



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Area schools ready to start 2006-07 year

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

School has already started for some students in Thomas County and for the rest, it starts next week.

Classes began Wednesday in Brewster and classes at every other school in the county begins Thursday, Aug. 24.

Colby School District including the grade school, middle school, high school and Thomas County Academy, the district's charter school.

At the grade school, Principal Terrel Harrison said there are a couple of staff changes. Counselor Lois Unger retired after the last school year and was replaced by Vicki Nickols, who moved over from teaching first grade. Nickols' position is being filled by Krista Alexander.

At Colby Middle School, secretary Deann Shields said there are two new teachers. Chris Gardner will be teaching seventh-grade social studies and Thesia Weber will teach sixth and seventh-grade language arts.

Colby High School has the most new additions out of any school in the district. Secretary Lynn Carpenter said there are 12 new staff members. They are new activities direc-

tor/assistant principal Larry Gabel and 11 new teachers.

Heartland Christian School and Sacred Heart School also have students return Thursday.

Jesse Vincent, administrator at Heartland there are several new additions to the school, including himself, who will be starting his first year as principal.

Three new teachers are Raymond Fagan, secondary math and science; Shawna Slack, secondary math, drama and Spanish and LaDana Smeeton, fifth and sixth grade.

Vincent said the school will also graduate its first high school class this school year.

"The school is adding on boys and girls high school basketball this winter and this fall, junior high and high school volleyball. I'm excited about the things going on," Vincent said. "It's going to be a good year."

Sacred Heart also has new teachers, said secretary Kathy Elliott. Lori Truetken is the new second-grade teacher and Mindy Curry and Jennifer Burr will be teaching fifth grade.

Another addition to the school's staff is head nutritionist Michelle Bremkamp.

Golden Plains District in Rexford starts classes Aug. 24.



A new travel stop in Colby may look like what is pictured above. Tuesday. The company owns 21 acres of land near Interstate 70, exit 54 where it plans to build.

## New travel stop still in works

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

Colby City Council continues its work on a second truck and travel stop following information provided at its meeting Tuesday.

Four representatives from Bosselman Company, a Nebraska-based family business, requested the council consider extending the water and sewer to the truck stop's property line at the northeast quadrant of Interstate 70, exit 54.

Brandi Bosselman, corporate attorney, said the company is aware that they would need to pay double the rate of an in-town business for water and sewer since they are outside the city limits.

"We have not completed our final plans so we cannot be definitive on the water and sewer sizes," she said.

Bosselman said the center will provide a commercial service to truck drivers and include 16 fueling lanes, eight pumps, and six to eight trucks could fuel at one time.

"We are still in the early stages, but we have a good customer base here," she said.

The council also asked about when construction might begin.

Bosselman's maintenance director, Art Sahlman, said the company had planned to lay the footings before winter, but now it looks as if construction won't start until spring 2007.

Since the council had no final



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Brandi Bosselman, corporate attorney, left; Chuck Bosselman, president, and Art Sahlman, maintenance director, all representing Bosselman Company, were at the Colby City Council meeting Tuesday to discuss extending sewer lines to their property.

plans available, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said there is no way to estimate the costs until Bosselmanns can provide the size of service it will need.

In addition to the corporate attorney and maintenance director, Chuck Bosselman, president and

Charlie Bosselman, vice president of operations were also available to answer questions.

The company has truck and travel centers in Kentucky, Iowa, New Mexico, South Dakota, Nebraska and two in Kansas.

When the Colby center opens, it

will carry the Pilot marketing brand, which will allow the large customer base of the Pilot network, he said. The council told Bosselman representatives they are interested in the new project and to bring back final plans when ready.

## Colby College to use county target range

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Colby Community College gained approval Monday to use the county's target range to offer a concealed weapons class.

Dr. Lynn Kreider, college president, said providing a certified instructor, shooting range marshals, liability insurance and any necessary reimbursements for targets would be no problem for the college in exchange for using the county's target range.

Thomas County Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen talked with Kreider about the law which allows the public to obtain a license to carry a concealed weapon. The college plans to offer coursework consisting of six hours in the classroom and two hours firing the gun. Any person wanting to carry on their person or have in their vehicle a concealed weapon is required to pass a test over the classroom material and qualify on the shooting range.

