



Protests mark China's envoy trip

The highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Taiwan opened talks with his Taiwanese counterpart Tuesday.

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Park to help with innovation

BY PAT FERRIER

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A new technology park in North Fort Collins may help North College Avenue remake itself into an incubator for innovation and ingenuity.

Developer Mike Jensen of Urban Development Partners, and a Realtor with Keller Williams, has proposed four buildings — between three and four stories high — on East Vine Drive between Jerome Street on the west and Redwood Street on the east.

The project, known as Inverness Innovation Park, will likely house the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative, or RMI2, and other as yet unsigned technology companies.

RMI2, formerly the Fort Collins Technology Incubator, has seven companies strewn throughout three city-owned buildings across Fort Collins but wants to place them all under one roof.

The 30,000-square-foot building will likely incorporate long-needed wet lab

Interested?

A neighborhood meeting to discuss the Inverness Innovation Park project at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, at 281 N. College Ave., Conference Room A. Information: 221-6750.

space for bioscience companies and room for future expansion.

No formal plans for the 7.5-acre former home of Waste Management have been submitted, but the city's planning department will meet with neighbors Thursday to explain the proposal.

The property is now a collection of half-used buildings sitting behind chain-link fence and one house. All will be razed if the project is approved, Jensen said Monday.

The proposed site sits in front of Old Town North, a neighborhood of single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

"When you think of

Company asking to annex lots

BY PAT FERRIER

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Michael Woolley spends a fair amount of his life traversing the intersection of U.S. Highway 287 and Carpenter Road south of Harmony.

He doesn't see the need for more services there but is willing to listen to developers' plans to annex five properties on the northeast corner for future development of a small shopping center.

Palmer Properties is asking the city to annex five lots for a 43,500-square-foot commercial center.

"It is definitely the gateway into Fort Collins on the south side," said Jimmy Palmer of Palmer Properties. "There is the need for services within the area."

Palmer said the main reason for Wednesday's meeting is to "engage with the residents to make sure the voices, the needs and questions of the neighbors all sur-

face," Palmer said.

The proposed annexation is bordered on the west by Fort Collins and is not part of the city's Southwest Annexation, said chief planner Ted Shepard.

Woolley plans to be at the meeting to see what's planned for "the intersection that is significant to my life."

There is already commercial space that's empty on the south side, Woolley said. "I don't particularly see the need for it."

when Waste Management had its trucks and roll off Dumpsters here, it's a substantial improvement," Jensen said.

OtterBox, the manufacturer of super-sturdy, waterproof cases for iPods, laptops, smartphones, even cigars, had initially talked of consolidating its

offices and warehouse space on Jensen's property.

CEO Curt Richardson said OtterBox is not moving to the site.

Otterbox doubled its revenue and work force in the past year and is just about out of space at its current Old Town location. "We

haven't decided on another spot yet," Richardson said. "We're starting to run out of time."

OtterBox hopes to stay in or near downtown but hasn't ruled out other space between Fort Collins and Loveland. "It's part of our culture at Otter."