



## Landfill cell to be covered with soil, plants

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Jim Carlson, engineer with Stinson Environmental Group of Garden City, met with the Thomas County Commissioners on Friday to discuss the upcoming closure of a 15 acre piece of land — called a cell — at the landfill.

Carlson gave a review of the regulations the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have to close a landfill cell, and said that to complete the cell closure the procedure is complicated and costly. The closure is mandated by state law and must meet the department's standards and inspections. He said his company has past experience with the procedures, has passed state inspections and has credibility with the state.

He presented a slide show of a cutaway of the four different layers it takes to close a cell.

The plan calls for 66 inches of cover. Breaking this down, there is a 12-inch foundation base to directly cover the waste. Covering the foundation base, the procedure calls for 18 inches of a low-permeability layer, followed with

a 30-inch vegetative layer and topped with six inches of top soil, with vegetation planted there for erosion control.

He said clay would normally be the accepted top layer. However, due to the area's arid climate, tests over the years have proven that clay can crack and allow for percolation down into the other layers, with a possibility of leaching into the ground water.

Soil compaction tests show that the soil in Thomas County does not compact well, reinforcing a need to balance percolation and infiltration. Carlson explained that if clay were to be used, as rain water pools at the edges over the years, it could crack and allow water down into the layers.

"Keeping in mind that ground water is the most important thing to be considered when closing a cell, it is best to use water balance layers, not subject to cracking."

He said the final layer — top soil planted to native plants — has proven to be the best cover to comply with regulation standards.

Carlson estimated the cost for his company to do the work would be around \$377,000 but did not

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## Lawmakers says payment delays make case for cuts

TOPEKA (AP) — The state delayed paying some promised aid to public schools for a fourth straight month on Monday, leading a key legislator to call for fresh cuts in the state budget.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder said he worries the state is headed again toward a deficit on June 30, the end of its current fiscal year. He said continued delays in payments to Kansas' 295 school districts are a sign of trouble.

Budget Director Duane Goossen confirmed that the state made only half of the \$96 million in monthly aid payments owed the districts Monday. The remaining \$48 million will be delayed until at least the end of this week.

Goossen said the state hasn't yet made a quarterly \$70 million payment due on Jan. 15 to the state pension fund for teachers and government workers. That payment — a contribution by the state toward school employees' pensions — should be made this month, and the delay won't affect current retirees, he said.

The state has delayed some of its school aid each of the past four months so it can continue to pay other bills on time, including state

government's payroll.

"It's concerning to us that the executive branch is unable to pay bills," said Yoder, an Overland Park Republican. "Clearly, we're still spending more money than we can afford to spend."

Educators also have been frustrated by the state's continued late aid payments, which have forced some districts to do juggling of their own.

"There have been a couple of times when it's been precarious, making payroll," said Diane Gjerstad, a lobbyist for the Wichita school district. "You never know exactly when the state is going to make good with the check."

Yoder's committee expects to consider a Senate-passed bill this week to ratify some adjustments Parkinson made last year to keep the current budget balanced. The biggest would siphon \$80 million away from highway projects to other government programs.

But since Parkinson adjusted the budget in November — the fifth and final round of cuts and other changes last year — state tax collections have fallen \$34 million, or 1.2 percent, short of

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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Cast members (from left) Joshua Korte, Amy Hockersmith, Kate Hockersmith and Dayna Mannebach posed during a rehearsal Monday for their play, "The Outrage," which deals with teen dating violence. Not pictured is cast member Sean

## Student play studies dating violence

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How do you prevent, or try to prevent, dating violence? One of the first steps is to make sure people don't ignore it, and in two weeks a group of Colby Community College students will bring the issue front and center.

The students will be putting on a dramatic play called "The Outrage," a look at how dating violence affects teenagers. The play's tagline is "If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."

"It grabs the audience," said Daniel Blake of Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, the play's director.

Blake, a Colby alumnus, also does some acting in the production. Blake said when he heard there was not going to be a drama production at the college this year, he decided to purchase production rights to the play. He also got fellow alumnus Tracy Munk to be his assistant director.

The play was written by Allison Basinger, an outreach and education coordinator with Safe Home out of Kansas City.

The cast includes five college students: Kate and Amy Hockersmith, Dayna Mannebach, Joshua Korte and Sean McCurdy.

The play presents a realistic look at several dating violence scenarios. The actors run through a scenario and then present it again with a few differences, such as if a parent or a friend got involved. Blake said one of play's main messages is that parents and friends have to help teens get out of bad dating situations.

The play also includes statis-



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Dayna Mannebach (left) and Kate Hockersmith rehearsed a scene from the play. Mannebach plays a friend comforting Hockersmith's character, who is dealing with an abusing boyfriend.

tics about men and women who are victims of dating violence.

"Not only are we players, we're speakers letting people know that these things are going on," Mannebach said.

All of the actors play multiple parts and, Blake said, there is a lot of room for improvisation.

"I let these guys take it how they want," he said. "As long as it stays statistically correct."

Korte said the style is very relaxing for him as an actor.

"We can put more of ourselves into it," he said.

One of the reasons he wanted student actors, Blake said, is that

they could be visible every day on campus and serve as resources for people affected by dating violence.

"Chances are there are going to be people in the audience who have been in this situation," he said. "They (the actors) can be out there and be the face of our agency."

The auditions were held in November. Blake said that while all the cast has some acting experience, he was looking more at the character of the individual rather than acting talent. He said he wanted people who would bring real-life reactions to the produc-

tion.

"I can help anybody act," he said. "But I can't change a person's character."

Performances will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 17, 18 and 19, in the Frahm Theater at the college. Blake said the production will also be traveling to some of the area schools.

Blake said he is hoping for good crowds, and he has even sent out invitations to senators, congressman and the governor. "Our hope is that people who see this will not abuse their partner nor will they tolerate abuse from their partner," Kate said.

## Briefly

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has one six-year-old male, tan and white, short hair chihuahua and a female black lab mix available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Low income tax help at library

The AARP will have a tax help seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. every Thursday from Feb. 4 to April 15 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The seminar is designed to help low- and middle-income people with special emphasis on those age 60 or older. For more information, call Alvin Volk at (785) 460-2645.

### Dance planned for Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from

7:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday at Casa De Burritos. Gary Phipps will provide entertainment. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 855-2341.

### Archeology group plans meeting

The first 2010 quarterly meeting of the High Plains Archeology Group, a chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association, will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Guest speaker will be Kathy Murray, an Apache who was raised on the Mescalero Reservation in New Mexico. For information, call (785) 462-0933 or (785) 460-6653.

### Grade school to offer book fair

The Colby Grade School Parent-Teacher Organization plans a "spring" book fair with the theme "Book Fair Diner — All You Can Read" from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the school. Money raised will go back into the classroom for things like textbooks

and teacher projects. For information, call the school office at (785) 460-5100.

### Commodities distribution here

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Any eligible person can get these commodities, which will include peanut butter, corn flakes, vegetable mix, apricots, instant milk, orange juice and cherries. They will be distributed according to income guidelines on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to bring a sack or box. For information, call the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office at 462-6744.

### 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. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### Service group to serve soup

Kappa Upsilon, a service organization, will hold a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Community Building during the Colby-Garden City basketball game. There will be chili, chicken noodle and vegetable beef soups with cinnamon rolls, cookies and vegetables. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Puddle Duck preschool. For information, call Amy Jennings 460-2603.

