



10 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Wednesday

March 31, 2010

Volume 121, Number 50

Serving Thomas County since 1888

## House fire claims life in rural area

By Kevin Bottrell  
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A fire that consumed a house in rural Thomas County early Monday morning left one dead and one in the hospital.

Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy Craig Cersovsky said he responded to reports of a fire near the intersection of County Roads DD and 27, two miles south of the Rawlins County line, at 4 a.m. Monday morning. Fire trucks from Colby, Gem and Rexford as well as Colby Emergency Medical Services also responded to the fire. Cersovsky said the fire was likely an accident, but the state fire marshal's office is still investigating.

Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore said the house was completely on fire by the time the trucks arrived. Firefighters were at the scene until almost 3 p.m. because

the house was so far from a water source.

Cersovsky said Jennilee Dewey, 62, was killed in the fire. Her husband, William Dewey, was also in the house and taken to Citizens Medical Center with injuries.

Dewey was born on Aug. 15, 1948, in Milford, Del. She married William on June 8, 1990, in Seaford, Del.

She was a homemaker and had lived in Thomas County for three and a half years.

Survivors include her husband; a son, William Jarod, of Preston, Md.; a daughter, Mary Beth Richards, of Bridgeville, Del.; four brothers, Joe Dawson Jr., Henry Timmons and Frankie Timmons, all of Millsboro, Del.; and David Eisenhour, Laurel, Del.; two sisters, Janet West, West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Donna Rust; and five grandchildren.

There will be no services.

## Sales tax increases Thursday, April 1

The quarter-cent sales tax approved by Colby voters last November goes into effect Thursday.

This will increase Colby's combined state and local sales tax to 7.3 percent.

The tax increase passed with 896 votes in favor and 311 against. The revenue will go to pay off the construction costs of the new fire station on Country Club Drive and for construction of a new pool. The tax is expected to raise about \$1 million a year over the next 10 years, \$2.5 million of which will go for the fire station and \$5 million for the pool. The Colby City Council will have to decide what

to do with the remaining money. Possibilities include adding items to the pool or paying off bonds for the recreation complex.

The council initially considered a property tax increase during its budgeting process last year, but public pressure forced them toward a sales tax. The Aquatics Committee lobbied for new pool to replace the current Colby pool, which is more than 60 years old, to be added to the sales tax alongside the station.

The issue was put on the ballot for a special election in November.

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Ready for a paint of coat before being put into use, this drop box will be identifiable at the recycling center on east College Drive, as a place to put clothing and shoes for recycling. Lynette Koon, regional recycling director showed off the newest

addition, in an effort to make people more aware of the importance of recycling. She said nationwide, about 40 percent of what goes into landfills, could be recycled, saving valuable space for the ever increasing amounts of solid waste.

## Free e-waste dumping to end soon

By Vera Sloan  
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It may seem like the same song, different verse, but Regional Recycling Program Director, Lynette Koon wants to remind people who have old televisions, computers, monitors, stereos, copiers, fax machines, printer cartridges, or any other electronics that they have only six months left to get rid of them for free.

"The e-waste recycling grant from the state of Kansas ends on Sept. 30, and then it's gone for good," Koon said. "After that, it will cost to get rid of those types of electronics. When it comes to a big television, it could cost as much as 65 cents a pound, and for one that weighs right at 300 pounds or more, it can be a real shock."

Businesses and organizations currently pay a small fee, which will continue when the grant ends.

The Environmental Protection Agency says electronics are toxic to landfills. The

state of Kansas isn't sure, Koon said, so the jury is still out as to whether or not the insides of electronic equipment can be a safety issue in landfills.

However, she said, space is always an ongoing problem, and e-waste is the most rapidly growing segment of the municipal solid waste stream. It contains many valuable recoverable materials but also toxic and hazardous materials, and they take up valuable space.

"There are counties to the northeast of Thomas County who say they have 100 years left in their landfill" said Koon, "But they haven't had a Greensburg. When something of that magnitude happens - and it does - where will all the debris go? It all comes down to responsibility."

Other counties seem to be doing a pretty good job of taking their electronics to the recycler, Koon noted, but Thomas County is lagging far behind.

Koon said with every ton of waste that goes into our landfill, Thomas County pays one dollar to the state. With the budget crisis,

the state may decide that waste management is one place they can get more money, and could up the ante.

