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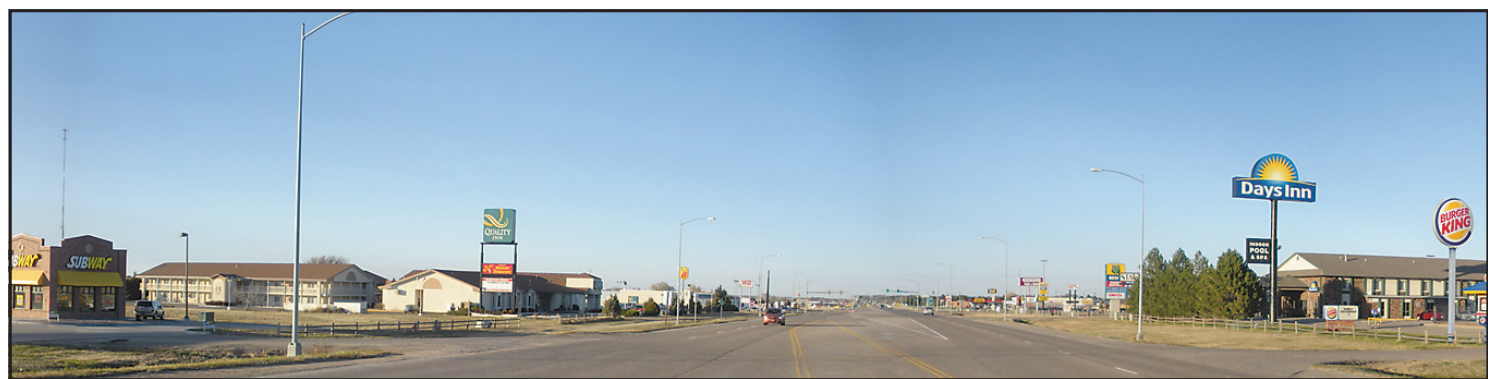
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# COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages



Leon Volk

This stretch of South Range Avenue from the I-70 interchange to College Drive is the site the Colby Tree Board has picked to plant 85 new trees. There are a few trees already on this part

of Range, mainly in front of the Days Inn and Colby Community College.



Leon Volk

The Colby Tree Board proposed several plans with different numbers of trees and varied space between them. These artist representations show what the southern portion of the project would look like with 18 new trees (above) and 24 new trees

(below). The trees shown here are fully grown to about 45 feet and would be trimmed to allow people passing by to easily see under them.



## College board to correct meeting error

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
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Lynn Kreider, president of Colby Community College said there will be a special college board of trustees meeting this Monday to correct the way a new board member was selected last Monday.

The board voted by written ballot for Dale Herschberger to replace William Biel who resigned before his term was up. While the winner was publicly announced during an open session, the way each board member voted and the names of the other candidates were not.

The other candidates running for the position were Larry McDonald and Kimberly Bear.

Kreider said the board will fix this irregularity when they meet at 8 a.m. at Thomas Hall on Monday.

In other news, the board:

- Approved relocation expenses to help recently hired employees move. Teachers, coaches and support staff will be paid \$2,000. Directors will get \$5,000 and vice presidents will get \$10,000.
- Listened to Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs; say

the college has \$5.5 million left in their annual budget. This represents about 42 percent of the yearly budget.

• Tabled a decision to renew the contract of J & R Marketing until next month. The business is run by Rich and Judy Epp. The company handles television advertising for several businesses in northwest Kansas. Rich Epp announces Colby high school and college athletics on the college radio station 91.9 KTCC. He announces the college's basketball and baseball games and the high school's football, wrestling, and basketball games.

• Heard Alan Waites go over the cost and benefits of current school programs. He said school programs that cost a lot such as the nursing program and vocal music programs need to increase enrollment in order to align the benefits with the costs.

• Listened to Waites say the school received \$3,527 million from the county tax in January and \$1.267 million from the state operating grant.

• Heard the cash balance for the college on Jan. 31 was \$2.7 million.

## Board to line Range with new trees

By Vera Sloan

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It may be hard to visualize a tree-lined parkway in full leaf when there's snow on the ground and the temperature is below freezing, but go ahead, because come spring, the Colby Tree Board will be planting trees along each side of South Range Avenue from Interstate 70 to College Drive.

Armed with the idea that trees are important to the economic and environmental health of a city, and determined to start replacing Colby's dwindling public tree population, the board plans to plant 85 trees along Range.

Members says Colby needs to boost a tree population since the town has lost 40 percent of its public, or street, trees since 1983.

"When the South Range Project is finished, there will be 35 trees between Arby's and College Drive on the east side of Range, and 50 from McDonalds to the Farm Credit

building at College Drive on the west side," said Mike Woofter, a tree board member.

The first move the board made after obtaining Tree City U.S.A. designation for Colby last year, he said, was to plant trees at the city ball fields in the northeast part of town, at the end of Ninth Street.

With the city's cooperation, they ramrodded the removal of more than 10 dead and dying trees in Fike Park in downtown Colby. New trees are slated to take their place later last year.

The trees on Range will be watered through a drip system and should grow to around 45 feet at maturity. They will be trimmed up to a "business friendly" height so that they won't block the view of shops and stores on either side of Range.

Tree species were chosen for color, longevity and disease resistance, Woofter said. The board plans to plant Caddo maple, which turns a brilliant color in the fall, golden rain-tree, American elm and Shumard oak, also

a bright red in the fall.

Earth Works Landscaping of Colby was awarded the bid for the trees. The Tree Board was able to use a portion of their budget, and The Colby Visitors and Convention Bureau added \$15,000.

