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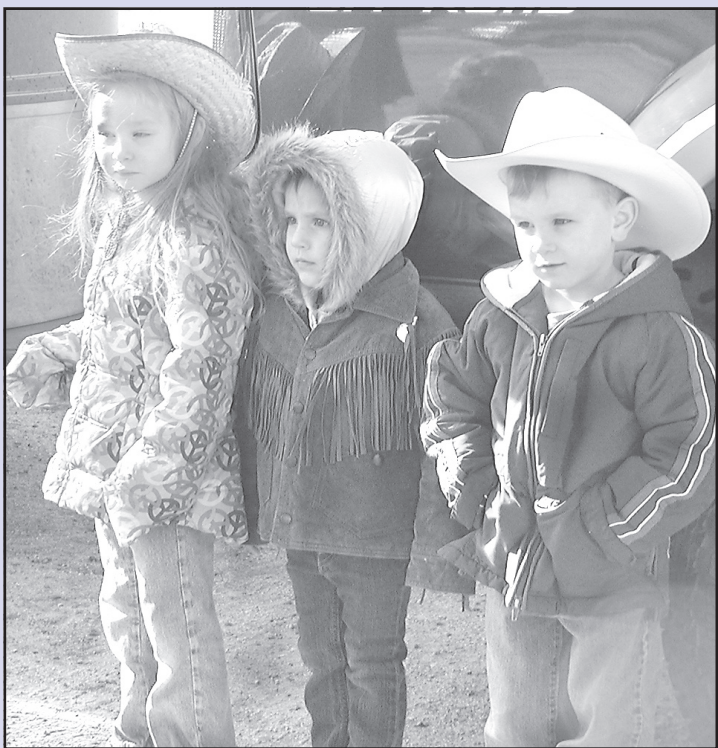
Kids learn Kansas history from ‘cowboy,’ his horse



Kora Busby (center, above) smiled up at Storm while his owner, Clair Schrock, Thomas County road superintendent and a member of the fair board, watched from the side. Cody Wright (left) took a ride on Storm at a learning event Thursday for Kansas Day at

Sacred Heart School. Chloe Ackerman (from left, below), Sophia Dainty-Guilfoyle and Beckett Dixon waited for their turns in the saddle. The kindergartners were learning Kansas history to be ready on the state’s 151st birthday on Kansas Day, Jan. 29.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press



Panel questions postal action

The Postal Regulatory Commission has recommended the U.S. Postal Service take another look at its approach to closing post offices, supporting many criticisms made by National Newspaper Association in fall testimony.

The commission released its opinion in a Postal Service proposal to close 3,500 retail offices laid out in a case titled “Retail Access Optimization Initiative.” The service is required to seek the commission’s input whenever it embarks on major changes.

The newspaper group joined the case, arguing that although it did not oppose all closings of small post offices, the selection of offices to be closed and the manner in which the service sought public feedback had been flawed.

The commission agreed with the association and suggested the service revise its plans.

Commission Chair Ruth Goldway was particularly critical in a separate opinion, saying the proposals “reveal a pattern of inaccurate and overly optimistic economic savings calculations and of careless disregard of community concerns.”

Association President Reed Anfinson, publisher of the *Swift County Monitor-News* in Benson, Minn., said the association had achieved its goals through evidence offered to the commission.

“We said at the outset we were not opposing post office closings, but we saw major gaps in the Postal Service’s approach,” Anfinson said. “Through the expert testimony of our Postal Committee chair, Max Heath, we pointed out flaws. Now we hope to support the Postal Service in a more rational approach to this problem.”

The case involved 3,750 post offices on the service’s “hit list.”

\$3 million project would create jobs

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
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The City Council agreed Tuesday to issue a letter of intent supporting a \$3 million industrial revenue bond project which could add 10 to 15 jobs after hearing from a bond dealer representing Colby businessman Mike Woofter.

Theron Froggatte, a fiscal agent for Oppenheimer & Co., a Wichita financial firm, said Woofter wants to consolidate his office space into an existing 10,000 square-foot building, acquire and construct a new 28,000 square-foot shop with a warehouse and fabrication shop, and build a separate 16,000-square-foot warehouse in the I-70 Industrial Park, west of McDonalds and north of Interstate

70. Froggatte said Woofter is asking the city to approve industrial revenue bonds worth \$3 million to finance the project.

