



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## County in haste to collect household waste

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Though not quite finished, Thomas County's new household hazardous waste collection site is open for business.

The building is at the Thomas County Landfill.

Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper said the building is already being used to store materials brought in by residents. However, the building's interior needs a few touches before completion.

Household hazardous waste being collected during regular landfill hours seven days a week. Residents no longer have to wait for two or three collection dates during the year.

The county received a \$66,000 grant from the state, and had to match it with \$44,000 to construct the building.

The county road department is helping finish the building. Jumper said using county labor has helped cut down costs.

A trailer for collection is parked at the main landfill building. Residents can drop off their waste at the office. It is then put in the trailer and hauled to the household hazardous waste building.

The trailer is set up to separate out materials.

"It saves people a drive," Jumper said. "It's more convenient."

The old collection site was at 190 W. Fourth St. Jumper said it was not set up under the proper guidelines for use as a collection facility. It was only open a few times a year for the public to drop off waste.

Not only is the new building more convenient, but safer.

The 40x50-foot structure in-

cludes a six-inch concrete edging around the bottom of the building to prevent spills from leaking outside.

"It's all made to contain what you spill," he said. "That's the way we designed it."

When finished, the building will have inside shelving for various materials, as well as a room to store flammable materials away from everything else.

"We have to segregate things," Jumper said.

Waste is divided into four groups — paints, household cleaners, pest control products and automotive products.

Items such as car batteries, brake fluid, cleaning products, paints, solvents, insecticides, motor oil and more are accepted at the collection site.

Most is packed up to be destroyed, but items like paint and some cleaners are available.

Paint is a recyclable material.

"If people want it, they can come get it," Jumper said. "We do have some paint available. Light colors go quick."

Good, reusable paint is screened and put in five-gallon pails. Each is marked by the color inside so people know exactly what they're getting.

"People still throw away paint," he said. "There's no reason for it."

With a new facility open seven days a week, the county breaks new ground. Jumper said very few counties or cities have a collection site open all the time.

"We're trying to take the lead in making it convenient and accessible," he said.

Commissioner Ken Christiansen said the new building is an asset because it offers the public daily



Thomas County landfill supervisor Larry Jumper secured a barrel of flammable material at the county's new household hazardous

waste building Tuesday at the landfill. The site is now open for collection during landfill hours.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

access.

"I think it's a wonderful deal," he said.

He also said it was Jumper's hard work that helped the county get the state grant for the building.

Jumper is certified to handle household hazardous waste, and three of the landfill's crew will take a course next week to earn their own certification. He explained waste is cataloged then put in the appropri-

ate spot or packed for removal.

Oil-based paints and solvents are one example. They are packed in 55-gallon barrels and removed for incineration by Clean Harbors Environmental Services, a nation-

wide company that specializes in environmental and waste management services.

Last year, the county paid \$4,300 to use the company's services.

## Council prepares for tree trimming

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

Concern about tree limbs hanging over power lines in some areas of Colby prompted the Colby City Council Tuesday to approve letting bids that would correct the problem.

The proposal covers more than 7,900 feet of alleys and easements in 10 locations, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

The situation was brought to the city's attention after recent windstorms caused two outages, said Chris Bieker, director of the utility department.

"Many of the areas to be cleared will not be accessible through an alley and tress must be climbed and trimmed by hand, which will require a professional company," she said.

In addition, Sharon Steele with the city's tree board, requested she be involved in the process once a contractor is hired if any trees need to be removed.

The areas covered in the bid proposal include:



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Problem trees like these in the alley at West Seventh Street will soon be trimmed following action by the council Tuesday.

- East Fifth Street from Country Club Drive to Valley Drive
- East Sixth Street from Country Club Drive to Valley Drive

- West Fifth Street on the north side from Walker Avenue to Westside Park
- 250 foot section of the north side of Harvey Court.
- 800 foot section of the north side of West Fifth Street from Austin Avenue to Walker Avenue
- 1,500 foot section of the west side of Austin Avenue from West Fifth Street to West Sixth Street
- 600 foot section of east side of Austin Avenue from West Fifth Street to West Sixth Street.
- alley between First Street and Copeland Avenue.

- West Eighth Street from School Street to Kansas Highway 25
- West Seventh Street from Kansas Highway 25 to French Avenue.

In referring to the proposed bids, Armstrong said, the city is requiring a 10-foot clearance on all primary and secondary electrical lines.

The deadline for contractors to bid on this project is 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 30.

Proposals must be submitted to the city clerk, 585 N. Franklin Ave., Colby, KS. 67701, Armstrong said.

For bid information or other questions, call Colby City Hall at 460-4400.