Trees are expected to arrive around March 20. They will be between 8 and 10 feet tall and about 2 to 2 1/2 inches around.

Board members estimate the total cost of the project at between \$40,000 and \$50,000. That should be a bargain, since the American Forestry Association estimates that over its average lifetime, each tree will produce more than \$57,000 in environmental and economic benefits through energy conservation, erosion control and air-pollution benefits.

The costs for boring for the water line under driveways and streets is being donated by S&T Telephone, Woofter said. Orscheln's has donated supplies, Colby Lumber donated

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## Walk Kansas to begin in March

By Vera Sloan

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Everyone who has ever begun an exercise program knows you start out with great intentions of keeping up with it, yet there's an old adage that says good intentions pave the road to some warmer place.

But if you want to stay motivated for exercise, it helps to have support from friends, and that makes the Walk Kansas program the one to start.

"Although the walk begins on March 7, which is a Sunday, the registration has been extended to Monday, March 8, by 5 p.m. to give everyone a chance to make

sure they are registered," said Thomas County Extension Agent Diann Gerstner.

Gerstner said everyone who joins Walk Kansas will receive a weekly e-mail newsletter with motivational tips on how to lead a more active lifestyle, advice for good nutrition, recipes and strategies to reduce stress. Since the walk is designed for teams, team members can support each other and keep everyone walking.

"Walkers will be able to check their progress online to compare with others across the state in a friendly competition to keep the journey fun and to motivate teams to keep walking," Gerstner said.

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## Municipalities group to hold \$240,000 party

TOPEKA (AP) — As cities across the state struggle with budgets and layoffs, the organization that represents city governments at the Kansas Statehouse is planning to spend \$240,000 to commemorate the group's 100th anniversary.

On top of that, cities are being asked to donate anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to sponsor a "gala celebration" as part of the anniversary.

The League of Kansas Municipalities last week sent a letter to

nearly every city in the state asking for sponsorship money that would be used for a gala in conjunction with the league's annual conference in October in Overland Park.

"We are celebrating essentially 100 years of good government in Kansas," said Don Moler, the league's executive director. "The suggestion was made, and we have asked members if they wish to donate some small amount of money towards helping us to provide extra training and highlight

what the league does."

The league provides a variety of services — including legal advice, training and legislative lobbying — to cities that pay dues to the nonprofit organization.

Thus far, no city has agreed to sign up as a sponsor, said Kimberly Winn, the league's director of communications. But Winn said several cities had inquired about the sponsorships in the week since the letter had been sent and said they may do it depending on how their budgets work out.

"We really don't know right now if anybody will be contributing to the 100th," Winn said. "We're not going to push anybody, given their situations."

Regardless of the sponsorships, the league already has budgeted money from its reserve fund to spend on its 100th anniversary. In 2009, the league spent \$66,000 on anniversary preparations, and in 2010 the organization is budgeted to spend \$174,000 for anniversa-

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## Legislators to hold town meeting Saturday

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and State Rep. Jim Morrison will hold a town hall meeting from 9:45 to 10:45 Saturday at the Quality Inn, 1950 S. Range Ave.

They will be holding similar meetings in other towns around their districts Saturday.

• Goodland	High School Auditorium	7-8 a.m.
• Hoxie	Elks Lodge	11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
• Hill City	Frontier Stage	1:30-2:30 p.m.
• Plainville	Hospital Cafeteria	3:15-4:15 p.m.

## Briefly

### RC Club to hold Sunday races

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold races from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome; the church can provide cars. For information, call Kent Higerd at 462-3440.

### Sacred Heart carnival Sunday

Sacred Heart Catholic School's annual carnival will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, featuring food, games and a raffle drawing at 3. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

### Orchestra to play this weekend

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will hold a "Jeans and T-shirts" concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. The orchestra will perform a variety of music from "Symphony in G Minor" to selections from "Star Wars." Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for seniors

and children. For information, call Carol McGuire at (785) 672-2380.

### No couples dances until May

There will not be a singles and couples dance in March or April. The next dance will be a free dance from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 1, at the Colby American Legion Hall. For information, call Lue Duffey, (785) 855-2341.

### 'Brown Bag' series continues

The Thomas County Ministerial Association will sponsor the *Lenten Brown Bags and Bibles* program at noon each Wednesday throughout Lent with the theme, "The Prodigal Son." Speakers will be Jarrod Spencer, Church of Christ, on Wednesday; March 10, Steve Todd, College Drive Assembly of God.; March 17, W.G. Romine, Redeeming Love Ministries; March 24, Larry Booth; March 31, Spencer.

Come to the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 545 W. Fourth St. Bring your own lunch; beverage and dessert will be provided. Call 462-6342 for information.

### District offers trees for planting

The Thomas County Conservation District is offering trees for sale to raise money to help pay for its annual meeting and for youth conservation education. Orders are due Friday, March 5. Varieties including eastern red cedar, cottonwood, burr oak and choke cherry. The trees will be delivered to the conservation office, 915 E. Walnut, on Saturday, March 27. For information, call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482.

### Gem Lions plan soup supper

Winter days are good for homemade soup, corn bread and crackers, and that's what's on the menu

from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at the Gem Community Building. Donations will be accepted, with proceeds going for community projects.

### Professor to speak here

Dr. Ron Green, a professor of religion at Dartmouth University, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College as part of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series. Sue Evans will give a review of Green's book, "Babies by Design," at noon Wednesday, March 3, at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528.



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