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Colby to receive wastewater stimulus

By Andy Heintz

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Colby is one of 12 Kansas cities to get money for wastewater infrastructure projects from the federal government under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, usually known as the Stimulus Bill.

The city will get a grant and a low-interest loan totalling \$70,500 to build a pipeline to deliver treated wastewater water for irrigation at the Colby Recreation Fields, about a mile west of the new treatment plant, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. The city will only have to pay back half the amount.

Armstrong said the city will amend the contract for construction of the wastewater treatment plant to include the pipeline.

• Approved a bid from the Johnson Service Co. for about 350 ver-

tical feet of manhole rehabilitation at a cost of \$93.50 per foot.

• Approved a bid from Tarbet Construction for the rehabilitation of the airport terminal at Shalz Field municipal airport for \$224,722 plus an add alternate bid of \$7,501.

“The add alternative is for the apron area close to Ken Bixenman’s hangar and the fuel pumps, which the Federal Aviation Administration has deemed to be private use and ineligible for (federal) funding,” said Armstrong.

Approval of the bid was contingent on an OK from the federal agency.

• Heard Recreation Director Stacey Lee give an update on the activities of her department. Tim Hutfles, councilmen for Ward III, asked if it was possible to have an open gym for adults at the Community Building. Lee said it is hard to schedule a time for open gym because the schedule us-

stantly changing. Several members of the council told Lee she was doing a good job.

• Discussed the condition of Michael Lewallen’s property at 505 S. Lincoln Ave. Hutfles said Lewallen had told him that he wanted to tear down the structure himself.

• Heard Librarian Melany Wilks give an update on the Pioneer Memorial Library. Wilks said the circulation had increased by 2.3 percent this year. She said more people are using the computer and Internet at the library instead of at home to save some money. Several council members complimented Wilks about the quality of the library programs.

• Approved providing \$850 in next year’s budget to Northwest Kansas Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Services.

• Discussed increasing the speed

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New graphic designer hard at work for paper

By Vera Sloan

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A new face at the Colby Free Press is Kathryn Ballard, who has occupied the graphic design desk in the advertising department since the first week of April.

A native of Peoria, Ill., she’s lived in northwest Kansas since she was 8. Ballard graduated from Goodland High School in 1994 and attended Colby Community College.

“I lack one semester of school to finish up in accounting and business administration, and I do intend to finish some day,” she said.

She is married to Charles Ballard. They have two daughters, Camille, 10, and Yvonne, 6.

Ballard, who worked for Wal-Mart for 10 years, said she was ready for a new challenge. She said she likes working at the Free Press, though she had no idea it would be so busy.



K. Ballard

Pickup truck burns up on I-70 east of Brewster

Motorists on I-70 were treated to the sight of a burning pickup truck Wednesday as the Colby Fire Department doused the vehicle, which caught fire around 12:40 p.m. between Brewster and Levant.

Officers from the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Thomas County Sheriff’s Office diverted traffic into the left lane for about an hour while the scene was cleared.

Colby Fire Chief Robert McLemore said the truck, a 1983 Ford Ranger owned by Stagestop Towing of Goodland, was east-bound on I-70, delivering gas to a stranded motorist. The driver pulled over near mile 41, about 10 miles west of Colby, after smelling smoke and seeing paint boiling on the hood. He jumped out of the pickup, which then burst into flames, and called 911.

The truck was completely engulfed in fire by the time the first trucks arrived. Fire fighters put out the fire and the truck was towed



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
A 1983 Ford Ranger caught fire on I-70 Wednesday. The Colby Fire Department was on hand to put out the fire and no one was injured.

away. The driver was not hurt, but the pickup is a total loss.

McLemore said the fire appeared to have started in or near

the carburetor, since that was the most damaged area, but the exact cause had not been determined.



VERA SLOAN / Colby Free Press
Arliss Phillips talked with daughter Pam Altman of Dallas, son David of Prairie Village and Whisper, her Springer spaniel, while the movers were busy loading up a truck for the move to Dallas. Phillips said she will take many good memories of Colby with her.

