



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

County decides to hold off jail study

By Christina Beringer

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After receiving negative feedback from the public, Thomas County Commissioners agreed Monday that, at this time, they will not be executing a law enforcement center feasibility study contract with The Goldberg Group.

Spending up to \$5,000 on the study had

been unanimously approved by commissioners during a meeting on Jan. 7, under the recommendation of former Commission Chairman Ken Christiansen.

The study to either find possible building locations or to decide if the county should improve the current jail facility, determine a project cost estimate and find ways to pay for the project had been presented as an option by a client relations representative from the architectural firm

based in St. Joseph, Mo., during the Jan. 7 commissioner meeting.

Chairman Paul Steele reported that since then, he's been approached by several businessmen in the community and members of the Thomas County Fair Board after news of the presentation and potential building options were published in the *Colby Free Press*. These concerned citizens, said Steele, expressed their opinions and recommended an alternative to

the study.

So far, Steele reported, the commissioners' most favorable option, to build a new facility west of the Thomas County Office Complex, has been met with much negative response, especially from the fair board. He said members of the board expressed concerns to him that should be taken into consideration, including comments made by member Nancy Rundel. She explained possible economic impacts

and safety risks that having a jail so close to the fair grounds and to the school could have.

"I've also met with a few people who have given suggestions to keep Thomas County money local," added Steele. "Instead of paying a Missouri firm \$5,000 to conduct the feasibility study, I'd like to give our local people the option to make

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College trustees OK program to purchase car

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby Community College trustees authorized the Adult Education program to buy a car Monday after a lot of discussion about the process.

Dr. Stephen Vacik, college president, gave the board the purchase order and the details from MC Auto, where the college is buying the vehicle, because there were a lot of questions about this item at last month's meeting.

Vacik said the program is buying the car through a grant, and if it doesn't use the money, they will lose it.

One of the board members asked if they had received bids for the car, and Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, said in the interest of time, he just went out to MC Auto because he knew they had some things on the lot and just took one.

Trustee Dale Herschberger said

he didn't think it was fair that the other dealers in town didn't get to compete. Kaaz explained that time was short on this purchase and he felt like since the college had gone to the other dealers before, it was fair to use MC this time.

"I don't think that's of any matter whether we went to the other dealers before....," Herschberger replied.

Trustee Cindy Black asked if there's a bidding policy and Vacik said he thought it was that they have to allow bidding if the purchase is for \$25,000 or more. The trustees wanted to check the policy manual to make sure what the policy is and decided to table the item until later in the meeting, once attorney John Gatz found the policy.

The trustees picked the discussion back up and Kaaz said he took responsibility for not taking bids. Vacik said the purchase was pushed through because they

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College will show new documentary

A new documentary will be shown at Colby Community College that follows a man about to die of obesity.

"Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead," a documentary about a morbidly obese man's efforts to improve his health, will show at 7 p.m. Monday in the Cultural Arts Center.

Ryan Hale, an instructor and counselor at the college, organized the showing as the latest of several documentaries he has shown, one each month.

"It gets a lot of people interested very quickly," Hale said of the name of the documentary. "A lot of times we want to change our life, but we don't want to make big decisions."

The documentary focuses on Australian Joe Cross, who was taking a dozen medications each day for autoimmune diseases and decided to turn his life around. He came to the U.S., and lost over 100 pounds while on a "juice fast," drinking nothing but fruit juices.

Cross was monitored by a physician while on his diet. He went to places known for their food where, Hale said, "I probably wouldn't be able to stay on a diet if I was visiting."

He interviewed people he met about their lifestyle choices and met Phil Staples, a morbidly obese truck driver from Iowa, and asked

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U.S. representative plans six town halls

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp will hold a "town hall" meeting from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday at the Rawlins County Courthouse in Atwood, part of his second week of county meetings for the year.

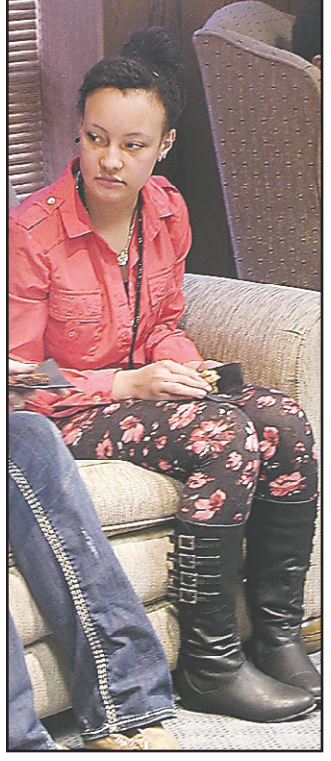
Rep. Huelskamp conducted four town hall meetings during the first work week of January. On completing the meetings next week, he will have held 150 since taking office in 2011.

"We had tremendous turnout at the first four town halls of the year - more than 200 folks com-

bined - and I expect that we will hear from many more Kansans at these upcoming events as well," Huelskamp said. "There is a lot of concern about the direction of Washington right now, and I am glad to hear from as many people as possible about where we need to be headed."

For questions, contact Huelskamp's Dodge City office at (620) 225-0172 or his Salina office at (785) 309-0572.

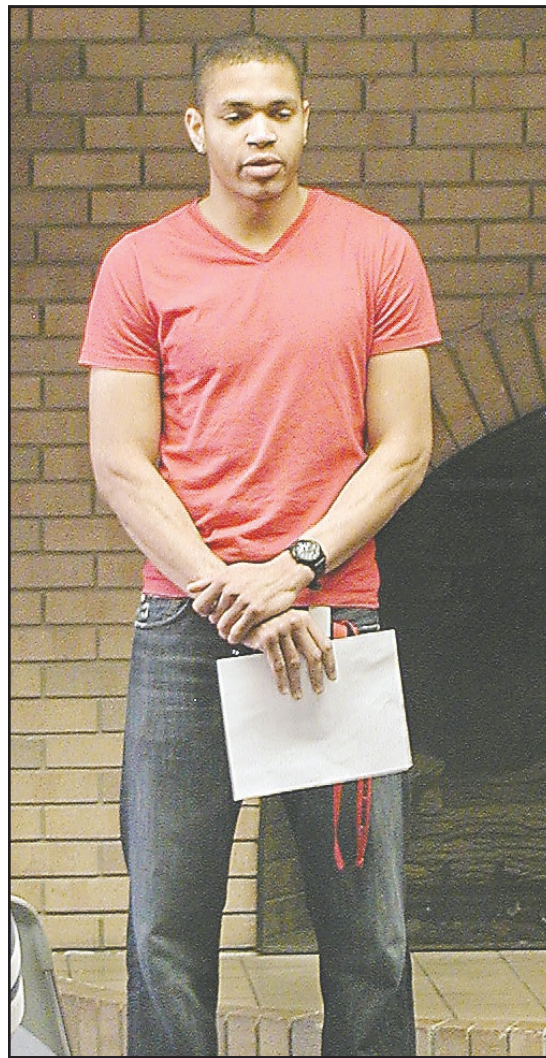
Rep. Huelskamp represents the 1st District of Kansas. He serves on the House Small Business Veterans' Affairs committee and is a member of the Republican Study Committee.



College observes holiday

Kassie English (above), a student at Colby Community College, came to a reception Monday at the college for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. W.G. Romine II, Ph.D. (left), the senior pastor of Redeeming Love Ministries, and Kris Rolle (below left), a member of the college basketball team and a resident advisor, spoke at the event.

About 30 people came to the reception, including (below, from left) Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, college president Dr. Stephen Vacik, Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs and marketing, and Jeff Horlacher.

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