



8 pages

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## Landfill getting near dump limit

By Vera Sloan  
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The Thomas County Landfill has seen a marked increase in dumping in the past several years, said supervisor Larry Jumper, and it's nearing the daily limit under its state license. He has been urging county commissioners to do more to keep things that can be recycled out of the landfill. So far, they've raised dumping fees and urged more recycling. "Dumping reached 16 tons of solid waste a day for 2009, compared to 15.5 tons a day the year before," Jumper said. "Cardboard is a real culprit for the landfill because it takes up so much room.

It could easily be recycled, and should be, but no one seems willing to do it." State law limits the landfill to 20 tons a day of residential and commercial trash, known as municipal solid waste, he said. There is no limit on construction and demolition debris. Jumper said at current rates, the landfill could have as few as 70 years left, but recycling could stretch that out quite a lot. He said the landfill recycles everything it possibly can. Tree limbs and grass are made into compost which is given out free to the public. They recycle all metals by finding a dealer who will pick it up. Wooden pallets are another item

See "LANDFILL," Page 3

## College looking for new trustee

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Bill Biel, a retired Colby businessman, resigned from the Colby Community College board last Thursday. He said he has been out of town a lot lately and doesn't have enough time to be part of the board. Biel, former co-owner of Colby Implement, a John Deere

dealership here, has served on the board since 2007. "I don't have time to do justice to the board and what's going on in the college," he said. "A board member should be in town attending college activities and going to all the meetings." Dr. Lynn Kreider, president of the college, said the board had a special meeting on Monday. Mem-

See "TRUSTEE," Page 3



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Foggy days give way to subzero cold here

Nearly a whole week of fog gave way to light snow, wind and intense cold Wednesday. The National Weather Service in Goodland reported temperatures at minus 3 degrees this morning, but the wind made that feel like minus 22 according to the wind chill index. The fog, which varied each day, sometimes reduced visibility to under half a mile. Colby landmarks such as the Cornerstone Ag elevator (above) and the Thomas County Courthouse (right), usually visible for miles, were obscured from view as near as a block away. Bowing snow reduced visibility Wednesday night, causing near-whiteout conditions in the county, especially near fields bare of crop stubble. Oversized loads were restricted from traveling eastbound on I-70 until this morning. The weather service is predicting clear, but chilly days with continuing high winds for the rest of the week. Temperatures should be back in the 40s by Sunday, however.



## Setting up the frame



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Construction at the Sleep Inn and Suites on Sewell Avenue by Taco John's is progressing. This week, most of the first floor frame is up. When completed, the motel will be three stories tall with 68 rooms. Construction should be finished in May.

## Commissioners give group \$14,000 of liquor-tax money

By Vera Sloan  
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Sue Evans and Melinda Olson from the Thomas County Coalition were at the Thomas County commissioners' meeting Monday to ask for money from liquor tax funds to help teach kids the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Commissioners said, however, that most of the money was already promised to other efforts, but agreed to give the group a little more than half what it asked. Evans, director of the Regional Prevention Center, said the coalition wants to reach every student in the county seven times during the year with substance-abuse prevention programs or awareness activities. That won't be possible without the support of the county, she said. The women asked for \$27,000. Evans said volunteers could provide around \$6,000 worth of work, but that volunteers can suffer burnout and they need money

for staff. The commissioners praised the coalition's efforts, but said they already give money to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, which focuses on treatment, and felt they needed to continue to continue that. With a total of \$38,800 in the liquor tax fund, the commissioners agreed to divide the money. They allocated \$14,000 to the Prevention Center for the coalition effort and the rest to the council, with the idea that the county will disburse the money quarterly. Commissioners said the groups would need to present a claim voucher for each disbursement. No one from the council was at the meeting. The women thanked the commissioners. It was the first time the Prevention Center had received any of the money. Pam Meadows with the Computer Information Co. brought contracts for the commissioners to sign for new software programs. The total, including the road and bridge and noxious weed departments, came to \$154,035. County Clerk Shelly Harms expressed concern that the county had a 90-day termination notification with its current vendor, Manitron, and she wanted to make sure they weren't paying two companies for software support. Meadows assured the commissioners and clerk that there would be plenty of time for notification and the transition would be smooth. She called Larry Bohlender, company president and owner of her firm, on the speaker phone. Bohlender assured the commissioners his company would not begin charges for support until the entire county was up and running on the new system. He said he would give them a heads up on when to terminate so that notice to Manitron would meet requirements of the old contract. The commissioners signed the contracts. Commissioners made appointments,

See "TAX," Page 3

## Briefly

### Hospital offers cut-rate tests

The Citizens Medical Center Laboratory, the Thomas County Wellness Committee and Thomas County Extension are offering blood draws for discounted lab tests from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday next week at the Citizens Medical Center Specialty Clinic. Tests will include comprehensive metabolic profile, thyroid stimulating hormone, prostate specific antigen and hemoglobin. Participants should fast for 10-12 hours. Results will be available at 5:30 and 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25. For information, call Jeanene Brown at 460-4850 or Diann Gerstner at 460-4582.

### St. Jude's needs used cards

Don't throw your used Christmas cards away. The Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary has a drop-off box at the Pioneer Memorial Library for them. Cards will go to kids at St. Jude Children's

Research Hospital in Memphis for projects. For information, call Hazel Duffey at 462-3476.

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1-year-old male beagle, a 1- to 2-year-old male black-and-tan dachshund mix and a 3- to 4-month-old 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.

### Dance team selling soup at game

The Colby High Dance Team will hold a soup supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Community Building prior to the basketball game against Holcomb. The supper will include soups, chili, cinnamon rolls, tea and lemonade. Donations will be ac-

cepted to help cover final expenses from the team's trip to perform in the Liberty Bowl halftime show Saturday. For information, call coach Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.

### Knights to hold sports contest

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Free Throw Contest at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Elementary School gym. The contest is open to all boys and girls ages 10 to 14 as of Jan. 1. Proof of age, such as a copy of a birth certificate, is required. Doors will open at noon and the contest will begin at 1 p.m. For information, call 443-1548 or 460-2924.

### 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 by an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

### Conservation meeting Jan. 25

The annual meeting of the Thomas County Conservation District will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Make reservations by Friday, Jan. 15, with district manager Debbie Potter at 462-7482, extension 303.



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