Many states are buying equipment, she said, and going into their landfills to find recyclables to get them out and free up more space. She noted that 40 percent of what goes into landfills could be recovered, and it is cheaper to recycle now than when it gets to that point.

Koon said she hopes that people don't fill up the ditches with old dead televisions, computers, microwave ovens, and other electronics, but instead will take advantage of the free disposal while it lasts.

Electronic items can be taken to the center located at 1190 South Country Club Drive every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Koon said they also have items that have been refurbished and are for sale at a very reasonable cost.

The e-waste recycling center can be reached by calling (785) 460-1840.

## Center wants public input on shredding

By Vera Sloan  
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Before the Thomas County Recycling Center invests in a paper shredder, Director Lynette Koon says she would like input from the public as to how much they would take advantage of the equipment, which would safely destroy their old unwanted papers.

Koon said she is sure there is a need for it because she's had a call from as far away as Cloud County asking if the Thomas County location has the capabil-

ity to shred secure documents. She noted that the callers were willing to drive the distance to bring their shredding to wherever they could locate a shredder.

"The shredder would have the capability of shredding secure documents on site while the owner of the documents looked on," Koon said. "We already have a secure room, with an observation window where the shredder would be stationed. It is the best way to get rid of documents and paper people don't need anymore, and be assured they are totally destroyed."

The equipment would also be

portable and could be transported to other counties in the organization to accommodate people in other locations throughout the region. Shredding capability would be about a ton of paper an hour.

"Paper fetches a pretty good price," Koon said, "and we get lots of paper from private sources that has already been shredded. We bale it into 1,300 pound bales and when we get 42,000 pounds, then that's a trailer load, and we ship it out, to one of the four paper mills in Kansas.

"We'll probably send out three semi-trailer loads of shredded paper this year and we're grate-

ful for the amount of already-shredded paper professional offices and hospitals bring to the center."

She also noted that magazines that end up at recycling mills are shredded and made into a papier mâché-like material, and sold back to landfills across the country. The landfills mix the material with water and use it as a spray covering over solid waste, a daily requirement according to state landfill regulations. The process is less labor intensive and achieves the same purpose, she said.

## Briefly

### Enroll at Puddle Duck Thursday

Puddle Duck Preschool will hold an enrollment open house for the coming school year from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the school, 520 W. Fifth St. Children 3 to 5 from all denominations are welcome. For information, call Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

### School meeting Thursday

The Colby School District will hold a community meeting on at 6 p.m. Thursday, in the Colby High School Commons. Superintendent Terrel Harrison said the purpose is to urge people to write letters to state legislators regarding school finance. Staff members will be available to help letter writers. For information, call Harrison at 460-5000.

### Childbirth classes delayed

Citizens Medical Center's four-week series of

childbirth education classes, have been delayed one week. They will be from 7 to 10 p.m. beginning Thursday, April 8, at the hospital for women who are due to deliver before August, along with their labor support partner. There is a \$50 fee for materials. For information, call Jeanene Brown in the hospital's education department at (785) 460-4850.

### Church to hold pancake feed

The Colby Berean Church will hold a pancake and sausage feed from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Donations will be accepted. For information, call Jim Myers at 462-9665.

### Easter egg hunt Sunday

The College Drive Assembly of God church will hold their Easter egg hunt for children 10 and under

from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday at the church, on the corner of College Drive and Franklin Avenue. Doors open for registration at 12:45 p.m. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. For information, call the church office at 462-8234.

### Scholarship deadline extended

The Thomas County Community Foundation has extended its scholarship application deadline to Monday. The foundation has many scholarships available for area high school and college students. For information, go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

### City council meeting moved

The Tuesday meeting of the Colby City Council has been moved to the Little Theater in the basement

of the Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St., because the council is expecting high attendance from the community. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. as usual. For information, call City Hall at 460-4400.

### Chronic disease classes offered

Citizens Medical Center is offering six weeks of free classes to help people with chronic diseases optimize their lives for healthy living. Classes will be from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Monday in the board room at the hospital. For information or to reserve a seat, call Cortney McCarty or Jeanene Brown at (785) 460-4849.

## Easter prizes



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Rows of prizes, including bicycles, games and stuffed animals wait to be handed out to lucky kids who will be participating in the annual College Drive Assembly of God hunt for candy-filled Easter eggs Saturday afternoon on the church grounds at College Drive and Franklin Ave.



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