

County sets aside money for building

From "COUNTY," Page 1

Susan McMahan, county emergency management director, told the commissioners that earlier in the year, when plans were being finished, Colby city officials read but didn't approve the final draft of the warning siren project, which falls under the countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The city asked for some changes, McMahan said, and four of the five requested changes were made. However, the city inadvertently missed approving a resolu-

tion required to qualify them for a grant under a federal pilot project. The lack of the resolution made the city ineligible for a \$105,000 grant for new warning sirens, she said.

Tuesday morning, McMahan called *The Colby Free Press* to say she had received a resolution from the city dated Nov. 2, and had faxed it to the state office. She said the state acknowledged the request and has put the city back into the grant pool.

"If we are lucky enough to get the grant, it would mean we have

to come up with only \$35,000 out of a \$145,000 project, and that would be a lot easier pill to swallow," said McMahan. "There are seven sirens in the city. The grant pays \$15,000 per siren, so we're at least back into the pool now. We won't hear anything from the grant until after the first of the year."

McMahan said two of the city's sirens are outdated. Parts aren't available for them, and the rest of them are different makes and models.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from McMahan that her office had won a \$23,000 911 emergency grant for equipment maintenance.

- Were told by the road and bridge department that the chiller-bridge installation at the courthouse was done.

- Approved a request by Rex Jamison to close 80 feet of Seventh Street between blocks 2 and 5 of the Hans Madsen Addition in Brewster. The area is in the county, but not in the Brewster city limits. The street, platted in the 1800s has never been used as a street. Jami-

son owns adjoining property, and he said closing it will give him the opportunity to buy it and it will automatically go on the tax rolls.

- Approved added taxes of \$10,290 and abated taxes of \$10,258 due to changes in ownership of mineral rights.

- Appointed Steele to the Economic Development Alliance board, Tylon Mengel to the Zoning Appeals board and Al Gerstner to the Planning Commission.

- Set their next meeting for 9 a.m. Monday in the commission meeting room in the courthouse.

Distemper cases spread to pet shops in Wyoming

From "DISEASE," Page 1

Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, said 24 confirmed cases of distemper were identified in his state, primarily at pet stores in Cheyenne and Casper that bought puppies from Fortin's kennel.

"I've been here 21 years, and that is the biggest single-source episode of distemper I've ever seen," he said. He also said he has never heard of any cases where that many dogs were euthanized at once.

O'Toole told the Associated Press that since the pet store where the disease was first identified is at a mall, it's unlikely wildlife had anything to do with the outbreak.

"We're trying to sequence the virus and see what strain of virus we're dealing with," he said. "We think it traces back to the Fortin kennel because that's where all the pups were coming from. We've found no other sources."

O'Toole said the Kansas case is reflective of a May USDA audit critical of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's enforcement efforts. Auditors criticized inspectors for being too

lenient with violators, often recommending no action be taken even for repeat violators.

Under a consent agreement between the Kansas Animal Health Department and Fortin, he can get back to business in six months if he meets stringent requirements, Brown said.

Nearly three years of USDA inspection reports for Fortin's kennels show violations for things like failure to keep adequate records, failure to adequately treat animals with health problems and allowing trash, junk and discarded kennel materials near large dog

enclosures. USDA spokesman David Sacks said Fortin was fined \$8,795 in February 2006 for facility violations, and was issued a warning letter in March for facility violations and denying access to inspectors.

"That's round one," he said. "An official warning does not bring a fine, but it puts people on notice that if the violations are repeated there will be stricter penalties."

He said the USDA would inspect the kennel property after state investigators finish their probe, and additional sanctions could be levied.

Lovable frog available; money helps patients

From "FROGS," Page 1

ing of how she could help the recently formed foundation, and the idea of making the little frogs like the ones she had seen at a craft show popped into her head.

"I called my stepdaughter, who lost her mother to cancer several years ago, and who serves on the foundation board, to see if the board could use something like that," Taylor said. "She said 'go for it,' and that's how the Hope Frog project got its start."

She said it takes about a half a yard of fabric and 3/4 of a cup of beans for each frog, and three pairs of fuzzy, bulging eyes to complete three of the lovable and unique little critters. Taylor said the black eyed peas and pinto beans come from Century Grains in Sharon Springs.

"Once they're cut out, I can sew one up and stuff it in about five minutes," Taylor said, adding that they sell for only \$5, so nearly everyone can afford a Hope Frog.

