



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Change in regulations good news for landfill

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Commissioners received some good news at their Tuesday meeting when they learned that Kansas Department of Health and Environment regulations have changed, and the landfill is no longer in danger of possibly having to be closed down within 45 days.

Since the monitoring well at the landfill has shown contamination, there had been the possibility that if the situation worsened, the landfill would have had to be closed quickly. The new regulations provide six months between

testing, and if the test shows positive, the county will have an additional six months to keep the landfill open. In a worse case scenario, that would give the county a year before having to close the landfill. By that time the new cell will be open at the landfill.

However, Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor, said the contamination at the last testing was less than at the previous testing, and it was well below exceeding the limit.

Jumper learned about the new regulations while attending a landfill operators meeting at Hutchinson.

In other matters, Jumper said the landfill will

be closed Thanksgiving day and closed to the public on the day following, although the city will pick up trash on Friday when the landfill will be open for city trucks only.

He said he would be getting an answering machine for the telephone at the landfill. Commissioner Glen Kersenbrock told him to be sure the landfill is listed in the telephone book under the county. The number is 462-8139.

Jumper said someone illegally dumped a pickup load of trash at the landfill, and the person's name was in the trash, enabling the police to contact that person and the trash was picked up.

There was no name in another load of trash illegally dumped, which contained deer steak and packages of meat from Boogaart's, Jumper said.

The commissioners urge people to use the landfill for dumping, and not to dump illegally. There is a fine for illegal dumping and Jumper said he would have some signs posted, reminding people of the fines. "I think they should be fined \$500," said Commissioner Ron Evans.

Jumper said a company is removing some dirt from the old filling station east of Golden Hardware and the dirt, which is contaminated with petroleum, will be trucked to the landfill

and spread out and mixed with other dirt and the contamination allowed to dissipate. The contractor will pay the county about \$2,300 for this service. Jumper said he is renewing state permits for composting, construction/demolition, municipal solid waste, and tires.

In other business:

• Jay Griffin and Vern Goossen of Mingo were on hand for the hearing on behalf of Ben Keller about vacating some blocks and streets which are platted in Mingo but are under cultivation. They are Lots 1-20, Block 8, and alley,

See "COUNTY," Page 3

## Alliance gets grip on Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The northern alliance moved Wednesday to consolidate its grip on Kabul, taking over key posts and ministries despite a pledge to support a broad-based government. Forced to retreat south, the Taliban were reportedly struggling to prevent their movement from disintegrating.

Pashtun tribal leaders in key areas of the south were reportedly in open revolt against the fundamentalist Islamic militia.

In the capital, radio broadcasts resumed and television was promised soon. Northern alliance officials returned to government offices they abandoned in 1996 when the Taliban drove them from power.

Officials portrayed the takeover of key ministries, such as defense and interior, as temporary and said they support a U.N.-supervised political settlement in which all ethnic groups would be represented.

In the south and east of the country, the situation appeared chaotic as local tribal leaders appeared to challenge the Taliban in the ethnic Pashtun heartlands.

Afghan sources in Pakistan, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the airport in the Taliban's southern stronghold of Kandahar was held by about 200 fighters loyal to Arif Khan, a member of a southern Pashtun tribe.

A Taliban official along the Pakistani border at Chaman, Mullah Najibullah, said Taliban fighters were firing on the airport Wednesday from hilltop positions.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported that tribal elders took control Wednesday of the town of Gardez, in Paktia province about 60 miles south of Kabul.

Followers of a local, independent powerbroker, Yunus Khalis, took control of the Afghan border station at Torkham, a major crossing point into Pakistan.

In Kabul, relieved residents awoke Wednesday after a night free of the nearby crash of U.S. bombs.

The Taliban abandoned Kabul and headed south before dawn Tuesday after the northern alliance, backed by intensive American bombing, fought their way to the edge of the city.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, opens on Thursday at 7 p.m. and continues on Friday and Saturday nights in the auditorium. In the foreground is Taylor Miller, playing a Skid Row bum, with Layla Woodall (back left) and Katie Wahlmeier, also down on their luck, during the first scene of the play. Becky Shuman, walking behind Taylor, is portraying Audrey.