He started his presentation by saying that he helped obtain the same type of bonds for other projects in the past, including one that was used to redo part of the Oasis truck plaza and one used to build a new hotel in Goodland. He put together a letter for the council that outlines what they are working on.

“An industrial revenue bond is something that a city can use as kind of a pro-business vehicle,” he said. “If there is a company that you would like to work with to help them expand, a city can support an industrial revenue bond and that gives them lower prop-

erty taxes and they don’t pay sales tax on the materials....”

He said a city would normally use this type of bonds for a company that is making a lot of promises to it or has done a lot for the city in the past, and he said he believes Woofter falls into the latter category.

Froggatte said industrial revenue bonds are unusual because while the city issues the bonds, it assumes no financial risk.

“All of the risk is taken by the bank that buys that debt,” he said, “and so the city is what we call a conduit issuer so that it provides the benefits, but the bank takes all the financial risk.”

He said bonds don’t affect the city’s ability to issue new debt and

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School board watches students learning tech

By Christina Beringer
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The district technology lab facilitator showed a video developed by technology students of the Colby High School to members of the school board during a regular meeting Monday night.

Lamoreaux Fulwider, a teacher and technology lab facilitator, said she brought the video to show the skills students had learned. In the program, students were interviewed about their interests and experiences and also demonstrated their skills.

“Students are eager to enhance their technology skills,” Fulwider said. “We have several classes going on in the room all at once, and the curriculums are built for individual learning.”

“I basically facilitate and provide help when it’s needed, and the students know they can ask their fellow classmates for help, too. There is a lot of peer learning going on; problem solving and time management skills are learned.”

Students explained many of the reasons why they are interested in the classes and how the skills will help them with their individual career paths.

“In Photoshop, I learned how to make a logo for my fake business,” said freshman Hayley Mengel. “I also created letterhead and business cards which will help me after high school.”

Students used Adobe graphic design applications

in their class projects, including InDesign and Photoshopped, and Apple’s Garage Band. They learn about design, multimedia, video production, web-page design and technology support, among other things.

As sophomore Preston Butts and his partner, junior Chris Coulter, explained in the video, math and



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press
Lamoreaux Fulwider, a teacher and technology lab facilitator, presented a video by her technology students at Colby High to the school board Monday.

physics are also key components in their class.

“In Tech Ed III, we’ve built structures with K’NEX pieces and motors,” Coulter said. “They are used to find motion, and we applied physics to find out how people get motion sickness on carnival rides.”

He used three-foot-high model carnival rides to demonstrate.

Students said they learn to use software programs on PC and Macintosh computers. The board asked questions about the classes and seemed impressed with how Fulwider is able to teach several classes at once.

“I was really glad to see the students,” said board President Janice Frahm.

In other business: • High school principal Larry Gabel told the board January’s Rotary

Student of the Month is Lacy O’Neil.

He said the high school debaters did an outstanding job at state competition. Michael Tubbs and Christina Ostmeier took fourth place, Cameron McLaughlin and Tomi Miller took ninth and Hanna Matchell and Madison Gawith 19th.

Wrestlers competed in Newton against a team rated in the top 25 school in nation, Gabel said. Colby finished ninth, while Andrew Taylor and Zel Bieberle

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Threat on bathroom stall empties Goodland High halls

A bomb threat left on a bathroom stall this morning forced authorities to evaluate Goodland High School. Police dispatchers recorded the first call at 8:22 a.m. (Central Time), and students were out of class at least 3 1/2 hours.

All students and faculty were evacuated to the Northwest Kansas Technical College and the area around the high school was blocked off.

Superintendent William Biermann was preparing an automated call to parents to inform them about the situation.

The Kansas Highway Patrol’s Special Operation Response Team was called to help in the search.

Biermann said classes could resume after the search, assuming the building was declared safe.

Officers from the Goodland Police Department and Sherman County Sheriff’s Office, and units of the Goodland Fire Department, the Goodland School District, the Sherman County Emergency Management Incident Command Team, Sherman County Emergency Medical Services and the Highway Patrol joined in the search.