"They make great stocking

stuffers, and are available in about any print you can imagine, from sports teams to military prints."

Dwayne Yenik, manager of Taylor's Kansas Country Store in the Southwind Plaza south of Interstate 70, said his wife Norma had gone through cancer about a year ago. Since their doctor was in Fort Collins, Colo., he said, the trips back and forth for check ups can add up. Then a friend told him he should apply to the Foundation for Hope to help with the travel expense.

"I didn't know the foundation existed," he said, "so I made an application, and by golly, in about two weeks, here came a check for \$500!"

"Those are the kinds of things that really do help."

The frogs are for sale at the Kansas Country Store and will be available at Gambino's Pizza, which Taylor also owns, after the first of the year.

"It's not a seasonal item," she said, "so they'll be available for a long time."

State Guard chief looks back

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA (AP) - Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting has seen a lot in seven years as Kansas adjutant general, challenges brought on by man-made events and Mother Nature that taxed the state's abilities.

Bunting said Monday that the Kansas National Guard and emergency management have been asked to respond to many events, from natural disasters in each of the state's 105 counties to two wars and increased demands for homeland security.

"It's been amazing, and very rewarding. Challenging, but it's been incredible actually," Bunting said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I don't know that we've fully grasped that for seven years now we never had a break."

Bunting will leave command in January when Republican Sam Brownback becomes governor. Guard Col. Lee Tafaneli, who also is a state representative, will take Bunting's place. Bunting said Tafaneli was part of a "close-knit" team that had been in place during his tenure and he doesn't see dramatic changes coming to the Kansas National Guard or emergency response.

"This is an orderly transition," he said.

Since 2003, Kansas has averaged 1,000 Guard members, men and women, a year deployed to either wars or peacekeeping missions around the globe, including repeated stints in Kosovo, Bunting said.

"We knew that the global war on terror was a long war, and we're set for it," he said, "but I don't know

that anyone could have envisioned that the operation tempo would stay at that level. And how well we've done it is encouraging."

Bunting said 2007 was the most difficult year, when a tornado leveled Greensburg, floods covered southeast Kansas and more than 3,000 soldiers and airmen were sent off to war.

"As a kid from Kansas, I knew we'd have some storms," he said. "I don't know that anyone could have envisioned the year we had in 2007."

Bunting said response time was complicated then by the fact that so much of the National Guard's equipment was in either Iraq or Afghanistan. At the time, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and other governors facing similar circumstances pleaded with President George W. Bush and the Pentagon to increase spending to replace trucks, generators and other equipment needed to respond to disasters at home.

States have received more equipment in recent years as part of a \$30 billion plan to reset National Guard units, Bunting said. He said he would give the current situation a "B" grade, especially with the number of heavy trucks and transportation systems available.

Bunting said attending the burials of 11 soldiers killed in combat was one of the hardest parts of the job.

"I always say the best way to honor their sacrifices is to live our lives the best way we can," Bunting said.

He said it is likely that Kansas soldiers will continue to be called to war.

Weather Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Friday: A slight chance of flurries before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. South wind around 5 mph becoming west.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. West wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

Wednesday: High, 44; Low 19
Precip: Wed. 0.00 inches
Month: 0.07 inches
Year: 18.22 inches
Normal: 20.34 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:58 a.m. 5:22 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Repealer named

TOPEKA (AP) - Kansas Gov.-elect Sam Brownback has chosen a veteran of state and local governments to lead a key initiative designed to make the state more efficient and business friendly.

