of the city's \$8 million sewer plant improvement plan, said Public Works Director Chris Beiker.

The street will be closed about a week, he said. In the meantime, drivers on Country Club will have to find a way around the site.

## Briefly

### Single seniors plan potluck

A new group for those 50 and over who are widowed, divorced, never married or have a partner in a nursing home aims for fun and fellowship.

The second gathering of the group, More Fun Together, will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided. The church is handicapped accessible; enter through the east door. For information or a ride, call (785) 462-6342.

### Knights selling Tootsie Rolls

The Colby Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Tootsie Roll drive in conjunction with Helping People with In-

tellectual Disabilities Days next weekend, Oct. 10 to 12. Knights will be in front of Wal-Mart and Dillons to hand out candy and gather donations. The money goes to the Knights' state council. Eighty percent will be used to help the Prairie Developmental Center in Atwood and 20 percent will go to the special Olympics basketball tournament at Fort Hays State University in March and for religious education of those with mental disabilities. For information or Tootsie Rolls, call Jerad Lange at (785) 460-1130 or Tom Pardee at (785) 460-0356.

### Friends to meet Monday

The Friends of the Thomas County Community Foundation will hold their annual board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at City Limits Bar and Grill, behind the Comfort Inn south of Interstate 70. Members who don't plan to attend should pick up a proxy bal-

lot at the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 14, or ask for an e-mail proxy, said Executive Director Melinda M. Olson. For information, call (785) 460-9152 or e-mail tcfcf@st-tel.net.

### Fly-in breakfast is Saturday

The Friends of the Colby Airport will hold a fly-in and breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The Eagle Med King Air, a Kansas Highway Patrol helicopter, experimental aircraft, powered parachutes, antique aircraft and radio-control aircraft are expected at the field. Tandem skydiving and plane rides will be offered. The Colby Boy Scouts will serve breakfast; proceeds will benefit youth groups and the airport. For information, call Mark at 460-4438.

### Coffee with Coaches on tap

Back by popular demand, said Coach Chris Gard-

ner, "Coffee with the Coaches," begins at 9 a.m. every Saturday during the Colby High football season at the Sports Shoppe, 400 N. Franklin Ave.

### Scouts out selling popcorn

Colby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are selling popcorn door-to-door until Oct. 26. Anyone who isn't contacted by a troop or pack member should call Gary Schuette, pack leader, at 460-0003.

### Free screening offered

Early childhood screening by professionals who know how children grow and learn will be offered Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church for infants, toddlers and preschoolers living in the Colby School District. For an appointment, call nurse Amy Huffles at Colby Elementary School, (875) 460-5111 or 460-5100.