At noon (Central Time), police said the barricades had been taken down and all officers involved were called in for a debriefing.



Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 15. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Breezy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.
Sunday: A chance of rain and snow before noon, then a slight chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 45. Windy, with a northwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.
Monday: Sunny, with a high near 48.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 48.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 57.

Thursday: High, 31; Low 10
Precip: Thursday None
Month: None
Year: None
Normal: 0.42 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 8:00 a.m. 5:51 p.m.
Moon: waning, 3 percent
Sunday 7:59 a.m. 5:52 p.m.
Moon: waning, 0 percent
Monday 7:59 a.m. 5:54 p.m.
New Moon at 1:40 a.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Rare cranes stay around

GREAT BEND (AP) – Wildlife officials say five rare whooping cranes are spending the winter in south-central Kansas. The endangered birds have been seen on private land surrounding the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms State Wildlife Area. Dan Severson, Quivira refuge manager, said in a news release Tuesday that the birds include a family of three, one juvenile crane and a single adult. The birds usually stop in Kansas on their way to the Texas coast, but these birds appear to be settling in. Severson says it’s possible the birds are staying because of the drought farther south, combined with a mild winter. He said they have a steady source of food and water in this area.

Governor says 51 laws to go

TOPEKA (AP) – Gov. Sam Brownback is proposing that legislator repeal 51 Kansas statutes and regulations that have been determined by the administration to be unnecessary. The list released Friday includes regulations covering agriculture, property appraisal, corrections, state agency organization, state labor agency authority and county office administration. The specifics will be discussed at news conference later Friday. The Republican governor last year gave Department of Administration Secretary Dennis Taylor the task of identifying rules, regulations and laws that were considered impediments to improving the economy or reducing state government.

The governor created the Office of the Repealer in 2011. He asked Taylor to solicit ideas on ways to make state government more efficient and less intrusive.

School board watches students

From “SCHOOL,” Page 1

both took fifth in their weights, Quade Woofter finished fourth and Dustin Reed and Konnor Kriss took second. Gabel said the team’s Eagle Invitational took in \$19,681 and expenses to date total \$12,327. Mitch Thompson spoke Saturday morning during the Orange and Black Classic basketball tournament, sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the principal said. Thompson, a native of Goodland, is the assistant head coach for baseball at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Also, he said, Colby High took fifth place in the Great West Activities Conference scholar’s bowl Monday night. • Middle School Principal Robb Ross reported the round of advanced AIMSweb testing has been completed and they are recording the results. He said Oakley will take Hugoton’s place in the Middle School Great West Activities Conference league next year. The middle school music festival will be Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Colby Community College. • Grade School Principal Lance Krannawitter said parent-teacher conferences will begin the first of February. He also reported on the Grade School Site Council’s integrated improvement plan. • Harrison reported a committee will be organized to look at bullying within the district, including parents, teachers, coun-



CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press
Colby Middle School Principal Rob Ross watched a video developed by technology students at Colby High School during the school board meeting Monday.

selors and administrators. She compared the Democrats’ school finance plan with the governor’s, saying they both make her nervous. • In new business, the board unanimously approved Chris Giersch as the 2012-13 head coach for cross country, replacing Bob Mannebach. • Frahm appointed members Omar Weber and Ed Geihlsler as the boards negotiating team to deal with the teachers’ union agreement

\$3 million project would create jobs

See “SCHOOL,” Page 2
doesn’t count against the city in any fashion. Dave Voss, city council president, asked if there was any downside to the city with the bonds. Froggatte said the only downside was that if the company defaults on paying the bond, then the property taxes immediately go on the tax roll. For example, if the company defaults after five years, the city does not have to pay the taxes from those five years, but will have to pay the year after the default. Otherwise, there is a 10-year exemption on the taxes before the whole project goes on the tax rolls. Councilman Mark Beringer asked if the road in front of the site is included in Woofter’s project, and Froggatte said it is. He guided the council to two maps in their packets that showed the area Woofter is hoping to use near I-70 and Range Avenue, on Thielen Avenue behind McDonald’s. Froggatte also said Woofter hopes eventually to expand onto the other side of the street with new retail stores, restaurants and even a car dealership. However, this is not part of the \$3 million bond project that was presented to the council. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong asked if there would be a cost-benefit analysis for the project. Froggatte said a cost-benefit analysis would begin with a 10-page analysis he puts together on the project that is then turned over to the state Department of Commerce for further analysis. A motion was made and seconded to issue the letter of support, and Mayor Gary Adrian asked if there was further discussion. Pat Mallory said yes, and he said the buildings accounted for only \$2 million so he wondered what the other \$1

