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## County to track out-of-town trash

By Vera Sloan  
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Over 100,000 tons more commercial and demolition debris has been dumped at the Thomas County landfill than at this time last year, and employees suspect some of it may be coming from out of town.

"It takes \$60 a ton to process the waste," Supervisor Larry Jumper told county commissioners Monday, "and it looks like Thomas County taxpayers might be paying for trash (from) outside our county."

"Taxpayers pay \$44 a ton in taxes for the landfill, and people who bring in commercial and demolition trash are charged \$16 a ton to dump their load, but we aren't certain where the loads are com-

ing from." An individual can leave trash at the landfill with no charge, but for commercial haulers, the charge is \$32 a ton, working from a "user pay" schedule, Jumper said.

The commissioners told Jumper to make a survey of surrounding landfills and make up some sort of form to be filled out, to see if they can track the source of the trash they suspect is coming from out of county.

They told him to bring the information to the annual meeting of area landfill supervisors. The group will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, in the conference room at the county office complex.

Jumper also asked for approval to buy a new seat for the main loader at the landfill. The current seat has no spring left in it, he said, and the operator is practi-

cally sitting on the floor. He said he's afraid the operators will start having back problems without a decent seat. The commissioners approved purchase of a spring seat at \$1,184.

Dawnell Umberger, a full-time emergency medical technician, gave the commissioners information they had requested two weeks ago about what it would take for her to become a paramedic.

She said she will have to complete her Associates degree before taking the paramedic classes online, using EduKan through Garden City Community College.

She said she could start taking prerequisite classes to complete her Associates degree in January, then take anatomy and physiology II in the summer. She said

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## Colby hair dresser bakes for sorority cookie sale

By Vera Sloan  
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Doing hair and nails, keeping house and baking are things Linda Van Horn says she loves to do.

It's a fact. She celebrated her 40th year as a hairdresser in June and is baking cookies and making candy for the Kappa Upsilon annual sale next week.

"I started baking when I was a little girl," she said, "and started my first job as a hair dresser when I was 19. It's nice to have two passions, and I love what I do."

As one of 12 children, Van Horn said, she learned to work at a young age and hasn't stopped since.

She said her first job was with a shop owner who was many years older than she.

"I thought, boy, I'll show her a thing or two," Van Horn recalled, "and she ended up showing me about 30."

Her shop has been in its present location beside her home for 26 years, since she converted the attached garage into a beauty shop. She said she wanted to be home when her daughter Malia got out of school for the day.

"I didn't want her to be telling the baby sitter what she had done in school that day," she said.

Van Horn said she belonged to Zeta Zeta sorority, and she baked cookies and made candy each year to help the group raise money. When the club dwindled down to a few members, she said, it disbanded and Kappa Upsilon asked her to join. That was three

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## Help find them a good home



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

What do you do when a basket up puppies turn up at your doorstep? Try to find them a good home. Sharon Dunn held up two of the puppies at the Colby Animal Clinic on Wednesday. The puppies, an unknown mixed breed, are part of a litter of eight that was found in a basket by a clerk at Bosselman Truck Stop early Sunday morning and turned in to Ray Schwietzer of the Colby Police Department. Dunn said two have already been adopted and the rest are looking for a home.



TOM BETZ/Colby Free Press

A Sherman County sheriff's deputy marked the barrels in the front yard of a home about 16 miles southeast of Goodland to identify each bird as evidence was collected Tuesday morning.

## Sherman sheriff's office uncovers cock-fighting ring

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News  
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Sheriff's deputies, wildlife officers and animal health officers searched a suspected cock-fighting operation about 16 miles southeast of Goodland on Tuesday morning, photographing dozens of roosters and arresting two people.

Officers found a trailer house surrounded by more than 100 chickens, including about 70 roosters tied by short ropes to individual barrels in the front yard.

The owner of the birds and his wife were arrested and taken to the Sherman County Bastille, where they were questioned by Investigator Burton Pianalto and a Spanish-speaking state wildlife officer.

Sherman County District Attorney Bonnie Selby said Tuesday afternoon charges are pending against the owners. Officers continued the investigation, bringing some birds to town for testing.

Sherman County Deputy Jason Showalter briefed about 20 officers at 8 a.m. at the Kansas National Guard Armory. The officers assembled south of town about 9:55 a.m., when the first team approached the trailer at 5285 County Road 23. The site is near the bottom of a draw near the Sherman-Wallace County line, between Roads 25 and 23.

During the briefing, Showalter said the location had been under investigation since May, when officers had to get to the house on an unrelated issue.

He said the sheriff's department had obtained a search warrant based on information about illegal cock fights being held in an arena there.

Selby said Monday that state law had been changed to make cock fighting a felony, and she felt there was sufficient evidence to get a search warrant.

The trailer was the home of Jesus Soto; his wife, Alma; and three children. When the officers

approached the house, the wife was at home. She told officers the chickens were theirs. The couple was arrested and taken to town. The children were released to an uncle who lives in town, Selby said.

Deputy Showalter said at the briefing that the first goal of the operation was to secure the area and to arrest anyone found at the location. He said the second part would involve collecting evidence, splitting the officers into three groups. One team collected evidence inside the house, another went inside a nearby quonset, where they expected to find evidence of cock fighting and an arena, and the third team was to take photos and identify each of the birds around the house.

Showalter showed the officers aerial photos of the property taken on Saturday showing the barrels in the front, pens to the south of the house and more pens and bar-

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## Briefly

### College board to meet Monday

The Colby Community College board will hold a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Monday in the board room of Thomas Hall to review the policies manual, approve bonuses and discuss negotiated agreements. The agenda lists closed-door sessions for personnel and attorney-client privilege. For information, call the college at 462-3984.

### School plans annual banquet

Heartland Christian School invites everyone to its annual Partners for the Future Endowment Banquet, "Continuing the Vision," at 6 p.m. next Friday at the school. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased from the school office at 460-6419 by Tuesday.

### Get 'Booked,' lunch at library

The Pioneer Memorial Library will have a "Booked

for Lunch" book review and meal at noon Wednesday. Darryl Henry will review "The First Billion is the Hardest: Reflections on a Life of Comebacks and America's Energy Future," by Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens. Lunch is free but donations will be accepted. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

### Bible, lunch merge for Advent

The Thomas County Ministerial Association is sponsoring "Advent Brown Bags and Bible" from noon to 12:50 p.m. Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall of the Colby Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth Street. The theme this year is "Joy to the World." Pastors who plan to speak are Carol Rahn (First Presbyterian) on Wednesday, Steve Todd (College Drive Assembly of God) Dec. 9, Jarrod Spencer (Church of Christ) Dec. 16 and Larry Booth Dec.

23. Everyone is welcome for fellowship, scripture, hymns and a brief Advent message. Bring a sack lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### College vocal concert Thursday

The Colby Community College instrumental music department's annual winter concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on campus. The performance will include the Jazz and Concert bands, directed by Tony Schroer. Everyone is invited to this free performance. For information, call college spokesperson Debbie Schwanke at 460-5411.

### Women's group plans fund raiser

The Colby Women's League will hold its 13th annual Christmas brunch from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Thursday at Meadow Lake Golf Course and Restaurant. Donations will be accepted to benefit area groups and charities. For information, call Anita Hills at 462-6208.

### Food bank needs donations

Genesis-Thomas County food bank needs non-perishable items for its Christmas Food Basket project. Drop them off at the office, 350 S. Range, Suite 13, between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m. Wednesdays, or at Leroy's Printing, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, Colby United Methodist Church or Trinity Lutheran Church. For information, call the office at 460-7930.



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