



COLBY FREE PRESS



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Surveyors with Carlson's Surveying and Mapping of Hays set up a Global Positioning System locator in preparation for mapping the site of the Ace Services cleanup project in Colby. Left to right are Doug Carlson, Matt Carlson and Jared Reddig.

Six million dollar cleanup begins at Ace Services site

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

A water treatment plant, capable of filtering almost a million and a half gallons of water per day, is being constructed just east of Golden Hardware in Colby on the site of the former Ace Services chrome plating shop where a federally mandated \$6 million cleanup is underway.

Black and Veatch of Overland Park is the contractor, and the project is expected to take until approximately April of 2003 to finish. Ferguson Harbour of Hendersonville, Tenn., is the subcontractor.

Ace Services first came under EPA scrutiny in November of 1971, when it was discovered that waste from the chrome plating shop was contaminating a public well.

The well was subsequently shut down, and, according to Kansas Department of Health and Environment reports, published in the early 90s, the public was never in any danger from the contamination.

Cleanup of the site should be a pretty straightforward job, according to supervisor Curt McCoy.

"This is actually a pretty simple fil-

// This is actually a pretty simple filtration job . We'll have extraction wells that will pump the contamination plume. . ."

Curt McCoy, supervising the cleanup

tration job," he said.

"We'll have extraction wells that will pump out the contamination plume, and then we'll filter the water."

The cost of the cleanup is estimated to run about \$6 million, according to McCoy, with 90 percent of that figure coming from the EPA's Superfund program, and the remaining 10 percent coming from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Key market indicators slide to five-year lows; investors worried

NEW YORK (AP) — If investors haven't thrown in the proverbial towel yet, they might be getting close.

Leading stock indicators sank to levels not seen in five years on Wednesday as investors showed no sign that they are ready to look past the accounting scandals that have plagued corporate America this year.

"This market has completely broken the spirit of investors," said Al Mirman, strategist at V Finance in Sarasota, Fla. "It is going to take a good year for investors' confidence to be reinstated."

The latest selloff comes amid a bear market that is already one of the worst in U.S. history. Wall Street has seen a widespread dumping of stocks for nearly eight weeks.

The Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday plunged 282.59 points, or 3.1 percent, to close at 8,813.50 — its first finish below 9,000 since the recovery following the terror attacks.

The S&P 500 sank 32.36, or 3.4 percent, to close at 920.47. The index last finished lower on Nov. 13 1997, when it stood at 916.66.

And the technology-heavy Nasdaq fell 35.11

to 1,346.01 — a level not seen since May 1997.

The losses are no doubt stunning, especially when considering the market is just two years removed from one of the most remarkable runs of all time.

At the height of the dot-com frenzy, the Nasdaq was above 5,000.

While the latest losses weren't prompted by a new accounting fiasco, there was reason to question the strength and pace of a business recovery.

For example, General Motors slid \$3.53 to \$47.61 and Ford fell \$1.12 to \$13.99 after Banc

of America downgraded the stocks.

The move left many investors feeling that few, if any, safe havens exist in the market. Losses spilled across sectors.

Pharmaceutical company Merck dropped \$2.18 to \$43.57 after announcing Tuesday it was postponing for the third time in two weeks the initial public offering of its Medco unit.

Airline stocks closed at or near their lows that followed the terror attacks. Delta fell 52 cents to \$17.75.

But there were some bright spots. Technology bellwether Cisco Systems rose 59 cents to

\$13.73, and Extreme Networks advanced 65 cents to \$9.98 after Merrill Lynch raised its near-term rating on the stocks.

Although improved earnings in the coming months could provide a boost to the market, analysts say corporate trust is the key factor.

"True, we need better (earnings) numbers, but we need numbers we can trust," Mirman said.

Investors might not be happy sitting on Wall Street's sidelines, but with the problem-ridden market headed for a third straight losing year they see no reason to budge.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 97
Low this morning, 64
Year ago today, 90 and 66
Temperature at 10:45 today, 78
Rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00
Month's rainfall, trace
Soil temp, 86
Records for July 11:
110, 1954
46, 1905

The forecast

Today's high is expected to reach the middle 80s, down considerably from Wednesday's 97. Tonight, clear, lows in the upper 50s, light and variable winds. Friday, sunny, highs in the middle 80s, northeast winds 10-15 mph. Friday night, clear, lows in the upper 50s. Saturday, sunny, highs near 90. (*Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.*)

Bees attack kills puppy

ALBERT (AP) — Insect experts are baffled by the behavior of bees that attacked and killed a puppy in rural Great Bend last weekend.

