



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Colby City Council ponders increase in sewer rates

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Sewer rates could go up in October for residents in town following the Colby City Council meeting earlier this week.

The proposal will be brought back to the council in late July or early August recommending that the minimum sewer charge for the first 3,000 gallons be changed from \$4.56 per month to \$9 per month.

The sewer proposal was part of an overall review by the city's utility committee, which looked at water rates, electric rates, and sewer and sanitation charges, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

In addition to the council approving the implementation of energy cost adjustments with the August billing, the proposed ordinance on sewer charges and increasing rates for commercial sanitation trucks will be considered at one of those future meetings.

The council also heard pros and cons on establishing a "no parking" resolution on the south side of West Third from Copeland to West 4th St. during the construction project.

The idea of creating a resolution to address this issue was suggested by one of the residents in that area, Armstrong said. In preparing for discussion, Armstrong said that she,

along with Police Chief Randy Jones and Gerry Bieker, public works director, checked the neighborhood. "We all agreed that there is a problem there," she said, "and I am asking for the council's input on this resolution."

John Bremenkamp, one of the council members, said while he believed it was "tight" in that area, he also said he thinks it's up to drivers. "They have a choice," Bremenkamp said, "they don't have to take Third Street, they can instead take Highway 24."

Council member Todd Barrows said he tended to agree with Bremenkamp that this was a

driver's choice.

Jonas and Marlene Friesen, residents in that area, were present at the council meeting to offer their input. Mr. Friesen said it would be more convenient for them if parking was only allowed on the south side instead of the north side because of their personal situation.

After a brief discussion, a majority of the council indicated they were satisfied with the way it is right now in that area. As a result, the resolution died for lack of a motion.

In other council business:

- Authorization to negotiate a service agreement in connection with the water treatment facility was

approved by the council, along with the required documentation under the financial agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency at the facility.

- The council instructed Armstrong to check with banks in the area and the difference in rates for investment funds with regards to approving a new investment policy for the city.

- Approval was given to buy some used shoring equipment at about 30 percent of new value for safety purposes. According to Armstrong, the pieces the city is considering are worth over \$50,000 and would be split between the water, sewer and

electric departments. The council authorized the expenditure of up to \$15,000 for the shoring equipment.

- The city received \$2,600 on the electric van that was involved in the accident last month, Armstrong said. Further discussion will be done by the vehicle committee with a recommendation before the next council meeting.

- Venture Corporation in Great Bend was the low bidder for the mill and overlay project from I-70 to Cedar on Range Ave. at a cost of \$934,957. The work will be reviewed by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the city for the appropriate agreement.

## Fireworks will draw attention

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby Police Department will be keeping an eye on things over the Fourth of July holiday.

Chief Randy Jones said the department will be dealing with fireworks complaints on a complaint-by-complaint basis.

"We're going to enforce it like we normally do," he said.

Jones said officers have already answered a few complaints. Officers will either confiscate fireworks or give citations.

It is illegal to set off fireworks in the city limits.

Since fireworks like bottle rockets became illegal, he said enforcing the ordinance is easier.

Fireworks sales are up but accidents are down.

"It's a matter of people policing their own children," Jones said.

He also said the department is going to be paying extra attention because there will be many people on the road this weekend.

"We're not tolerant of people who drink and drive," Jones said.

He said officers will try to be more observant but enforcement will be no different than usual in the city..



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Alex and Madison Zimmerman, Kayla Webber and Nolan and J.J. Marten and others enjoy a spin around the new dino-go-round at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The amusement ride

is one of nine attractions that'll be open for the fair July 28-Aug. 2. The Thomas County Amusement Association has been working for more than a year to bring carnival rides back to the fair.

## Group's efforts right on target for the fair

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The carnival committee's work has nearly paid off.

For more than a year the Thomas County Amusement Association has been working to get amusements and rides for the Thomas County Fair.

Kerry Wark, committee chairman, said they have nine attrac-

tions that will be ready for fair.

He said the effort started two years ago when the fair board asked for help after two years of fairs without carnivals.

They held a meeting and a committee was set up, made from people who attended.

"We've had a lot of support," Wark said. "It was still hard. We could always use more help."

He said there was some hope they would be set up to run rides before the fireworks display at the fairgrounds on Friday but they didn't quite make it. "But we'll be ready for the fair," Wark said.

The fair was and still is their main goal and he said the rides will be ready for it, even though the Paratrooper is the only ride set up right now.

Committee member Dick Parnell said the other rides include a tilt-a-whirl, the Paratrooper and the Zipper for older kids and for the younger set, a slide, mini Ferris wheel, swing, dino-go-round and the two inflatables.

He said different community groups have adopted the amusements to run them during the fair.

## Hostilities continue to take toll in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An Army truck hit an explosive west of Baghdad injuring six U.S. soldiers early Thursday, and ambushers in the capital wounded two other American soldiers in separate incidents, U.S. military officials and witnesses said.

An explosion during a demonstration in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, killed one person and injured at least five. The demonstrators were protesting the U.S.

Army's alleged detention of the city's top Shiite cleric.

During the hostilities, U.S. soldiers also injured a six-year-old boy and killed another bystander, as well as an Iraqi gunman, military officials and civilian witnesses said.

In Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, a two-Humvee convoy struck an explosive early Thursday, wounding six soldiers, said Sgt. Patrick Compton, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

And an ambusher fired a grenade at a U.S. Army convoy in downtown Baghdad Thursday morning, wounding one soldier, and troops who returned fire killed an Iraqi bystander, witnesses said.

As the convoy moved along Baghdad's Haifa Street, a man fired a rocket-propelled grenade while standing in a car's sunroof; the grenade exploded beneath an Army Humvee, said Saddam Juwad, 22, a bystander. Most of the soldiers

jumped from the Humvee before the explosion, Juwad said. One soldier who appeared to be injured was evacuated, Juwad and other witnesses said.

As the attackers sped away, U.S. soldiers began firing wildly, Hassan and other witnesses said, killing the driver of another car. As a Humvee sat burning in the street an hour after the attack, witnesses pointed to a pool of blood on the street where the victim had fallen.

## Briefly

### Bicyclists to stop in Colby

Residents may notice a group of 32 bicyclists in Colby on Friday night, said Carolyn May, missions chairperson at Colby United Methodist Church. The bicyclists will be coming to town in two groups and are riding some 4,000 miles to raise awareness for Habitat for Humanity, an organization that builds homes for the less fortunate, she said. The group will stay overnight in Colby with their final destination the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

### Free Press breaks for July 4th

The *Colby Free Press* will not publish an edition on July 4th. "We will take the day off and enjoy it with family and friends," said Tom Dreiling, publisher. "Things will get back to normal on Monday, although it'll be a little tough coming off a three-day break," he said.

### Commissioners' agenda told

The Thomas County Commissioners have four items on

their agenda for Monday's 9 a.m. meeting at the courthouse. At 9:00 - Larry Jumper, landfill report; 10:00 - Jim Blume, Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas to give report and 2004 budget request; 10:30 - Nine Carpenter, ADAC report and 2004 budget request; and 11:00 - Randy Dick, Kaw Valley Insurance to give health insurance update. The meeting is open to the public. Also, the courthouse will be closed Friday in observance of the July 4th holiday.

### School district has new prefix

Colby Public Schools has changed all telephone numbers from the "465" prefix to "460" prefix, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent. The change went into effect on Tuesday, July 1.

### Library's 'Family Night' date changed

"Family Night" at Pioneer Memorial Library, which was previously scheduled for Thursday, July 3, has been changed

to Thursday, July 10, said JoAnne Sunderman, librarian. The time of the "Family Night" is still 7 p.m. For questions, call the library at 462-4470.

### Donations needed for fireworks

Thomas County Kiwanis Club is still seeking donations from businesses and individuals to offset the cost of this year's fireworks display. For those wanting to contribute, donations may be sent to: Colby Kiwanis, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan. 67701.

### Mosquito spraying begins

City of Colby crews are now spraying for mosquitoes the remainder of the summer. For those wanting to be notified before crews enter their area, call Jo Strage, executive secretary to the city manager, 462-4410. City officials ask that residents check yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to help keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

## Governor: new prison not needed

TOPEKA (AP) — The state does not need to build a new prison, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said Wednesday, taking issue with Attorney General Phill Kline who thinks the state needs one.

Sebelius said she believes the state has enough prison space for its prison population and said if it were faced with a crunch, she would look for the least expensive alternative to the problem.

The Democratic governor made her statements a day after Kline, a Republican, suggested the state should build a new prison and toughen penalties for parolees who evade state supervision.

Kline also said he would lobby the Legislature next year to authorize construction of a new prison.

Kline has announced an aggressive effort by his office to hunt down missing parolees.

Though Sebelius said she welcomes help from the attorney general's office and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, she questioned why Atty. Gen. Kline was becoming involved with the Department of Corrections' ongoing efforts to find missing parolees.

"We're not quite sure what is being planned," Sebelius said.

"It isn't as if it's not going on right now," she said.

Kline said that in the past few weeks, two people working out of his office found parolees who had been missing from state supervision for up to five years.

"They were folks the Department of Corrections could not find," Kline said. "It took a phone call and computer — and the will — so I would welcome a more aggressive partnership with the Department of Corrections."

Concerns about population levels led legislators this year to enact — with Sebelius' support — a law mandating treatment rather than prison for some drug offenders.

But Kline has opposed that law and has continued to argue that budget concerns should not drive sentencing policy.

The state has about 9,000 inmates in its custody, with room in its prison system for about 9,100.

The governor said that if the state needs more space, the Department of Corrections will consider leasing it from other states or county jails first.



### It'll be warm

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Mostly clear with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast wind 10 to 20 mph becoming southwest late. Chance of rain 20 percent. Independence day...Partly sunny. A chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph becoming north late. Chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday...Partly sunny. A chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Sunday...Mostly clear during the day...Then mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Monday...Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 80.

#### By the numbers

Wednesday's high, 100  
Low this morning, 62  
Year ago today, 94 and 66  
Records for the date, 107 in 1934, 44 in 1924  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
July's precipitation, 0.00  
Year's precipitation to date, 10.87  
2002's precipitation to date, 4.18  
**Water Usage/Colby**  
July 2 = 2.864 million gallons