"We'll have classroom time and live fire time," Kreider said. "What we are looking for is a place to do the live fire."

Kreider said he has talked with Sheriff Mike Baughn and Colby Police Chief Randy Jones about allowing off-duty officers to serve as shooting range marshals for the class.

"We'll have marshals and we'll

have a weekend format of either Saturday and Sunday, or only Saturday classes," Kreider said.

State law requires one range marshal for every four people using a shooting range.

Kreider expects the college to be inundated with applicants for the class, and that will "taper off with time."

He said he expects Colby Community College to offer the concealed weapons course two times each month to start. He said not enough of the details are in place to say when the first class will take place.

Evans said he was concerned about private individuals teaching a similar class and asking to use the county's range.

"We'll have to address that on a case by case basis," Steele said.

Christiansen said he was concerned granting the college use of the county's shooting range would "open up new exposure" to the facility located at the county landfill.

Landfill Director Larry Jumper said anyone at the range unlawfully would be reported to law enforcement. He said he didn't think there would be a problem since residents who live close to the landfill already help monitor unlawful entry to the facility.

The commissioners approved the college's use of the range contingent upon proof of \$1 million dollars liability insurance.

## Brownback to visit Colby, Goodland

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Sam Brownback will attend several events in Northwest Kansas Tuesday. Brownback will meet with community leaders and constituents at the Thomas County office complex to discuss current legislative issues. Brownback will then meet with members of the Colby

Rotary club to discuss issues of the day.

At the Goodland Energy Center Brownback will meet with business leaders to discuss energy policy.

Brownback will attend a meeting with business leaders and constituents at the Centennial Building to discuss the U.S. beef trade and en-

ergy issues.

### Brownback's schedule

10:30 a.m., Central time, Brownback meets with community members, Thomas County Office Complex conference room, 350 South Range Ave in Colby.

Noon, Central time, Brownback speaks to Colby Rotary Club, Colby

Community College Student Union, 1255 South Range Ave. in Colby.

1 p.m., (MDT), Brownback speaks at Goodland Energy Center, 1201 Main Street in Goodland.

2:15 p.m., (MDT), Business leaders at Centennial Building, 10th & Main Street in Goodland.

## Thomas County reviews bids for new landfill trash compactor

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Fuel efficiency and a water-cooled turbo engine tipped the scale on the purchase of a trash compactor for the county's landfill.

Thomas County Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen Monday talked to Danny Lockhart of Martin Tractor about a 2006 and a 2007 compactor.

Steele said he favored the 2007 costing the county \$75 more a month for 15 years over the 2006 model.

**"For a government order it's the lowest available."**

Danny Lockhart,  
Martin Tractor

"It has a water-cooled turbo, a newer type radiator and improved fuel efficiency," Lockhart said.

Costing \$334,943, the county will be given a \$72,150 trade-in and pay down \$100,000 for a final bill of \$162,793. The 2006 model

would have cost \$161,293, a difference of \$13,500 the commissioners thought not enough to forego a year newer model.

Evans asked Lockhart if those figures were Martin Tractor's lowest.

"Yes," Lockhart said. "For a gov-

ernment order it's the lowest available."

The commissioners asked Lockhart to shop around for interest rates at local banks to find the county the most competitive rate for the balance which will be financed.

Landfill Director Larry Jumper said his department's budget will have paid in full for two other pieces of heavy equipment by January and August 2007, making the purchase of the compactor feasible. He asked Lockhart to have the first annual payment on the new purchase due January 2008. Lockhart agreed.

Jumper, who was appointed director of the newly combined landfill and hazardous waste department, asked the commissioners to sign a letter which will accompany a grant application.

Jumper said he has until Friday to file an application with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for a new building to be constructed at the landfill. That building will house hazardous wastes and will be open to the public during regular landfill hours daily and Saturday morning.

During 2006, the Thomas County

Household Hazardous Waste program collected 11,224 pounds of material. Those materials included, but were not limited to, latex and oil based paint; used oil; flammable solids; batteries and other items such as antifreeze.

In other business, the commissioners plan to attend Sen. Pat Roberts' public meeting 11 a.m. Monday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. will meet with the public.

The meeting is part of Roberts' western Kansas tour to listen to concerns of constituents.