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10 pages

City to help recycle group

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby City Council approved paying an additional \$1.50 per capita for the rest of the year and to budget for \$4 for each resident next year to the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization.

The \$4 could be less if markets go up and if more people participate in the e-waste program, said Lynette Koon, coordinator for the recycling organization.

This would amount to an extra \$8,175 for the rest of this year, and

the city would provide the group with a \$21,000 budget next year, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. Koon attended the city meeting on Tuesday.

She told the council that the market for recycled goods had crashed due to the struggling economy, although it is starting to come back slowly. Koon said so far this year, the group has spent about \$256,000. She said about \$198,000 was provided by the state to buy the e-waste building at 1190 S. Country Drive, and to providing the equipment needed for

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Water use may rise as July heat builds

By Kevin Bottrell

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With temperatures in the high 90s and less rain finding its way to Colby, the city may see a rise in water usage which could put it under a water watch.

Throughout much of May and June, the city's water usage has stayed below 2.3 million gallons per day, with a couple of spikes: It hit 2.8 million on May 21 and more than 3 million on June 29.

City Public Works Director Chris Bieker said the daily usage number is the total water usage for commercial, residential and public sectors. It is calculated each day from meter readings taken at the city's wells.

Bieker said the city currently operates eight of its nine wells and the water treatment plant. One of the wells is shut down because it is connected to the water treatment plant project, and will be

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Work under way all around Colby

Taking advantage of the nice weather, several construction projects were underway this week around town. Thomas County worker Bill Marriman (driving, above) and Colby employee Josh Allen used a spreader for chip sealing on College Avenue. The work Thursday finished off a series of sealing projects this week which included sections of Poplar Street, First Street, Third Street and Hill Street. At the hospital addition site south of the county ambulance garage (right), Elmer Zerr of Zerr Engineering waited for concrete test cylinders to set up for footings being poured on Friday. Zerr said the cylinders will be allowed to dry, and then broken to test the strength of the concrete.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Mystery project



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

City crews used a bucket truck while they worked on and around the stop light at the southwest corner of Fourth and Franklin this morning. The project apparently is some kind of secret. Asked what they were doing, the workers and other city officials said the police chief had requested the work, but only he could talk about it. Chief Randy Jones was not available for questions, however.

Rodeo royalty contest begins Saturday

By Vera Sloan

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The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess contests, affairs which have been around for the past 25 to 30 years, will have horsemanship events for contestants at 10 a.m. Saturday in the small arena on the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

The girls will move to the 4-H building at 1 p.m. for interviews with judges.

Contestants are judged on horsemanship, knowledge of their animal, knowledge about the sport of rodeo, poise and the interviews, said Brandy Todd, contest director.

The public is invited to attend the horsemanship events and the fashion show.

At 7 p.m., a modeling and fashion show will be held in the multipurpose room of the Student Union at Colby Community College. Admission is free.

Winners and runners up will be announced and presented Monday evening, July 27, in

front of the grandstand during the first night of the rodeo.

Competing for Rodeo Queen this year are:

- Katera Harter, 15, a Colby High School. She is the daughter of Lowell and Sue Harter.
- Jewell Margheim, 17, daughter of J.J. and Tamie Margheim of Monument. She attends Triplains High School.
- Shanell Sager, 16 year old daughter of Fred and Pam Sager of Colby, who attends Colby

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Museum holds contests for county anniversary

By Kevin Bottrell

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For Thomas County's 125th birthday next year, the Prairie Museum of Art and History and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce plan a series of events, beginning with contests to come up with a theme and a logo for the celebration.

Director Sue Taylor said the museum is looking for Thomas County residents – even former

residents – to submit theme suggestions. These will be judged on creativity, appropriateness and simplicity.

After the theme has been decided, the museum will hold a logo contest. Logos should incorporate the new theme and be submitted on an 8 1/2 by 11" sheet of paper.

The deadline for the theme contest is Monday, July 20, and for the logo contest Tuesday, Sept. 15. Entry forms can be picked up and turned in at the museum or the Chamber office.

Taylor said the museum will have several exhibits keyed to the anniversary, including a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian titled "Journey Stories" from Jan. 8 to Feb. 21. The exhibit will chronicle the journeys taken by Americans, from the first pilgrims, to Native American relocations, to covered wagons taking settlers to the West. Taylor said the museum will mount a companion exhibit about journeys in and through Thomas County.

From June 2 to 6, the mu-

seum will have the Kansas/Nebraska Chautauqua traveling history show, "Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties." The event will include historians portraying famous speakers from the era, living history demonstrations, a youth day camp and a Dust Bowl photo exhibit.

Later in June will be Colby High School's 10th all-school reunion, with all graduates – rather than just one class – invited, June 18 to 20.

Briefly

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible, with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Birthing classes open

Couples can still sign up for Citizens Medical Center's childbirth education classes, which will run from 7 to 10 p.m. the next three Thursdays. The staff will catch new couples up on information from the first class. Women in their last trimester, or who are due to deliver before November, are encouraged to attend, along with the support partner who will be with the mother in labor. Classes will be held on

the hospital campus. The next set of classes will be in October. For information or to register, contact Jeanene Brown in the center's education department at (785) 460-4850.

Pick some food for Genesis

Remember to bring your nonperishable food donations for the Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank to the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival next weekend. Boxes will be placed near the entrance. The schedule kicks off with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, and continues Friday to Sunday, July 17-19. For information, call the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643 or (800) 611-8835.

Church offers free baby stuff

The Colby Wesleyan Church plans a free "Baby

Day" from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Parents may come and "shop" for used and new baby items, including toddler and infant clothes, baby food and diapers. Donations of used items are needed. The church is at 320 W. Pine St. in Colby. For information, call Joy Rothfuss at the church, 462-8391.

Nursing home plans dog show

The Colby Care Center will hold a doggie fashion show at 2 p.m. Saturday. Dress up your dogs and bring them by, along with a \$5 donation for the Residents Activity Fund. Veterinarian Tammy Swartz will judge the entries and award prizes, and give some free advice for dog owners. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

Massage program plans event

The Therapeutic Massage department at Colby

Community College will hold an open house and informational session from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in room 804 of the Health Sciences Building. For information, contact program Director Debra Waites at (785) 460-4797 or debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

Picnic in the Park Wednesday

Next week's entertainment at Picnic in the Park will be the Sappa Strings. The series continues at noon every Wednesday through July 29 in Fike Park. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.



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