Kansas State University insect diagnostician Bobby Brown said the bees that killed Richard Batchman's dog appear to be normal honeybees.

He said it's possible — but unlikely — that the attack came from Africanized "killer bees," which are an aggressive hybrid that looks like honeybees.

They have generally been found in the southern United States.

Brown examined bee samples on Tuesday and notified the Kansas Department of Agriculture, which will study the specimen further.

Batchman, an alfalfa farmer who lives south of Albert, got the six-pound, purebred rat terrier on Saturday. About two hours after he put it outside with a bowl of water, his wife found the animal in shock, suffering from hundreds of bee stings.

Taped appeal prompts suit

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The black teenager videotaped being punched in the face by a white policeman sued the officer, Inglewood and Los Angeles County on Wednesday in a case that has drawn comparisons to the Rodney King beating.

Also Wednesday, a prosecutor revealed a county grand jury probe of the incident. The federal civil rights lawsuit by 16-year-old Donovan Jackson and his father seeks unspecified damages.

It alleges negligence, misconduct and a violation of the constitutional right to due process and against unreasonable search and seizure.

"It was Donovan today, it was Rodney King yesterday. It's untold people in the graveyard that cannot speak out that have been abused by police and it's time to stop," Donovan's cousin, Talibah Shakir, said at a news conference.

Officials with the Inglewood Police Department declined comment.

Making improvements



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Improvements are currently underway on the Logan County fairgrounds in preparation for this year's event. Construction crews from Top Notch, Inc. in Colby continued work this week as county officials gear up for fair activities that will begin on Tuesday, July 16 and continue through Saturday, July 20. "The Magic's In the Air," is the theme of this year's county fair and everyone in the surrounding area is invited. For questions, call (785) 672-3245.

Briefly

School items for sale

Colby Public Schools will be conducting a book sale Tuesday, July 16, from 7 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., and Wednesday, July 17, from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Colby High School commons area. Books, audio tapes, slides, records and a few miscellaneous items will be available.

Registration deadlines near

The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation for the Tuesday, Aug. 6 primary election is Monday, July 22, said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk. Persons wanting to change affiliation or register can do either at the county clerk's office at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The clerk's office is also open through the lunch hour. In addition to the election deadlines, Perkins wanted to also remind people that the deer application deadline is on Friday (July 12). For questions on these or other related matters, call 462-4500.

Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed during the week of the fair, July 29 through Aug. 2, and officials are reminding everyone that any business or services they may need during that week should be brought in prior to or after the county fair. For information or questions, call 462-4582.

Logan County board meets Monday

The Logan County Commissioners have scheduled their next meeting for 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning in the commissioner's room of the courthouse. No agenda items were available.

Nine-Run-Run apps available

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is hosting its seventh annual Nine-Run-Run, which will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, beginning at 7 a.m. with registra-

tion. Those interested in participating in either the 10K run, 5K and 2 K fun runs, or the 53K bicycle ride, are encouraged to call the office at (785) 462-4585 or stop by the facility at 1275 S. Franklin, Colby to pick up a registration form.

Fair board meets tonight

The Thomas County Fair Board will hold their monthly meeting tonight beginning at 8 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds. Agenda items include: the rodeo, fair parade, advertising for the races, meat donations and sponsors for the BBQ, the Wall of Support, the David Keller Memorial, the Ty England concert, and the 2003 budget. The public is invited.

Golf tourney scheduled

The second annual Drive for Sobriety golf tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Sugar Hills Country

Club in Goodland. The event, sponsored by the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is seeking teams to participate in the four person scramble with all proceeds from the event going to support council activities and programs. The \$60 per person entry fee will include a golf cart and lunch. Entry forms are available at the Thomas County ADAC office, P.O. Box 100, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Household waste site to open

The Thomas County Household Hazardous Waste Facility will be open on from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, July 13, said Sandy Swob, director. "This is a great time to bring old paints, stains, varnish, thinners, cleaning products, lawn and garden chemicals, automotive parts, batteries and other acceptable items for disposal," she said. The facility is free and open to all Thomas County households, she said. No business waste will be accepted and used motor oil should be taken to the county landfill for recycling. For questions, call Swob at 462-4525.

