

Friday

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Software headaches still plague county

By Vera Sloan

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Christiansen said he was having a really "bad hair day" after he heard at a meeting last Friday that the treasurer's office was still having problems with the new software system.

commissioners if she could close her of- day's paid-in and paid-out accounts. fice an hour early, at 3 p.m., because the crew was still having problems balancing out each day's work. She said closing County Commission Chairman Ken early would be a big help, at least until continue until we are totally familiar with treasurer's office close at 3:30 p.m. from her office has become completely com-

> fortable with the new system. She said it is impossible to run the endof-day reports as long the office is doing getting better and that her reports, as of business. She has to wait until all transac-

"I have been staying in my office until 1 a.m. for several days," she said, "and I guess that is something that will have to the new changes unless you are willing to come up with some overtime pay."

She added that the process is slowly Thursday, are balanced up to April 22, Applebury promised that her office would Treasurer Donita Applebury asked the tions are done before she can close out the but she feels it's strange that reports ran return to a 4 p.m. closing as quickly as See "SOFTWARE," Page 3

on the old system were only two pages, possible whereas on the new system, it takes up to 150.

The commissioners agreed to let the Monday to the end of the month, and said that if that doesn't give her office enough time, they (commissioners) would consider closing another half hour earlier.

Trish Langley of Rain or Shine Custodial Services told the commissioners she

needs a new push mower for the office complex and courthouse lawns because the riding mower was not good for the grass at either place. She said it doesn't cut evenly and leaves tracks. After seeking bids, she said, she found a new mower

Just made a new friend



Piper Koerperich (right) and her dog Stella were among a groomed dog and Edna Heier (left) seemed to have a mutual group from the 4-H dog obedience project that visited Prai- admiration attraction when she reached out a hand to pat the rie Senior Living Center on Tuesday. The freshly bathed and little guy's head.

VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

City moves on airport extension

By Andy Heintz

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The city of Colby is moving praisal. forward with a project to expand the main runway at Shalz Field Municipal Airport.

The City Council, meeting Tuesday at City Hall, approved having HWS Consulting Group, the Manhattan engineering firm working on the project, negotiate with two firms to work on appraisals for land acquisition.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the runway will be expanded from 5,109 feet to 6,200 feet. In order for the runaway project to be finished the city needs to buy land from property owners near the airport.

The two firms, Fletcher Simmons & Jeff Holgerson of Manhattan and Roger Turner from Wichita, were chosen after the engineers had interviewed 31 firms from Kansas and Nebraska, said firm will do the appraisals and the Wichita firm will review the work.

Driggs said 20 tracts need to be acquired near the airport, ranging from .08 of an acre to 89.3 acres. See "AIRPORT," Page 3

Driggs said his firm has checked with the Federal Aviation Administration and they said that 18 of the 20 tracts require a full ap-

HWS will send the appraisal firms a list of the property and they will write out contracts that the council will have to approve.

In other business, the council:

· Approved a certificate of substantial completion for the standpipe project on East Willow Avenue near the east exit on Interstate 70. Public Works Director Chris Bieker said the standpipe is done other than one light on top.

· Approved a certificate of substantial completion on the Lift Station Project on North Copeland Avenue. Armstrong said the the final payment to Smokey Hill Heavy Contractors from Salina for the project was made Monday.

· Heard Armstrong say she turned in an annual report to Linda Swails, energy services specialist for the Western Area Power Ad-Buck Driggs, regional manager ministration in Loveland, Colo., for HWS in Kansas and Iowa. explaining the city's integrated Armstrong said the Manhattan resource plan on electric use. She said she needs to submit the plan each year because the city receives hydro power from the agency. She asked if anyone in the public or on

Gem couple to open cafe at downtown Colby location

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press vsloan@nwkansas.com plan to open Smoffee's, a breakfast-and-lunch cafe, this month in the former J&B Meat Market building at 365 N. Franklin.