million was going to. Armstrong said it was for the improvements on the Cranston building, the building that is already built in the Industrial Park, and Froggatte said that a fence would be put up around the whole project, along with more improvements that weren’t listed in the packet. Councilman Tim Huffles then asked what projects the city is already involved in and Armstrong said many of the other projects were TIF, or tax increment financing, bonds. Councilman Fred Taylor noted that all the other projects the city has supported were new businesses coming to town. He said he was under the impression that in this case, they would be just moving a business from a land-locked area out to the edge of town where it could expand. Beringer noted that Woofter would be adding new buildings as well. Froggatte said that 50 percent of the bonds he’s issued in 20 years have been given to existing businesses to expand or add on, so this request is not unusual. He said industrial revenue bonds often are used as a reward for someone that has done a lot for the community. Councilman Mike Hake, said he was concerned about traffic building, noting that traffic is already bad around the McDonald’s area. Armstrong said there are some programs available through the Kansas Department of Transportation where the city, the business and the state partner to pay for road expansion or improvement. She said she had talked with transportation officials about this possibility when Woofter approached her about the project. “So it’s going to take some planning,” Armstrong said, “and it’s going to have to involve

Mike or the companies that are wanting to locate there, and the city and the state. Froggatte said he was only addressing the street at this time, because there’s a lot work to be done there. Councilman Omar Weber asked how tightly a letter of intent would bind the city. “To me, this is a awful lot of information to process tonight,” Weber said, “and don’t anybody misunderstand me, Mike has obviously done wonderful things.... A letter of intent is fine as long as its not set in stone.” Froggatte said they will move forward once a letter of intent is signed, but nothing is set until the bonds are issued. Beringer reminded Weber that the project wouldn’t cost the city anything. “We’re not liable for the bonds, we’re not liable for the interest, we’re not liable for anything,” Beringer said. “All we’re doing is sponsoring it so

Mike can get them....” “No, I understand all that,” Weber said, “but there’s a street that’s not built, there’s a second one over here....” “But that’s all in the future Beringer said. “That doesn’t have anything to do with the \$3 million.” “I understand that,” Weber replied, “but I just want to make sure that three years from now when we’re looking at this same map, going ‘OK who’s paying for this and who made this original decision,’ I want to make sure our original decision was good and to me, this is just a lot of information right now. And like I said, I have no problem with putting our stamp of approval on it as to move forward tonight as long as we’re not legally bound that this is a done deal.” Armstrong said it would take more businesses than just Woofter’s for the city to justify major development of the road system out there.

Briefly

Poodle up for adoption at Colby Animal Clinic

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a neutered male miniature poodle, tan and 12 months old, available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Hays church planning worship night in Colby

The Celebration Community Church in Hays will have a night of worship featuring music by the band Ignite at 6 p.m. Saturday in the Colby High School Auditorium. For information, call Debbie McNinch at (785) 824-8038.

K-State expert to talk on dating of dig sites

Dr. Donna Roper, a research associate professor of anthropology at Kansas State University, will talk about carbon dating of 2002 and 2003 Kansas Anthropological Training Program work sites at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Everyone is invited. The High Plains Archaeology Group will have a short business meeting after the talk. For information, call Nancy Arendt at 460-6653.

Pro-life prayer rally Sunday on Range Ave.

Everyone is invited to an interdenominational Pro-Life Prayer Rally at 3 p.m. Sunday at the northwest corner of Fourth and Range. Please come to pray for life and an end to abortion. For information, call Megan Augustine at 443-2599.

