



# Power plant project goes ahead

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The Colby city council approved an agreement with Kansas City-based engineering firm Sega Tuesday night to retrofit engines at the power plant.

Because of Environmental Protection Agency standards, the city will have to retrofit as many as six engines, which would cost \$100,000 each. The city plans to sign a contract for the firm to work as a consultant on the project within the next 60 days.

City Manager Tyson McGreer said he preferred the bid from Sega to one from Olsson Associates because Sega's would be more hands-off. Olsson's bid, on the other hand, included plans to draw up the designs for the project itself.

"We need an engineer to kind of hold our hand through it," he told the council, "I don't think we need an engineer to drive the car."

In the agreement, the firm offered to tour the power plant and help the city prepare a bid for the project, including a cost estimate. After that, the firm will visit the power plant during construction, which is estimated to last for 20 weeks if only three engines are fixed. It will then help the city test the engines so they are in compliance with the standards of the agency and with Kansas Department of Health and Environment standards.

McGreer said later he does not know how much the project will cost, but that he city will probably

have to replace all six engines, which is required if they run for more than 100 hours in a year. The council discussed replacing all six engines or just the three biggest ones at its Aug. 20 meeting.

In other business, the council:

- Approved bid specifications for a new generator for the city's communications tower. McGreer told the council the controls for the generator have deteriorated since the council last discussed the project, and the generator has to be switched off manually. If the power went out for the city, he said, the generator would be able to run the radio on the tower but not the lights on top it. Communications for emergency medical services, police, city and county communications and the Skywarn weather spotting service are all run out of the tower.

Under the specifications, the bidder must offer a new 30 kilowatts generator, powered by propane fuel, and automatic transfer switch and distribution panel with breakers.

- Approved a trade-in bid from Downing Sales and Service for a new side-arm, one-man sanitation truck for a total cost of \$172,240. The cost includes \$2,275 for two side cameras, and McGreer said that it is slightly more than the city has saved up in its Municipal Equipment Reserve Fund for the year, which is around \$105,000, so the city will have to borrow some money from that fund and make more payments later. The city got about \$35,000 for the old

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# Guard cancels weekend drills

TOPEKA (AP) — Monthly weekend drills for most soldiers and airmen of the Kansas National Guard have been canceled because of the partial federal government shutdown.

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, the state's adjutant general, said Wednesday that units will not report for drills until the federal situation has been resolved.

The one exception is Company G of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation based at Topeka that is be-

ginning training for an upcoming deployment.

Tafanelli says that two change-of-command ceremonies have also been postponed, including one planned Saturday for the 35th Infantry Division. That event was moved to Nov. 2 at Fort Leavenworth's main parade field.

The general says Guard units would still be able to deploy under current budget conditions should there be a state disaster to protect lives and property.

# Biosecurity lab moves forward

MANHATTAN (AP) — Construction continues on a central utility plant for a new federal biosecurity research lab at Kansas State University despite the partial shutdown of the federal government.

Kansas State vice president for research Ron Trewyn said Thursday that work was progressing on the plant, which will provide utilities for the \$1.25 billion National

Bio- and Agro-defense Facility. He says contracts for the utility plant were released in previous federal budgets and not affected by the current shutdown.

Trewyn says funding for the main plant is on hold. But he expects Congress to act on the \$404 million appropriation for the next fiscal year, which has already passed the House and a Senate budget committee.

The lab will research deadly animal and livestock diseases, replacing an aging facility at Plum Island, N.Y.



# Museum party a success

Nearly 1,000 people crowded the Prairie Museum of Art and History's Cooper Barn on Saturday for a fund raising barbecue and barn dance that left many guests wanting more.

Dubbed an "overwhelming success," Party for the Pottys was held with a two-fold mission: to raise money for the Barn Aid Campaign and to unveil new barn improvements as well as the museum's new-

est "High and Dry: Agriculture on the High Plains" exhibit now housed in the lower level of the Cooper Barn.

Named in honor of the new restrooms in the barn, the event also helped raise money for a new kitchenette, chairlift, windows and doors, plumbing and contract labor, electrical upgrades, publicity and marketing for the museum.

"The improvements to the Cooper Barn have been long awaited," said museum Director Sue Taylor, "and would not have been possible without the generosity from our donors and sponsors.

"In addition to the \$20,000 matching gift from the family of Helen Frahm, which spearheaded the campaign, we are also thankful for Gary and Elfriede Cooper and Mary Cooper Pawlus, who donated the biggest barn in Kansas to the Prairie Museum."

"Success," said Taylor, "wasn't measured with a magic number in mind. We were able to raise our goal with sponsorships and donations beforehand. Instead, we just really wanted to attract a big crowd and we wanted everybody to have a great time."

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EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press  
As soon as the first band, Mama's Boys, began playing Saturday evening, this father-daughter duo (top) and other folks started dancing at the Prairie Museum's Party for the Pottys. Thomas County Rodeo Queen Ariel Severson (right) moved through the crowd selling tickets for the Traeger grill drawing, after folks lined up to enjoy barbecue. Kitchen crew Margaret Denneler (outside window at left), Lois Van Horn, Mary Weed and Vern Roemer handed out sandwiches, beans, chips and cookies. The new indoor "facilities" (center left) bore up under heavy traffic throughout the evening.



# Shutdown hurts Wall Street

By Steve Rothwell  
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market sank to its lowest level in nearly a month Thursday as a partial U.S. government shutdown dragged into a third day.

President Barack Obama and Congressional leaders spoke late Wednesday but the meeting appeared only to harden their stanc-

es. In speech in Rockville, Md. Obama said Thursday there was only one way out of the shutdown: "Congress has to pass a budget that funds our government with no partisan strings attached."

Republicans in the House of Representatives, pushed by a core of tea party conservatives, are insisting that Obama accept changes to the health care law he pushed

through three years ago as part of a budget bill. Obama refuses to consider any deal linking the health care law to routine legislation needed to extend government funding.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 19 points, or 1.2 percent, to 1,674 as of 12:31 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, its lowest point since Sept. 9.

The Dow Jones industrial aver-

age fell 158 points, or 1 percent, to 14,975. The Nasdaq composite fell 51 points, or 1.3 percent, to 3,764.

The declines were broad. Six stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

Industrial stocks fell more than the broader market. Boeing lost the most of the 30 stocks in the Dow, giving up \$2.76, or 2.3 percent, to \$115.05.

