

FREE PRESS

Thursday

September 20, 2012

Volume 123, Number 147 Serving Thomas County since 1888

New city manager takes over Monday

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press

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Police Chief Randy Jones was recognized for serving as interim city manager meeting Tuesday, receiving a certificate of appreciation from the council.

"I learned to appreciate the folks back views. there," he said, referring to city staff

members present for the meeting.

Jones took over when Carolyn Armstrong retired as the manager on June 15; he will continue until the new manager, Tyson McGreer, takes over Monday.

The council and mayor, with the help the past three months at a City Council of a private consulting company, chose McGreer from six finalists after visits by each candidate and closed-door inter-

In other business, the council:

• Awarded a bid for the 2012 manhole rehabilitation project to Mayer Specialty Services for \$35,532.

This was the same amount as a bid from Utility Maintenance Contractors, but Jones and Public Works Director Omar Weber both recommended that the bid be awarded to Mayer because it was the company that met a specification that the bidder use MS-2C Strong Seal to lacher to add LED street lights to three complete the project.

• Awarded a bid to repair the sprinkler could figure out how many people might system and landscaping for South Franklin Park to Earth Works, which had by far the lowest bid at \$41,785.

Jones explained that only \$36,250 has been budgeted for the project, so the \$5,535 balance will have to be budgeted

 Tabled a request from Wayne Horcul-de-sacs at Eco Acres until the council

be interested in building houses in the mostly vacant subdivision. City streets, Poplar Street and Eco Acres Drive, run through the development. Gordon Gilbert, assistant public utilities director, said that the project would cost about \$850 for

· Approved a request to add "slow-

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POLICE

more expensive.

house prisoners here.

Two vehicles crash in Colby

Police officers gathered around a red fourdoor 2005 Suzuki Forenza after a crash at about 8 a.m. this morning at the intersection of Garfield Avenue and Walnut Street. Benjamin Meadows, Colby, was driving the car west on Walnut when a black 2007 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Misty Griffin, 27, Colby, failed to yield to him and the vehicles collided. Police said that Meadows had a 4-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl with him and Griffin was driving with a 3-year-old child. Two people were injured and one was taken to the hospital with minor injuries, but information was not available on the identities of the injured.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

County asked to lower rent for health office

By Christina Beringer

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Kasiah Rothchild asked Thomas County commissioners Monday ment pays \$2,000, she said, but if to lower the department's rent at her rate was based on space, her the county Office Complex on South Range Avenue, which she said may be twice as high as what she said. other agencies pay.

child said no other county departments pay rent in the building, now used as office space by county-related and other agencies See "COUNTY," Page 2

that pay rent based on their square footage.

Rothchild said right now, for whatever reason, her rate is not Health Department Director based on square footage like the other offices. The health departrent would be \$943 a month.

"I don't think I should pay it,"

Commissioner Paul Steele The former nursing home is noted that the health department owned by the county, and Roth- is different than emergency management, a county service also located at the office complex which

Hunger Walk coming to Colby

Hunger Walk will begin at 2 p.m. nations can be designated to other Sunday, Oct. 7, at Trinity Lutheran relief agencies if you prefer. Church, 855 E. Fifth St.

walkers and hopes to raise \$5,000 Thomas County, and around the world, through self-help initiamoney raised locally will go to the Genesis-Thomas County food

This year, said Linda Pabst at the church, the Colby area is one of 2,000 cities and towns nationwide to join in this interfaith effort with the theme "Ending hunger one step at a time."

Walkers receive materials when they sign up in order to find sponsors to support them through donations. Most Colby churches have the information to either sign up or make a contribution, or you

The Thomas County CROP can contact Trinity Lutheran. Do-

Many of the walkers will be Organizers have set a goal of 50 wearing T-shirts proclaiming their support for the millions of people to help stop hunger and poverty in around the world who have to walk to live, and with the millions served by food pantries, food tives. Twenty-five percent of the banks and meal sites here in the

> Haiti is one part of the world where CROP Hunger Walks are making a big difference. In the aftermath of the killer earthquake. Church World Service was there with emergency assistance. With the recovery effort in full swing, the agency is helping families and communities to rebuild homes. food supplies and livelihoods.

> For information, to sign up or to make a donation, call Pabst at Trinity Lutheran, 462-3497.

Commission looks for more architects

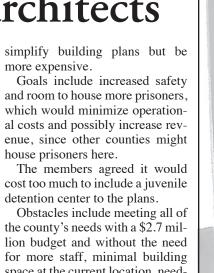
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Members of the Thomas County Public Building Commission agreed Monday to look for additional architects to plan a new law enforcement center or to add on to the existing structure, after discussing blueprints created by architect Larry White.

Commission members present were County Commissioners Ken Christiansen and Paul Steele, County Commissioner-elect Mike Baughn and Undersheriff Marc Finley. Economic Development Alliance Director Christy Rocca came to observe the public meet-

The group has been debating on whether to build a new facility or add on to the existing jail, agreeing that new construction would



lion budget and without the need for more staff, minimal building space at the current location, needing close proximity to the court house and complying with Kansas Department of Corrections regula-If they add on to the current

building, members said, they would also have to deal with sewer atic ventilation, difficulty keeping computers cool and leaky ceilings,

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MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

and plumbing problems, problem- Just inside the main door separating the jail from the rest of the Law Enforcement Center, this corridor toward the north has doors on the left for a storage area containing a refrigerator used for prisoner meals, a detox cell where prisoners who are brought in under the influence of alcohol and drugs are held, along with anyone else requiring restrictions, the booking room and the visitation room. On the right side of the hallway is the entrance to the plumbing area.

Rainfall easing drought

ST. LOUIS (AP) - With hopes of a once-stellar corn crop dimmed by a summer of drought, Gerald Jenkins doesn't expect the unfolding harvest to burden his co-op's grain elevators, which are capable of storing 9 million bushels of the grain it buys from growers. Finding timely barges to ship it off may be another story.

The same drought that has punished the Midwest's corn and soybeans for months has lowered the Mississippi River that eases past the western Illinois co-op Jenkins oversees to levels unseen for nearly a quarter century. The shallower waterway - notably from Memphis south to New Orleans - has closed some por-

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