## Curtain goes up Thursday for play

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Colby High School's first musical/play of the year, *Little Shop of Horrors*, is planned for 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the auditorium.

The story centers around Seymour, a hard-luck orphan (played by James Coplin) living on Skid Row and in the care of Mr. Mushnick (played by John Walls), who owns the flower store, said Nancy Rundel, one of the advisors.

As the play unfolds, Mr. Mushnick has a fondness both for

strange and interesting plants and Audrey (played by Becky Shuman), a fellow employee, just happens to be dating the sadistic dentist (Josh Cox) who five-year-olds have nightmares about. One day, Seymour finds an alien plant that just happens to feed on human blood and the plant, dubbed Audrey II, attracts business to the flower shop. As a result Seymour wins the love of the human Audrey, Rundel said about the play. However, the big question is will the story have a happy ending?

Other players include Taylor Miller, the voice of Audrey II and skid row

bum; Damien Severson, Audrey II (the plant); Emily Bailey, Jessie Brenn, Jessica Coplin and Lori Jumper, the Shoo Wop Girls; Nikki Morton, Bernstein; Kassie Juenemann, Mrs. Luce; Elizabeth Merryman, Snip; Jodi Nicholson, customer; Ashley Backus, Hope Schmid, Alisha Talsma, Layla Woodall and Kelsey Dunn, Skid Row residents; Tina Schmid and Katie Wahlmeier, Skid Row bums.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and are available at First National Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank and at the school office.

## Third year running for 'Christmas on Us!'

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Back by popular demand, 27 Colby businesses and the Colby Free Press are kicking off today the third annual *Christmas on Us!* promotion. Shoppers at participating merchants could be winners of \$3,500 to be given away (in gift certificates).

This year's grand prize winner will take home \$2,500 and a second place winner will pocket \$500. Additionally, there will be 10 instant prizes of \$50 each awarded during the promotion that continues through the middle of December.

The drawing for the grand prizes will take place on Saturday, Dec. 15 at a location to be announced.

It is at the drawing that the two biggest prizes of the promotion will be awarded. Winning tickets need to be presented at the drawing to claim the big prizes.

Rules detailing the promotion appear on page 7 of today's Free Press, and on pages 8-9 are pictures of the 27 participating merchants.

Shoppers can begin claiming their tickets beginning Thursday and the tickets are available only at participating businesses.

Merchants who are not yet signed up for the promotion can do so by calling the Free Press advertising department and ask for either Crystal or Mandy at 462-3963.



As of today, here is the list of sponsors:

- Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales
- Colby Bowl & Fun Center
- Hot Topics/Computer Solutions
- Beringer Hardware
- Amy's Fashions
- Northwest Kansas Decorating Center
- Tri-Central Office Supply
- Colby Ag Center
- Colby Photo
- Colby Glass
- Bankwest of Kansas
- The Sports Shoppe
- C-K Lumber
- Colby True Value
- Someplace Special
- City Limits
- Stan's Automotive
- Dillons
- Great Western Tire
- Colby Sears
- Office Works & Home Furnishings
- T.O. Haas Tire
- Dougherty Implement
- Stephens Construction
- Golden Hardware
- Colby Implement
- First National Bank
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## One of two drivers in I-70 accident remains critical

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Two people remain in a Wichita hospital after an accident on I-70 near Oakley sent eight people to the Logan County Hospital early last Thursday morning.

Spokesperson Maria Loving, of Via Christi-St. Lukes Regional Medical Center in Wichita, said Jaelyn M. Schmidt, 22, Victoria, is still listed in critical condition.

Her vehicle was struck by a car driven by James T. Barks, 33, of Calhan, Colo., who has been upgraded to good condition at St. Lukes.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Barks was headed east on I-70 at milepost 69 at 4 a.m., near the I-70 and U.S. 40 interchange, when he struck Schmidt's Ford, which was

sideways in the eastbound lane.

