



Landfill workers covering south cell

By Vera Sloan
Colby Free Press
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The Thomas County commissioners heard about progress being made on covering cells at the landfill at Tuesday's end-of-the-month meeting.

Landfill supervisor Larry Jumper asked for a fourth \$10,000 transfer from the pit project. He told commissioners in a speakerphone conversation that the seven-acre cell in the southeast part of the landfill is being done now, and the larger one in the southwest is ready for Milco Environmental Services engineers to inspect next week.

Milco will tell the workers what they need to do next as they get closer to closing the cell, Jumper said, but they have completed the tasks Milco asked them to do so far.

Jumper said by closing the cell with county workers, they have saved taxpayers as much as a quarter million dollars. He recalled a bid of nearly \$400,000 from an environmental group to cover just the small cell. He said the crew will do it for a fourth to a third the cost of a contractor and still meet all the state requirements.

Commissioners approved the transfer.

After experiencing problems with the courthouse elevator for

some time, the board approved \$3,997 to Kone Elevator Co. for upgrades.

Commissioner Paul Steele said he had received a phone call from Jim McCormick that his company, McCormick Asphalt and Paving, has a signed contract for property in Colby, and he is in the process of buying asphalt equipment to move to the Colby site.

The commissioners gave a thumbs up to move. The county earlier has turned down a request to put the plant on land east of town on U.S. 24, based on opposition from neighbors.

County Attorney Bruce Flipse

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St. Francis loses gas line

By Karen Krien
The Saint Francis Herald
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St. Francis residents began to feel a chill in their homes and offices about lunchtime Thursday when furnaces didn't come on.

The town found out later that a company doing maintenance on the gas line serving the town, owned by Midwest Energy, had shut off all the gas to St. Francis by mistake.

Midwest, based in Hays, sent out a call for help around northwest Kansas, and about 40 repairmen converged from as far as Hays, Lakin and Leoti.

After the gas was restored to the city, about 3 p.m., repairmen began going door to door lighting furnac-

es, stoves, hot-water heaters and anything else that was operated on gas. Residents received phone calls from the company saying they would be working until midnight and anyone who needed help should call the office.

As of Friday, company officials had not returned phone calls, so it is uncertain how many homes and businesses were without heat, but the day was fairly warm and there was little chance of freezing pipes.

A few businesses closed early - the Diamond R Bar and Grill couldn't cook anything, for instance - schools and most stores and offices were able to stay open.

While some people reported having no heat as late as 9:30 p.m., the servicemen began going home about 10 p.m.

Keeping time



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College freshman Brock Wagoner waited for his part in "A Christmas Suite" at the college band's Christmas concert Thursday. The concert band was followed by the jazz band, which played some Christmas numbers as well as some traditional jazz tunes.



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Colby Community College freshman Amanda Shearmire of Scott City selected an angel from the tree in the Student Union. Each angel represents a resident at the Prairie Senior Living Center.

College taking gifts for seniors

The Colby Community College student government is asking for help to provide holiday gifts for residents at the Prairie Senior Living Complex.

For the fifth year, the student group is sponsoring an "Angel Tree" for the long-term care center. The tree is in the cafeteria area of the Student Union.

People can select an angel from the tree and register at the Campus Bookstore to get information about the person, including gift preferences and gender. After buying a gift, return it and the angel to the

bookstore. Student government members will wrap and deliver the items. Gifts must be turned in by Friday, Dec. 10.

"We have about 70 angels on the tree," said Aaron Keiser, student government sponsor. "The residents are so appreciative when the gifts are delivered. We're asking community members to help us provide a gift for each person."

For information, call Keiser at 460-5506.

Briefly

Lions cooking flapjacks, sausage

The High Plains Lions Club will hold its annual pancake-and-sausage feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. For information, call Virgil Jones at 462-1106.

Kids can shop for mom and dad

The Thomas County Community Foundation will sponsor Santa's Workshop from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. The event gives children in preschool to fourth grade an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for moms, dads, guardians or grandparents for \$4 each. Each child may buy up to four gifts. Proceeds will be used for foundation grants. For information, call the office at 460-9152.

Pool offers free swim, Santa

Come get "Aqua"nted with the Colby Commu-

nity College pool from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. An open house, sponsored by the Swimming Pool Committee, will include refreshments, free open swimming and a visit from Santa Claus. Donations will be accepted to help revitalize the pool. For information, call committee chair Dr. Keegan Nichols at 460-5490.

Light parade downtown Sunday

The annual Christmas Light Parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. Sunday at Second Street and Franklin Avenue and proceed through downtown to Santa City. Entry forms, available at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce in the county office complex, are due by Friday. For information, call the office at 460-3401.

The Colby American Legion Post will hold a soup supper following the parade at the Legion hall, 1850 W. Fourth St. Donations will be accepted for Santa City.

Nativity sets on display at tea

The Colby First Presbyterian Church plans a "Nativity-i-TEA" from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the church, 515 W. Fourth St. More than 100 nativity scenes from around the world will be on display, along with a hands-on display for kids. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Dr. Regier farewell set for Monday

Citizens Medical Center plans a farewell reception for Dr. LaDonna Regier from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range. Regier is relocating to Ghana in west Africa to perform missionary work and has requested no gifts. Donations may be made to the Ghana clinic or any charity in her name. For information, call Tama Unger at 462-1214.

Food signup open 'til Monday

Prairie Land Food signup is open until Monday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, in the Sacred Heart School gym. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

Selden school plans soup supper

Golden Plains Elementary School in Selden will have a soup supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall on Main Street. Proceeds will go to the playground and the OWLS project. For information, call Judy Rogers at (785) 386-4582.

