



# College board hears update on MAC plan

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Vern Henrick, fund-raising expert for the Multi-Purpose Activity Center project, told the Colby Community College board last week that the center has some obstacles to overcome before it becomes a reality.

"Can the center secure enough people? Will it sustain itself? Will it be affordable for all?" he asked.

Henrick used statistics to make the case that the answer to all these questions is yes. Staff expenses, for instance, would be \$73,280 in the first year, he said.

Henrick said many people in the community were inspired by the idea of coming together to work on a project. He said the center will offer increased fund-raising opportunities for organizations and sports teams, increased event opportunities for the community and increased recruitment and retention for Colby and the college.

"You have the opportunity to be a stopping point for many people,"

Henrick said.

He said private donations and a partnership with the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance were two ways of raising money for the center. He discussed whether the center should be built as planned or if it should be built closer to the college.

"We are looking to make sure the building is put in the right place," Henrick said.

No decision was made on where the center will be built. Board member Mark Winger will be working with the center committee on the project. The members of the committee include president Ashley Moser, an employee of Farmers and Merchants Bank; vice president Lynn Eisenbart, an employee of Commercial Sign; treasurer Chris Halbleib, accountant at Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball; secretary Tanya Staats, athletic/activity secretary at Colby High School; her husband Bryan Staats, accountant at Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball; Jared

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# Young entrepreneur breeds, sells rabbits

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When you're 11 years old and become an entrepreneur by default, it's not all that bad.

That's what happened to Cassie Wells of Colby. She sort of "accidentally" got into the rabbit business. She started a few years ago with just two rabbits and this year sold more than 30.

As a five-year-old she had her heart set on the Dwarf Hotot breed of rabbit for a pet. But since Hotot are hard to find, she had to wait until her dad, Nick Wells, could help her find one.

They located a breeder in Iowa, and, coincidentally, dad's expertise as a livestock judge took him to the Iowa state fair, so Cassie went along to see the rabbit of her dreams.

"The breeder was an exhibitor at the fair," Nick said, "so we went to take a look. But there were signs on the rabbits cages that read: 'don't stick fingers in the

cage, rabbits may bite.'

"Well, that cured her of wanting the Hotot she had thought she couldn't live without, because she wasn't about to have a rabbit that would bite. So we had to search for another breed of rabbit."

Nick said they looked at Holland Lops, a breed developed from the Netherland Dwarf; they looked at the French Lop, the Mini Lop and the English Lop.

He said they liked the French Lop, but they are huge, with 14-inch ears that drag around in the cage. They were funny looking and just not exactly what the family wanted.

Cassie settled on the Holland Lop breed, a chubby, friendly little rabbit not supposed to weigh over 4 pounds, and named him Zach. After a couple of years, she began to think Zach needed company, so Zelda joined the Wells' household.

