



County hears options for jail project

By Christina Beringer

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A financial advisor from a Wichita firm presented possible financing options for a new county jail to Thomas County commissioners Monday as they continued to explore the project.

John Haas of Ransom Financial Consultants gave commissioners four alterna-

tives and showed how different scenarios would affect the property tax levy. He demonstrated how a \$1 million project would compare to a \$2 million, \$3 million, \$4 million and \$5 million project, whether the county paid over 10, 15 or 20 years.

The alternatives were for general obligation bonds, revenue bonds issued by a public building commission, a lease-purchase agreement and sales-tax revenue

bonds.

No decisions were made, but a phone conference was tentatively scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Monday with Ransom's attorneys to clarify whether the county's building plans are considered new construction or an expansion. This conversation will help determine whether an election must be held to authorize the bonds and what kind of financing options are available, Haas said.

A memorandum presented by Haas from Kevin Cowan of Gilmore and Bell, the company's law firm, explained that "the county may issue general obligation bonds, receive various gifts or grants, may institute a building fund levy or may combine any of these methods.

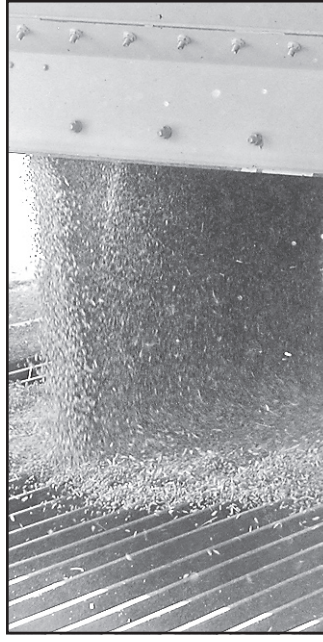
"Based on our discussions, the only feasible method contained therein would be the issuance of general obligation bonds. General obligation issues in ex-

cess of \$300,000 require a successful referendum."

The memo said general obligation bonds would count against the county's bonded debt limit and would have to be sold at public sale.

"GOB's are full-faith-and-credit obligations of the county for which the county is obligated to levy unlimited ad valorem

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Brewster harvests

Brewster was hit hard Tuesday by harvesters as semitrailer rigs (above) lined the streets, waiting to be weighed at the Brewster Co-Op. Another semi's trailer of grain (right) was probed for moisture as it was being weighed. Grain (left) was dumped in the elevator as two semis (below) drove away after dumping their grain.

KAYLA CORNETT
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City Council plans review of ordinances

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby City Council decided to review its ordinances Tuesday, especially one regarding the prohibition of nuisance vehicles, after discussing an ongoing issue over an industrial lot owned by Pete Stephens in the Interstate 70 Industrial Park at Zelfer and Thielen avenues.

The council sent a letter to Stephens around May 12 asking him to attend the next city council meeting, which was May 15, to review the use of his lot, which he uses for resale of collectible cars, antiques and other odds and ends.

The city staff has reported several oral complaints about Stephens' lot, questioning whether he was running a salvage yard, which isn't allowed within the city limits, and about the appearance of the lot, which allegedly was cluttered with strange items such as farm machinery, tanks and gas pumps.

Stephens missed the meeting on May 15 due to a schedule conflict, so the council tabled the item until the next meeting on June 5. He missed the June 5 meeting for the same reason, so the item was tabled once again.

Stephens finally made it to the

meeting Tuesday and told the council his feelings about the situation through a letter.

He said he was given permission by Building Official Rick Dickman to run his business on this lot, which was zoned as industrial, about three years ago. Stephens said he felt Dickman was representing the city and its approval of the lot.

"Looking back, I wish he had not approved it and saved me a lot of time, stress and dealing with the city," Stephens said.

He noted that before he received the letter asking him to attend the council meeting, he had cleaned up 90 percent of what he thought people were complaining about, but said he still doesn't know what exactly they were complaining about.

He said he asked Dickman to go out to the lot and see for himself, and asked him why he would need to go before the council if he had already taken care of the problem?

He said he does run a salvage yard in the county, but not on his lot in town. He said the farm machinery and gas pumps on his lot are for resale. He said he has been selling parts of the farm equipment as "steam pump industrial chic, a

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Regents OK plan to transfer more credits

TOPEKA (AP) - The Kansas Board of Regents has made it easier for college students to transfer credits among the state's colleges.

The Regents on Thursday approved 17 general education courses that will transfer among the state's 32 public institutions of higher education.

The Lawrence Journal-World reports that, depending on the credit hours taken and awarded, students may be able to transfer up to 59

credit hours between universities, community colleges and technical colleges (bit.ly/O3nXDj).

The courses approved for transfer include basic courses in government, history, English, science, psychology, economics, geography and public speaking.

Regents Chairman Ed McKechie says barriers to easily transferring credit hours stopped some students from achieving their higher education goals.

College board learns about enrollment management

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby Community College trustees heard Monday about progress on an enrollment management plan designed to involve everyone at the college in improving and increasing enrollment for the future.

Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs and marketing, said she decided to select a committee to help with the plan because she feels enrollment management is the strongest tool the college has and everyone should be involved in it.

She gave the trustees a binder of information designed to tell everyone what enrollment management is, what the college needs to do to improve it and what everyone's role is in the process.

She said the college needs to assess policies and practices that affect all areas of recruiting and retaining students, including reviewing the best practices of other colleges and using the successes of other institutions to strengthen its own enrollment.

Nichols also said the college needs to look at competition factors such as credit hours, high school graduates and declining population in the immediate area,

as well as what she called small-college necessities, including aggressive promotion of value and quality of learning experience.

She said the college's biggest strengths are its people and its size.

She said to make sure everyone follows through with this plan, the committee will meet every Friday this next year, ask the trustees to review the plan and have each department come up with enrollment goals.

"We truly need to inspire the campus community and Colby community to be engaged in this

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State dental school suggested

TOPEKA (AP) - The state should start planning its first dental college and secure seats in out-of-state schools to address a shortage of dental care across Kansas, a higher education task force said in a report submitted Thursday to the Kansas Board of Regents.

The regents appointed the 11-member task force in October to study ways to improve delivery of dental care in a state where 93 of 105 counties do not have enough dentists to serve their residents.

Kevin Robertson, executive director of the Kansas Dental Association, said he supported the task force's dual recommendations.

Kansas should secure seats for more students at dental schools

in Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma and offer those students tuition subsidies if they agree to return to Kansas and work in underserved areas, the task force said. The goal would be to improve care for people living more than 30 minutes from a dentist, the disabled and those without dental insurance, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* reported (bit.ly/O3p5XM).

At the same time, the state should "prepare a future, long-term, logistical plan for establishing a Kansas dental school that includes clinical sites in underserved areas."

The new dental school would cost an estimated \$58 million, and it would be seven years before any students graduated.

rektor of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, was disappointed that the task force didn't endorse allowing registered dental practitioners in Kansas. Practitioners would be trained to work in underserved areas and perform routines services such as cleanings and fillings under supervision of a dentist.

A proposal to create the category died in the last legislative session after strong opposition from the Kansas Dental Association, which raised concerns about safety and the creation of two levels of care.

