



COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

December 8, 2010
Volume 121, Number 190
Serving Thomas County since 1888

10 pages

City to expand Willow to 48 feet wide

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

The Colby City Council decided to widen the paving project on Willow Avenue near the Bosselman Travel Center by another 12 feet at its meeting Tuesday.

The original plan for the project was to widen the 24-foot road to 36 feet, with a 75-foot turning radius at the intersection with Country Club Drive. The project, which will widen and resurface Willow Avenue past the truck stop, is in the design phase now and city crews have already begun building a detour to the north. The project will be paid for by general obligation bonds, which will be repaid by sales taxes from a Tax Increment Finance District covering Bosselman's and the Hampton Inn.

Currently, said Councilman Mark Beringer, the intersection is too small to allow tractor trailers to

pull in and out comfortably. Beringer said cars often are lined up back to the truck stop waiting for trucks to have enough clearance to move, especially when there is a lunch rush at Wendy's.

Beringer said he was concerned that even with an expansion to 36 feet, the road still wouldn't be wide enough to handle the traffic, especially if the area builds up more in the future.

"It needs to be wider," he said. Councilman Omar Weber agreed, saying he didn't want the council to regret not having made the road wide enough 10 years from now.

"Bigger is always better," he said. Jerol DeBoer of Penco Engineering out of Plainville was at the meeting to answer questions on the design. He said the city owns enough right-of-way on either side of the road to widen it to 48 feet at the intersection. This would give enough room to have



SHELBY PULKRABEK/Colby Free Press

This patch of dirt may not look like much now, but next year it will be the entrance into Bosselman Travel Center from the Willow detour.

See "WILLOW," Page 3

New Years bash to benefit festival

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
vsloan@nwkansas.com

People looking for food, dancing and music on New Year's Eve may want to check out the New Year's Eve party at the City Limits Convention Center with the band "Mama's Boys."

Susan McLemore said as she was thinking of how good the band, with Jordon Sharp, Rusty Helin, Brock Wagoner and her sons, Blake and Brandon McLemore, is, and how much the crowd enjoyed them this summer during the Relay for Life. She said the thought popped into her head about how great it would be if they would play for a New Years Eve party.

She put her idea into action, and now it's set: The band will be playing for a dance Friday, Dec. 31, at City Limits Convention Center in Colby as a benefit for the "Pickin' on the Plains" bluegrass festival.

"Mama's Boys has a huge array of music," McLemore said, "from the '80s and '90s to modern country, and even a couple of rap pieces, and they're so funny and entertaining."

She said the Pickin' on the Plains planning committee has increased the budget for the coming year in order to bring a pair of outstanding performers, Dailey and

Vincent, to Colby. McLemore said that is a step to pushing the annual festival to an even higher level.

Dailey and Vincent were commissioned by the Cracker Barrel Restaurants to make an album of Statler Brothers music, McLemore said. She watched the band in Winfield last year, she said, and she could see that the crowd was spellbound by their performance. She noted how much the young crowd seemed to love the music.

"We were so lucky to be able to get them booked for the 2011 Pickin' on the Plains," she said, "and the New Years Eve party will be a great way to jump start financing these great bands."

The New Years event includes dinner from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with entertainment by Marshal Allen Bailey and the Silver Bullets and Larry Booth, a dance with music by the Mama's Boys from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., party favors, a champagne toast at midnight and prizes every 30 minutes.

McLemore said seating is limited, so people should make reservations early. The price is \$35 each or a table of eight for \$250.

Tickets are available at City Limits, the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the F&M Bank branch at Dillon's, any festival committee member or by calling (800) 611-8835 or (785) 460-7643.

A mix of old and new



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

The Sunflower Singers, a Colby Community College honor choir, performed carols and pop tunes before making way for a barbershop group and the college concert choir.

The Sunflower Singers, a Colby Community College honor choir, performed "Masters in This Hall," a traditional French Christmas carol, at the college vocal concert Tuesday. The

Brownback to keep transportation head, bring in five new faces

By John Milburn

Associated Press

TOPEKA — Kansas Republican Gov.-elect Sam Brownback named two legislators to his Cabinet on Tuesday and chose a consultant for the smaller-government group Americans for Prosperity as his budget director.