The restaurant will offer homegrilled panini sandwiches and other tasty foods, they said.

"We plan on serving breakfast items like mega muffins, bagels, biscuits and gravy and breakfast sandwiches," Shawn Larson said, "and for lunch, we'll offer unique, tasty sandwiches. To satisfy your sweet tooth, we'll have homemade cookies, brownies and pies."

"It will be a gathering place for people to connect, meet and reconnect in a pleasant environment where they can sit and have a cup of gourmet coffee or tea."

The couple said they plan to

day mornings, along with music coffee-equipment business,0 sellan older crowd might enjoy. On ing to new and existing businesses Shawn and Mary Larson of Gem Friday and Saturday nights, there all over the United States, and in will be comedy, light rock and traditional acoustic music for the younger crowd.

He added that local musicians in Denver. have expressed an interest in percooked daily specials, soups, hot forming at various times when the bination of their featured drinks, public is enjoying food and drink.

Larson said they believe they are filling a unique niche by providing a smoke-free, communityoriented venue, along with proarea for breakfast and lunch.

He said they will make the location available to rent for group ing forward to getting to know the meetings and get togethers.

elementary and high school here place out. and was on the Colby High dance team. She said she has experience but they hope to be going within in the food business.

Shawn, from Denver, has spent said.

offer senior specials on Satur- the past eight years working in the the custom table-top manufacturing business. He also helped his family in the restaurant business

The name Smoffee's is the comsmoothies and coffee, and uses the first initial of their names plus the word coffee, Larson said.

They couple said they want to be active in the community and viding a service for the downtown plan to offer delivery to downtown businesses soon.

Shawn added that they are lookpeople of Colby and they invite Mary, a Colby native, went to everyone to come and check the

Opening day is undetermined, the next two weeks, the couple

Beginner trio



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Fourth graders Miles Hoagland (from left), Abbie Kummer and Alex Beitz were a featured trio at the fourth and fifth grade band concert Thursday at the Colby Grade School auditorium. When the fifth grade band performed later, the fourth graders – who play recorders – got to stand by and watch the instruments they are interested in for next year.

Briefly

Postal carriers collecting food

The National Association of Letter Carriers will hold a food drive Saturday. Leave nonperishable food items on or by your mailbox and carriers will pick them up. All of the items will go to Genesis-Thomas County food bank. For information, call Eileen Harris at the Colby post office, 462-7904.

Gem Lions to dish spaghetti

The Gem Lions Club plans a spaghetti supper from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday to raise money for Bill Dewey of rural Gem. who lost his wife Jennillee in a home fire early March 29. The Lions ask everyone to come help.

Band plans concert in the park

The Colby High School band will hold their last concert of the year at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Fike Park.

For information, call director Joey Nichols at 460-5300.

Pay property taxes by Monday

The second half of 2009 property taxes is due to the county treasurer's office by Monday. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Mailed taxes must be postmarked by Monday. For information, call Treasurer Donita Applebury at 460-4520.

Junior golfers to meet, practice

The Colby junior golf program will have registration and a parents' meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Meadow Lake Golf Course. The meeting will end with the program's first practice. For information, call Miles Ladenburger at 460-7687.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building may be accessed by an elevator near the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Treasurer to close at 3:30 p.m.

The Thomas County treasurer's office will close at 3:30 p.m. until Monday, May 31, while employees work on software conversion. Treasurer Donita Applebury said the office will go back to the regular 4 p.m. closing time earlier if possible. For information, call the office at 460-4520.

Red Cross needs your blood

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive The group More Fun Together plans a potluck from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Community

Building. To schedule an appointment, call (800) 733-2767.

Methodists plan summer camp

The Colby United Methodist Church will have enrollment for its Summer Youth Program from 4 to 6 p.m. next Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18, at the church. The program, for children age 3 through sixth grade, will run Monday to Wednesday each week from June 7 to July 7. For information, call the church at 460-2761.

