



## City approves completion of project

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The Colby City Council moved Tuesday to close out a project to upgrade electric and water systems, including new electronic meters, and make final payments to the main contractor. The council approved a certificate of substantial completion for Johnson Con-

trols Inc., the main contractor for the metering project, at its meeting Tuesday night. Johnson has replaced most of the electric and water meters for the city with more accurate meters, which could help pinpoint water leaks and be read digitally. The city approved the \$2.2 million project with the Manhattan-based company in March of last year. City Manager Tyson McGreer said the

city has about \$80,000 left to pay once the certificate is signed. Subcontractor Midland GIS, is mapping out the electric system, which McGreer said is the last part of the project and should be done in three weeks. Councilman Fred Taylor asked if the leakage in the city water system has showed any signs of improvement. McGreer replied that the city is still assessing how the system has improved, but they

still are seeing about a 25 percent water loss. The city was reporting a 23 percent loss at the time the project was approved. "Omar and I have discussed this, I don't know how many hours," he said, referring to Public Works Director Omar Weber, "trying to figure out where the heck it's going." He suggested the water-loss figure could stem from a problem with how the city adds up its water, adding that the cer-

tificate triggers an audit of that formula which might shed some light on the issue. Councilman Dave Voss noted that the city has had problems with the company throughout the project. Councilman Mark Beringer agreed, saying that after one phase, several manhole covers had been left open. McGreer pointed out at Midland has

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## Power outage shuts down Walmart here

A power outage shut down the Colby Walmart and much of the southeast part of town Wednesday for about an hour and a half. Omar Weber, public works director for the city, said an electric substation serving the southeast part of town was down from 2:30 p.m. to just before 4 p.m., but parts of the area were back on about a half an hour before that. The Pilot Travel Center, Udderly Delicious and Maurices also had to shut down yesterday, but the Holiday Inn Express, Colby High School and the Prairie Museum of Art and History all stayed

open. At Walmart, Assistant Manager Mike Barben said the outage was enough to shut down the store. "We have a back up system in place," Barben said, "but you know, when the power goes out, the register goes down. That's pretty much it." Barben said he was not working Wednesday and did not know how the incident was handled. He said the store kept its food cooled with backup power, so its losses were limited mostly to some perishable food in customers' baskets at the time of the outage.

## Accident sends two to hospital

A half dozen law enforcement officers responded to a crash on South Range Avenue on Monday morning that sent two people to the hospital. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Olyn D. Calhoun Jr., 77, Colby, tried to cross Range, going westbound from Willow Street in a 1999 Dodge pickup, about 9:50 a.m. His truck was hit on the passenger side by a 2001

Ford driven by Cody W. Faulkender, 17, Oakley, who was driving south on Range. Faulkender's vehicle ended up south of Calhoun's, with front end damage. Calhoun was admitted to Citizen's Medical Center for observation, while Faulkender was treated at the hospital, then released. Faulkender was wearing a seat belt, but Calhoun was not, the Highway Patrol said.

## Lawmakers to vote on anti-abortion bill

TOPEKA (AP) - Kansas legislators are preparing for final votes on a sweeping anti-abortion bill that could send it to Gov. Sam Brownback. The Senate planned to vote first today. The bill blocks tax breaks for abortion providers and outlaws abortions performed solely because of the baby's gender. If the Senate approves the measure as expected, the House will

vote on it, possibly as early as tonight. The bill also prohibits abortion providers from being involved in public school sex education classes and spells out in more detail what information doctors must provide to patients before performing abortions. The measure declares that life begins "at fertilization."



Floyd Highland (above) spoke with old co-workers at his retirement reception Monday afternoon at the Community Building. He introduced nine members of his family (below) before speaking about his career with K-N Energy and Midwest Energy.

## Party held for retiree

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Fifty years to the day before he retired, Floyd Highland started working for a firm which became part of Midwest Energy - on April Fool's Day, 1963. "I'm really glad you came, but I'm going to be there one more," he told the crowd at a retirement reception Monday afternoon. The event drew about 90 people to the basement of the Community Building on Monday afternoon. Highland introduced his family, employees of Midwest said a few words and they presented Highland with gifts, including a 50 year appreciation booklet. "They had to Fedex this special, because the don't make many 50-year books," said Gas Operations Manager Jerry Schoenfeld. Highland said he was fresh out of high school and had been married less than two months in 1963, when he started working for Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas in

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Ethan Walker, Rexford, placed his hand print on a mural and signed a pledge to stop violence Wednesday at Colby Community College.

## College students here pledge to stop violence

Students and citizens were invited to join the campaign against violence everywhere Wednesday, putting their hand prints on a mural placed in the Colby Community College Student Union and signing a pledge. The pledge was part of Violence Prevention Week activities at the college. Brochures and wrist bands symbolizing the campaign to stop violence were given out. Tuesday evening, Dr. Curt Brungardt spoke to about 100 students and others in the Cultural Arts Center about the murder of his daughter Jana, who was killed by her ex-boyfriend July 3, 2008, in Lawrence. He and his wife started a foundation to stop domestic violence called Jana's Campaign.

A self-defense class was offered Wednesday evening in the college gymnasium. Members of the defensive tactics group from Fort Hays State University showed about a dozen students how to stay out of trouble late at night and what to do if someone assaulted them. Today and Friday, college students will be visiting area schools to talk about bullying. They will also be visiting nursing homes, collecting stuffed animals to be given to children by area law enforcement officials and collecting discarded cell phones to be given to victims of domestic abuse.

