



City sets long-range, broad goals

By Sam Dieter
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The city council discussed a set of goals for City Manager Tyson McGreer at its meeting Monday night.

The goals include reviewing all city departments by the end of 2014. The goal is to present a review of the police department to the council by the end of the year, the fire and street departments by the end of March, the electric and sanitation departments by the end of June, and the others by the end of 2014.

Another goal is to come up with a log of nuisances in the city, like weeds, abandoned cars and certain properties by the end of the year, and update it each month. The final goal is to put together a list of sidewalk additions and replacements, with a plan to set them up in the city by the 2015 budget meeting.

In other business:

- McGreer updated the council on a project to replace converters that filter exhaust from combustion engines at the power plant. Public Works Director Omar Weber said the city is trying to decide whether to replace all the converters or just the three big-

gest ones. The city is not to the point of bidding out a project yet, he said.

- The council discussed an energy contract with Midwest Energy. McGreer said the contract will expire March of next year, when the Southwest Power Pool starts using the SPP day-two markets to manage money. The power pool provides energy across much of the great plains, including Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The company will need to know whether the city wants to renew the contract in the next couple of months. But McGreer said that it would take much longer than that to find another provider.

"It's way more complex than just picking up the phone and saying, we want some power," he said.

He said that it might not be a good idea to sign a long-term contract, but rather one closer to five years, the same length as the last one. But he told the council he thought the company needs a "good faith" statement on whether the city will continue the contract, preferably in a week or by the next meeting.

He pointed out that the city will still be using Midwest's transmis-

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U.S. 83 work to start soon

Starting around Wednesday, a road construction project to resurface a section of U.S. 83 in Logan and Thomas County is set to begin.

The 18-mile job begins at the west U.S. 40 junction in Oakley and continues north on 83 to the U.S. 24 junction.

The project includes a mill and overlay of new asphalt material on the driving lanes; as well as an overlay of the shoulders on the south half of the job.

The construction contract of \$5,787,113 was awarded to APAC Kansas Inc., of Hays.

Weather permitting, the work should be complete by early November.

Project to seal U.S. 83 in Thomas County also planned

A second highway project to seal part of U.S. 83 in Thomas County is projected to begin Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Starting at the junction of U.S. 24 east of Colby, the "Nine-Mile Corner," and continuing north-east on U.S. 83, approximately

11 miles to the Thomas/Sheridan County line, workers will spread a thin layer of asphalt over the pavement then coat it with a layer of rock chips that are pressed into place with heavy rollers. Chip seals are a low cost method of sealing minor cracking in a roadway, preventing water from seeping into the pavement and extending the life of the roadway.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane for both highway projects; and controlled by flaggers and a pilot car during daylight hours. Minor delays should be expected, not exceeding 15 minutes. The public should plan their travels accordingly. Please pay attention to the signs and workers within a construction zone and "Give 'Em A Brake!"

KDOT awarded the chip seal construction contract for \$330,882 to Blevins Asphalt Construction Co. Inc., of Mt. Vernon, Mo.

Weather permitting, the U.S. 83 seal project will be complete within a week.



Top farmer follows family

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Cory Kistler's tractor kicked up lots of dust Wednesday afternoon as he crossed a field just west of his house, putting anhydrous ammonia in the soil ahead of planting wheat.

"Could've picked a better day," he said that day, when interviewed about his farm.

Kistler pointed out the stubble from last year's milo and the wheat stubble from the year before that are still visible on the no-till field. He added that antelope and prairie birds are attracted to the ground. As the tractor crossed over a terrace, he said it was not as essential to stopping erosion nowadays on a no-till field, and had probably been built around the '50s to control erosion after the Dust Bowl.

Kistler won the Thomas County Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the Year Award this year for his farming operation. He recently stepped down from a six-year term on the Farm Bureau board.

"I wasn't expecting it, I guess it's only meant for families and I'm a single person," he said of winning the award. "I feel humbled that they would think of me and

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Cory Kistler hosed off his tractor engine (above) at his family homestead, before heading out into the field to hook up a tank of anhydrous ammonia to fertilize his field (right, below). Kistler said he was humbled to win the Thomas County Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the year award.



New teachers, support staff join Colby Schools

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The Colby Public Schools have hired seven new teachers this year and a new reading assistant.

Three of the new teachers are working at the high school: Kevin Brown, Liz Stover and Travis Betz.

Brown is originally from Yates Center, near Topeka. He came to western Kansas to teach American government, and has spent 16 years in this area.

Stover is from Mississippi, but her husband Landon is from Colby. She taught at Monument before coming here to teach special education.



Kevin Brown



Liz Stover



Travis Betz



M. Reitcheck



Alicia Albers



Katie Coulter



H. Stapp



Brandi Jones

Originally from Ness City, Betz went to Golden Plains High School and has lived here 10 years. His kids go to Colby Schools, and now he teaches English language arts here and is an assistant football coach.

This year, the elementary school hired first grade teacher Megan Reitcheck, third grade teacher

Alicia Albers, fifth grade teacher Katie Coulter, special education teacher Heather Stapp and reading assistant Brandi Jones, who also works at the middle school.

Reitcheck came into the system from Sacred Heart School, and worked for the after school program before coming on as a teacher. She said she has a degree

in early elementary education and wanted to teach young children. Originally from Oakley, her husband farms here.

Albers is also originally from Oakley and taught in Grinnell before coming here. She did her student teaching and was a substitute teacher here, she said, "and I knew that when I got back over here I

would love to teach with everybody."

Coulter, who grew up on a farm north of Hoxie, graduated from Golden Plains High School, went to Colby Community College, where she played basketball, and then took online classes from Fort Hays State University. She was originally hired by the district

as a high school girls' basketball coach.

Originally from Minnesota, Stapp lived in Garden City for 14 years. Her family moved here to be in a smaller community. She taught special education in Garden City, and for a year at the high school before moving to the elementary school.

Jones taught English language arts at the school for six years before she moved to Oklahoma, then to Goodland. She came back here because of her husband's job; they both have family here. She is originally from St. Francis.