## Brewster residents to see changes in water, street bills

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Brewster residents will soon see work being done on city streets and see two new workers this summer.

At a special meeting April 19, Brewster's mayor, Mike Baughn, along with councilmen Dwayne Randolph, Rex Jamison and Jon Eicher decided it was time to crack seal the streets.

"We are providing the labor and we'll save a little more than \$1,000," City Superintendent Mike Schultz said. "It may take us a little longer because we've never done it before."

Accepting one of two options presented by Sporer Land Development of Oakley, the city will rent an asphalt melting machine, compressor and material for 6,500 feet of street crack fill for \$1,450. A second option was to have Sporer Land Development do all the work at a cost to the city of \$2,900 per day.

Schultz estimates the crack seal work will start in June and take about one week to complete.

Assisting Schultz this summer will be Jeff Reid and T.J. Preston. Both Reid and Preston are Brewster High School students, the only teens to have applied for the summer jobs with the city.

"The city tries to offer jobs to the kids who are over 16 years old each

year," Schultz said. "They will be helping with mowing, painting and crack sealing the streets."

Schultz said the two will be working for \$5.15 per hour.

Another update to the city's operation undertaken was to upgrade the water utility software and purchase of a printer for the computer system.

"It's for our billing program," Schultz said. "It allows us to go to a Windows based system instead of an old DOS bases program."

City Clerk Judy Reid prepares water bills for the city.

While only a consideration at this time, Schultz said a measure being looked at is e-billing.

E-billing would allow Reid to send water bills to residents over the Internet in the form of an attachment to an e-mail.

Already in place for paying water bills is automatic bank draft which allows the city to withdraw from a resident's bank account the amount of their bill. Schultz said the city-wide Spring clean up day Saturday was a success. "We had 17 people, seven of which were adults, and we cleaned up 13 properties," he said.

"We had a pretty good turnout. It was sponsored by the Brewster Community Foundation and the local Lutheran Church's Thrivent organization."

## Holy cow! Newspaper carrier hits bull

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

A Denver Post delivery person had a run-in with a bull today in Brewster.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said Joyce Garcia, residence unavailable, was driving a

1990 Chrysler northbound at 4:25 a.m. on Kansas Highway 184 near Sixth Street when she collided with a black Angus bull.

"Cattle had gotten out and there were five or six head out on the roadway," Baughn said.

"She didn't see them until she got right on top of them because it

was dark," he said.

"It survived. It was still mobile anyway."

Garcia received minor injuries from glass shards because of a broken windshield.

She was driving 35-40 mph when the accident happened

Baughn said the damage to the

car was the broken windshield, and to the left front and door.

Her passengers were uninjured.

The cattle belonged to Mike Schultz of Brewster. He was unavailable for comment.

Baughn said the cattle being out was an accident, and likely because of an open gate.

## Prison expansion, aviation among last items settled by legislators

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislative negotiators have agreed to provide additional money for aviation research and to keep a \$39.5 million prison expansion program on track in wrapping up work on the year's last spending bill.

The three senators and three House members also decided to include money to prevent the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame from closing.

Those were among the final issues settled as the negotiators reconciled dozens of dif-

ferences between their chambers' versions of the measure. The \$300 million-plus bill would complete a budget of about \$12.6 billion for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Both chambers planned to vote on the compromise Wednesday, a day after the negotiators closed their deal.

Approval by the House and Senate would send the bill to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and permit legislators to end their annual session, which began Jan. 8.

"We have absolutely dissected and con-

sidered nearly every item in the budget," said Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, his chamber's lead negotiator.

The prison expansion program was a once-settled issue that resurfaced. Lawmakers authorized the bonds for it last month, and the Department of Corrections contemplated four projects providing 668 new beds.

Those projects were two new cellhouses at the state's maximum security prison outside El Dorado, a new, 240-bed drug-and-

alcohol treatment center for inmates in Yates Center, and expansion of the state prisons in Ellsworth and Stockton.

The issue was particularly important to Woodson County officials, who feared Yates Center would lose its project. The city, with 1,500 people 80 miles south of Topeka, has been trying to attract a prison for more than two decade to boost its economy.

"It revitalizes hope," Mayor Doug Tressler said of the negotiators' action. "It

certainly gives us the hope of building more of an economy, building more businesses."

Corrections Secretary Roger Werholtz also saw the Yates Center project as an opportunity to help rebuild programs decimated when the state experienced budget problems in 2002 and 2003.

Between 70 percent and 80 percent of the state's inmates have a substance abuse problem. "There are certain people who just have to go away for a while if they're going to be cured."