Kaycee Rogers, a passenger in Barks' vehicle, was also flown to Wichita, and has been released, Loving said.

Charlotte Rogers, 36, Dylan Rogers, 8, Ethan Barks, 10, Kynzee Rogers, 3, and Kyrstyn Rogers, 10, were all treated and released at the hospital in Oakley.

Barks and his passengers were belted in, but Schmidt was not. A highway patrol spokesman said the investigation into the cause is ongoing.

"We don't have lab results (for blood-alcohol) back yet," he said, "and we don't know why she (Schmidt) was across the road."

One of Barks' passengers told troopers Schmidt's car "just appeared" in the roadway.

## Critics see new Ogallala management plan as self-serving, unworkable

WICHITA (AP) — A voluntary, incentive-based plan adopted by the Kansas Water Authority to manage the Ogallala Aquifer mostly helps the irrigators who drafted it and will do little to slow groundwater depletion, its critics say.

Bob Hooper, chairman of the Solo-

mon Basin Advisory Committee, said Monday that the management plan is biased toward the irrigators who served on the groundwater management district boards and the water authority. He likened irrigators who developed the water conservation plan to alcoholics trying to stop drinking.

"What we have here is an addiction, there are always promises to quit... All these guys are addicted and trying to deal objectively with the issue," he said. But the new Ogallala plan did find limited support from someone who has been a frequent foe of the state on environmental issues: Charles Benjamin,

attorney for Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club.

"I think the water office and the Graves administration are to be commended for trying to do something on the issue," Benjamin said. "This is a critical issue for the state of Kansas. You have an aquifer that has basically

been mined."

Under the new management proposal — adopted unanimously last week by the water authority for inclusion in the 2004 state water plan — the Ogallala would be delineated into sub-units with similar aquifer characteristics. Areas with ample supplies would

see either no or modest reductions in water use goals, while more aggressive goals would be set for those areas where the groundwater is in rapid decline. The new version abandoned the idea of establishing a "use" pool and a "conservation" pool within the aquifer.

## Briefly

### Weather: Made for fall

Chances for moisture aren't as good today as they were forecast to be yesterday. The National Weather Service said this morning that the next shot at moisture would come on Saturday when a 30 percent chance for showers exists. Here is how they are calling it now through Sunday: Tonight, partly cloudy, fog developing again, lows in the upper 30s, light southwest winds; Thursday, partly sunny, highs in the upper 60s, light southwest winds; Thursday night, cloudy, lows in the upper 30s; Friday, Saturday and Sunday, some clouds, lows in the lower 30s and highs in the middle to upper 50s, and a chance for showers on Saturday. It's a

stretch at this time but the weatherpeople see Thanksgiving as cool and cloudy, with the lows in the upper 20 and the highs in the upper 40s. Colby's high Tuesday was 69 and the overnight low this morning was 39. Precipitation for the month remains at only 0.15 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 51 degrees. The records for Nov. 14: 78 in 1894 and -10 in 1940. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Landfill closes for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Thursday

Nov. 22, and Friday Nov. 23, for the Thanksgiving Holiday, said Larry Jumper, landfill supervisor.

When the landfill's answering machine is operational, he said, people may dial 462-8139 for hours and information. Landfill winter hours began on Oct. 29. The hours are: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

### No trash pickup Thanksgiving Day

Residential trash will not be picked up on Thursday, Nov. 22, so that employees can have an opportunity to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family, said Gerry

Bieker, public works director.

Those who normally have trash pickup on Thursday will have their solid waste picked up on Friday along with the normal Friday route. Also, commercial solid waste will not be picked up on Thanksgiving Day. For questions, call 462-4420.

### Pancake feed planned Saturday

Thomas County Big Brothers Big Sisters will be hosting a pancake and sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. The feed is \$3 person, said Doug Finley, one of the organizers.