Brownback announced Thursday that 61-year-old Dennis Taylor will lead a new Office of the Repealer.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Saturday Evening											December 18, 2010				
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30					
KAKE/ABC	Dog for Christmas		Madagascar								Local				
KBSL/CBS	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Miami		48 Hours Mystery						Local				
KSNK/NBC	The Office		WWE Tribute		Law & Order: SVU						Local	Saturday Night Live			
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Amer. Most Wanted								Fringe	Wildie	Local		
Cable Channels															
A & E	The First 48		Marijuana: A								Meth's Deadly High	The First 48			
AMC	Miracle-34 St.												Holiday		
ANIM	Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole						Pit Bulls-Parole		
BRAVO	House		House		House		House						House		
CMT	Pure Country			CMT Music									Dances With Wolves		
CNN	CNN Presents		Larry King Live		Newsroom			CNN Presents					Larry King Live		
COMEDY	Sinbad: Where		Kevin Hart		Katt Williams: It's Pimpin'								Dave Chappelle	Funny	
DISC	Ten-of-the Mafia		Almost, Away					Ten-of-the Mafia					Almost, Away		
DISN	Fish Hook	Fish Hook	Fish Hook	Fish Hook	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Shake it	Fish Hook			
E!	Knocked Up										Kendra	The Soup	Chelsea	Fashion	Kardash
ESPN	College Football		College Football												SportsCtr
ESPN2	College B	Wm. Volleyball													Winners Bracket
FAM	Toy Story				Santa Claus, Town									Happy Feet	
FOOD	Mc.-Fieri Feast		Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners					Iron Chef America		Diners	Diners	
FX	Pineapple Express		Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men					It's Always Sunny			Deck the Halls	
HGTV	Divine	Color	Genevieve	Block							House	Hunters	Hunters	Genevieve	Block

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	The Naturalized			Grail in America									The Naturalized	
LIFE	Deck the Halls		Marry Me											
MTV	True Life		Pranked	Pranked	Pranked	Pranked					The Challenge: Cutth		16 and Pregnant	
NICK	iCarly	Big Time	Victoriou	Jackson	Lopez	Lopez					Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny
SCI	Red: Werewolf Hunter		The Cave										The Hitcher	
SPIKE	The Transporter		The Transporter										Die Another Day	
TBS	Fred Claus										Billy Madison		Glory-Dz	
TCM	Meet John Doe										Mr.Deeds-Town		Friendly	
TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Hard Evid.		48 Hours: Hard Evid.				48 Hours: Hard Evid.	
TNT	The Wizard of Oz												Shrek 2	
TOON	Stuart Little				King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Bleach	Kekkaishi				
TRAV	Carnivore	Carnivore	When Vacations		When Vacations		World						When Vacations	
TV LAND	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond			Hot in Cleveland	
USA	Titanic										Psych		Action Sports	
VH1	Back to the Future										Entourage		Entourage	
WGN	Bones		Miracle-34 St.								How I Met	How I Met	South Pk	South Pk
Premium Channels														
HBO	The Book of Eli										Ricky Gervais: Out, England		24/7 Penguins	The Book
MAX	Indecent Proposal										Couples Retreat		Lingerie	Busty Cop
SHOW	Extraordinary										Boxing		Dexter	Basterds

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Sunday Evening											December 19, 2010			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30				
KAKE/ABC	The Santa Clause 2		Santa Clause 3								Local			
KBSL/CBS	Survivor: Nicaragua										Local			
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football									Local	Dateline NBC		
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy								Local			
Cable Channels														
A & E	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels	Jewels					Motley Crue	Jewels	Jewels	
AMC	Miracle-34 St.												Christmas	
ANIM	I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive		The Haunted						I Shouldn't Be Alive		I Shouldn't Be Alive	
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Housewives/Atl.		Happens				Housewives/Atl.		Happens	
CMT	October Sky				Doc Hollywood								Larry the	
CNN	State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom						State of the Union		Larry King Live	
COMEDY	Strange Wilderness		Jackass: Number Two								Jackass: The Movie			
DISC	Man vs. Wild		Man vs. Wild		Man vs. Wild						Man vs. Wild		Man vs. Wild	
DISN	Hannah	Shake it	Sonny	Hannah	Hannah	Hannah					Shake it	Shake it	Hannah	Hannah
E!	Bridalplasty				Kendra	Married					Fashion	Chelsea	Kendra	Married
ESPN	SportsCtr	30 for 30									SportsCenter			SportsCtr
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Poker Stars		Poker Stars						Poker Stars			Poker Stars
FAM	Toy Story 2				Toy Story 2								J. Osteen	Ed Young
FOOD	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Iron Chef America						Cupcake Wars			Iron Chef America
FX	Horton Hears				Horton Hears									Deck the Halls
HGTV	Holmes	Holmes	Holmes Inspection		House	Hunters					Income	Income		Holmes Inspection
HIST	Ax Men		Ax Men		Top Gear						Brad Meltzer's Dec.			Ax Men
LIFE	Marry Me													Home by Christmas
MTV	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant		Teen Mom 2: Catch-Up						Teen Mom	True Life		Vice
NICK	Curious George				The Nanny	The Nanny					The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny
SCI														