Church offering class on ‘Financial Peace’

Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University class, sponsored by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby, will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sundays beginning this weekend in the basement of the church, 1065 W. Fifth St.. To register, call Steve and Sara Juenemann at (785) 460-7725 or 443-1083.

Conservation awards coming up on Monday

The Thomas County Conservation District’s 68th annual meeting and awards banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Conservation poster winners will be recognized and two farm operators will receive the windbreak and conservation awards. Reservations were due by Tuesday. For information, call Debbie Potter at the district office, 462-7482, extension 1303.

Massage students to have clinic Tuesday

Students in the therapeutic massage program at Colby Community College will hold a massage clinic Tuesday. Cost is \$10 for 30 minutes, \$20 for an hour and \$30 for a 90-minute massage. To make an appointment, call program director Ceena Owens at 460-5427.

LOCAL TV Listings

Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Monday Evening							January 23, 2012				
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	The Bachelor				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	2 Broke G	Two Men	Mike	Hawaii Five-0		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Still Standing		Fear Factor		Rock Center		Local	Tonight Show w/Leno		Late	
KSAS/FOX	House		Alcatraz		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Hoarders		Hoarders		Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders		
AMC	Batman Begins							Batman Begins			
ANIM	Infested!		Infested!		Infested!		Infested!		Infested!		
BRAVO	Real Housewives		Real Housewives		Brad World		Happens		Real Housewives	Happens	
CMT	Overboard				Overboard						
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360		Piers Morgan Tonight		Anderson Cooper 360		E. B. OutFront		Piers Morgan Tonight		
COMEDY	Work.	South Pk	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Daily	Colbert	South Pk	South Pk	
DISC	First Week In		First Week In		Mobster		First Week In		Mobster	Mobster	
DISN	Austin	Geek Charming			Good Luck		Austin	Good Luck	Wizards	Wizards	
E!	Kourtney	Kourtney	Kourtney and Kim		Kourtney and Kim		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea		
ESPN	College Basketball		College Basketball					SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Australian Open								
FAM	Pretty Little Liars		The Lying Game		Pretty Little Liars		The 700 Club		The Lying Game		
FOOD	Heat See.	Heat See.	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FX	Mr. & Mrs. Smith				Mr. & Mrs. Smith						
HGTV	Love It or List It		House	House	House	House	My House	First	House	House	
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers		Pawn	Pawn	Cajun Pwn	Cajun Pwn	Pawn	Pawn	
LIFE	Drew Peterson				Long Island					Drew Peterson	
MTV	True Life		Caged		Caged		Caged		Jersey Shore		
NICK	My Wife	My Wife	George	George	'70s Show		'70s Show	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	Being Human		Being Human		Lost Girl		Being Human		Lost Girl		
SPIKE	Kill Bill: Vol. 1			Kill Bill: Vol. 2						Desperado	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Conan	The Office			
TCM	The Reckless Moment			Caught					Letter From an Unknown Woman		
TLC	Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss		Cake Boss:Next		Cake Boss:Next		
TNT	The Mentalist		The Mentalist		The Closer		Rizzoli & Isles		CSI: NY		
TOON	Regular	MAD	King/Hill	King/Hill	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	The Layover		The Layover		Bizarre Foods		Bizarre Foods		The Layover		
TV LAND	Home Imp.		Home Imp.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King	King	King	
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW			Raymond	White Collar		Good Luck Chuck		
VH1	Love & Hip Hop		Love & Hip Hop		T.I.-Tiny		Love & Hip Hop	Mob Wives		Hip Hop	
WGN	NBA Basketball				News/Nine		30 Rock	Scrubs	Scrubs	Sunny	
Premium Channels											
HBO	Real Time/Bill Maher		Unstoppable			F. Roach		The A-Team			
MAX	Going	My Soul to Take				Days of Thunder					
SHOW	Homeland		Californ.	Lies	Shameless		Lies	Californ.	Shameless		

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

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785-460-3321
www.fmbcolby.com

RESERVE THE DATE: January 26th, 2012.

In celebration of our 125th anniversary, we are hosting a Business After Five! Please join us at our main location, 240 W. 4th Street, as we celebrate **125 years** of growing with and serving our community!

RESERVE THE DATE
January 26th, 2012

125 YEARS