The six appointments Brownback announced included one holdover from Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson's administration, Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

Calling those he selected his "economic growth team," Brownback emphasized that the agencies must work together to lower the state's 6.4 percent unemployment rate and create more pri-



S. Brownback

ivate-sector jobs.

"We won't achieve our goals without cooperation," Brownback said, "and all of these things can't work if we don't get our budget under control."

He is expected to present a budget to legislators shortly after he is sworn in Jan. 10. Brownback said specific economic policies and initiatives would be released within 30 days of his taking office, something he promised during the campaign.

Brownback's choice for budget director is Steve Anderson, an Edmond, Okla., accountant who has helped the group Americans for Prosperity develop fiscal proposals in the past. Anderson also worked in the Oklahoma Office of State Finance. Anderson's job will be to develop a

budget that closes a projected revenue shortfall of nearly \$500 million in the next fiscal year. The state chapter of Americans for Prosperity developed a proposed budget that would trim Kansas government spending without raising taxes. Legislators didn't follow the model, instead relying on federal stimulus funding and raising the state's sales tax by 1 cent per dollar.

"The next few years are not going to be easy. We're going to have to make some difficult choices," Brownback said.

Brownback deflected questions about whether his administration would be looking to Americans for Prosperity and other conservative groups for advice. The group was founded by billionaire David Koch, a board member and executive vice president for Koch Industries Inc. and a brother of the refining and manufacturing

company's chief executive officer.

Anderson, a Manhattan native, also has been a fellow for the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, a conservative think tank. He helped AFP draft what the group called "commonsense" budget proposals presented this year to legislators in Kansas and Virginia.

"I'm going to look for ideas wherever I can find them," Brownback said, adding that he was taking suggestions from Parkinson and others on state spending as well.

Brownback named state Sen. Karin Brownlee, an Olathe Republican, as his secretary of labor, and state Rep. Pat George, a Dodge City Republican, as his secretary of commerce. Brownlee has served as chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, while George served on the House Taxation Committee and helped

develop a new state employee pay structure.

Former state Sen. Nick Jordan, a Shawnee Republican, is Brownback's choice for secretary of revenue. Jordan is a member of Brownback's transition team and served 13 years in the Senate working on tax policy and job creation. An unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 2008, Jordan was an architect of the Kansas Biosciences Authority, which is working to bring the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility to Manhattan.

Jordan said the goal of a comprehensive tax plan would be "to try to do everything revenue neutral."

Brownback "wants that position to be not just regulatory, not just running a few divisions, but one that really starts work-

See "BROWNBACK," Page 3

Briefly

Coalition to meet for lunch

The Thomas County Coalition, a group that works to reduce alcohol and drug use, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at El Dos de Oros restaurant in the Quality Inn. The group will discuss ideas for new projects and Jarrod Spencer will share the results of the "change tool" survey conducted in Thomas County. For information, call Mindy Ketchum at the Regional Prevention Center, 460-8177.

Library to close this week

The Pioneer Memorial Library will close from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday for staff training. The library will be open from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday and regular hours Saturday and Sunday. For information, call 460-4470.

Volunteer basket-fillers needed

Genesis-Thomas County needs volunteers to fill

Christmas food baskets at 7 p.m. Friday at the 4-H building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The baskets will be ready for families to pick up at 9 a.m. Saturday at the 4-H building. For information, call 460-7930.

First graders plan music program

Colby first graders will present a free holiday program, "Christmas Around the Clock," at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday at the grade school auditorium. For information, call music teacher Jennifer Koel, (785) 460-5100, extension 1104.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck 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. For information, call 462-6342.

Hill City artist featured at museum

Works by Hill City artist and teacher David Chalcraft are on exhibit at the Prairie Museum of Art and History through the end of December. His sculptures and paintings have been shown in regional and national shows. For information, contact the museum at 460-4590 or museumed@st-tel.net.

Massage class needs clients

The Therapeutic Massage Program at Colby Community College is offering massages by students in the Massage Clinic I class from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. For an appointment, call (785) 460-5427. The fee is \$5. Gratuities will be put into the Massage Therapy Club fund to help students pay for the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Mas-

sage and Bodywork, said Debra A. Waites, director of the program.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. Monday to Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 5 to 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Friday. Open swim is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday; 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission is \$3, but monthly and yearly passes are available. Call manager Kipp Nelson at 460-5476.