Well-known resident moving out of Colby

By Vera Sloan

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Arliss Phillips’ departure from Colby marks the end of an era for a family name that was synonymous with this town for many years.

Phillips’ husband Don was a Colby lawyer and businessman and wrote a column, “Mostly Movies,” for the Colby Free Press for many years, which was about practically everything except movies.

“I’m moving to Dallas,” Phillips said, “and will be only about a block and a half from my daughter Pam, which is a good move, I guess, and of course I’m taking Whisper with me.”

Whisper is the springer spaniel that accompanied Arliss around town.

“I’ve lived in this house since 1940,” she said, “and it’s hard to leave.”

She said she went to college in New York and Minnesota, and was a Golden Gopher, but learned to become a Jayhawk when she married Don Phil-

lips.

“We met at a Democratic convention and got married in the Brown Palace hotel in Denver...,” she recalled. “When we were ready to get married, Marge and Penny Rouiler left the Democratic convention in Chicago and flew into Denver to stand up with us. Those were good days.

“Don owned the Lyric Theater, and then he made it into two theaters. He helped get the jog in Interstate 70, so that it would come close to Colby; he helped get the college started; he built the drive-in movie; and he had such an interest in the museum.

In the last years before Don died, he and Arliss could be seen on nice days, driving with their dog to the Atwood Lake to feed the geese.

“I’ll really miss my neighbors and the town I’ve lived in for so long,” she said, “but I guess it’s time for me to be closer to my kids.”

“Mom will be a very young 89 this summer,” said her son Dave, who lives in Prairie Village, “and this move will sure make it a lot easier on us kids.”

Briefly

‘Wise Up’ blood tests available

Wise Up, Count Down participants can get their wrap-up (fasting) blood test from 6 to 9 a.m. through Friday at Citizens Medical Center Lab. This is your chance to see how your hard work and healthier diet have “counted down” your numbers. For those who had blood work in January, this testing is free. If you did not get the blood test then, the fee is \$10. For questions, call Diann Gerstner at 460-4582.

City spring cleanup this week

The annual Colby spring cleanup will be today through Friday. Residents are urged to use this time to spruce up their yards. The city will remove items placed at the curb. (This does not include businesses or rental or commercial property.) Civic groups are asked to clean up along major streets. For information or to schedule a pickup, call 460-4410.

Gymnastics meet Saturday

About 95 area students age 3 to 13 will compete in the Tumbleweed Tumblers Gymnastics competition from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building. Events will include bars, beam, vault, pommel and floor. For information, call Ashley Haines at 443-1601.

Legion has band for dance

The Colby American Legion will have a dance for the public from 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the post hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. The Jacksions will be playing. Cost is \$5 per person at the door. There will be refreshments. For information, call Jim Griffin at (785) 269-7074.

Heartland play this week

Heartland Christian School’s spring production, “Real Evidence,” will be at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the school. Donations will be accepted to help

with drama class expenses. For information, call Tiffany Shaw at 460-6419.

Carriers to collect food

Colby letter carriers will be collecting nonperishable food donations along their routes Saturday for delivery to the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank in the annual “Stamp Out Hunger” drive. The National Association of Letter Carriers, the carriers’ union, says this is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Donations should be placed by the mailbox before mail is delivered. For questions, call Sharlene Scheck, 462-7904.

Girl Scouts to collect flags

Members of Troop 165 of the Colby Girl Scouts, led by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, are collecting old U.S. flags to conduct an honorable disposal. People can put worn flags in a box in the lobby of the Pioneer Public Library from Monday through Wednes-

day, May 20, she said. “Flags should be disposed of if they appear to be excessively dirty, faded, repaired to a point where they are no longer recognizable, or in general disrepair,” she said. For information, call Ostmeyer at 460-3298.

College band concert Tuesday

The Colby Community College instrumental music department’s Spring Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center, featuring the Concert Band and Jazz Band directed by Tony Schroer. Everyone is invited to this free performance. For information, call Schroer at 460-5519.



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