It wasn't long before Cassie was

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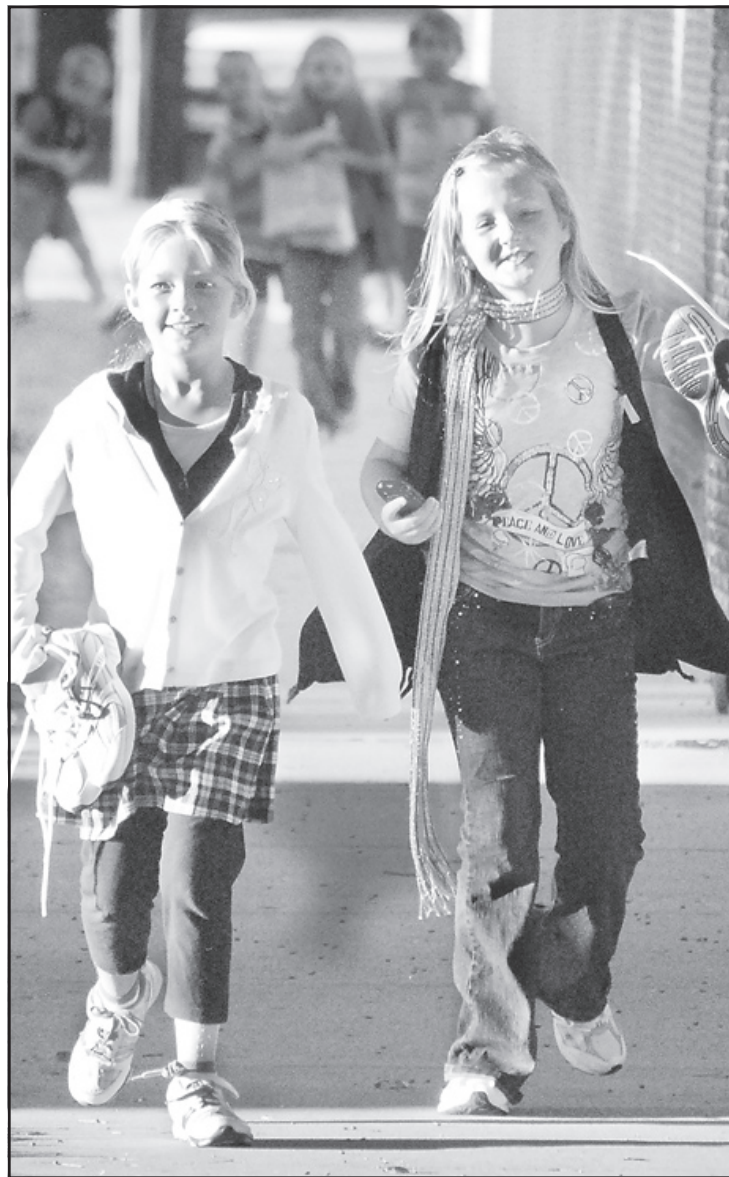
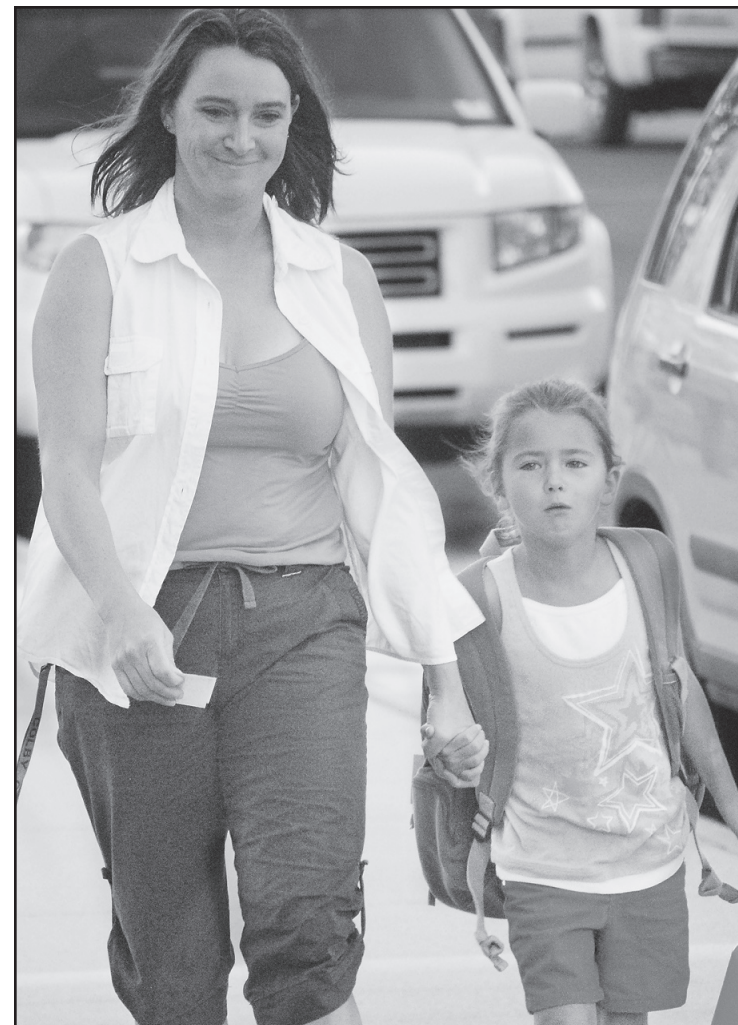
Cassie Wells



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

# Grade schoolers arrive for first day

Colby first grader Zachary Griffin (above, left) and kindergarten Gabby Griffin held the door open for their friends on the first day of school Monday. First, second and third grade parents dropped their kids off at the east entrance of Colby Grade School. Some of the parents and students like Tara and Jade Schroer (right) and Jeremiah, Peyton and Kaitlynn Faber (below right) walked together up to the school building while others like Claire and Kaitlyn Nelson (below left) were dropped off in the empty lot just south of the school.



## Check out the results from the 2010 Thomas County Fair

Inserted in this edition of the  
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## Briefly

### Firefighters collect for charity

The Colby Fire Department will collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Dillons, Walmart and at the intersection of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information call Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin at 460-4454.

### Legion to serve breakfast

The Colby American Legion will hold a pancake and sausage feed from 7 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the American Legion Post. For information, call Tracey Galli at 462-0450.

### Church plans rally this week

Trinity Lutheran Church is planning a rally at 9:30 a.m. Sunday in Fike Park. There will be Bible games for all ages and a pot luck lunch at 11:30 a.m. Bring

a favorite dish, lawn chairs and bug spray. In case of bad weather, all the activities will be held at the church. For information, call the church office at 462-3497.

### Catholic youth delivering fruit

Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization fruit sale orders can be picked up from 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the 4-H building. There will be a limited amount of extra fruit boxes available for purchase that day. For information, call Megan Augustine at the rectory, 462-2179.

### Library reviews baseball book

Pioneer Memorial Library will hold a book review for "Are We Winning," by Will Leitch as part of the *Booked for Lunch*, lecture series at noon Wednesday at the library. Nancy Saddler will be the book

reviewer. For information, call Melany Wilks at 460-4470.

### Extension center offers field day

The K-State Research and Extension Center will hold a free horticulture field day from 6 to 8 p.m. next Wednesday at the center. The program includes a tour of the Prairie Star annual flower trials and discussions with K-State specialists on insects, turf-grass, tree selection and more. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. For information, call (785) 462-6281.

### City to honor retiree

The city of Colby will have a retirement reception for Gary Berens from 3 to 5 p.m. next Thursday in the council chambers at City Hall. Berens is retiring after more than 30 years in the city electric department. For information, call City Hall at 460-4400.

### Outdoor skills day next month

The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Department and Colby Community College will hold the Northwest Kansas Youth Outdoor Skills Day and Outdoor Expo from 9 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 10 and 11 at the college and the Colby Trap Club. Activities include shotgunning, archery, compass and map reading, fishing and more. Register at Colby Lumber by Friday, Sept. 8. For information, call Wildlife Specialist Matt Bain at 462-3367.

