



10 pages

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Landfill crew saves money on cell work

By Vera Sloan

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With a project to cover two old cells, or pits, and expand the current cell, the Thomas County Landfill site has been a busy place. On Monday, crews could be seen moving dirt from one spot and packing it in another.

"The county was quoted a price of \$300,000 to close just one cell," said landfill supervisor Larry Jumper, "and it looks like we'll be able to do all three projects for around \$150,000, or half the projected cost for someone else to come in and do only one job. So we're actually getting three done for the price of one. The new cell has to be 35 feet deep, and we're down about 15 to 17 feet now."

He said commissioners have been setting money aside for several years to pay for the project. By doing the three projects at the same time, Jumper said, the crew will move the dirt only once, and

that along with using in-house labor accounts for the cost savings.

Jumper said the county had received approval from the state Department of Health and Environment for two cap coverings for the cells, and permission to do it in-house by following recommendations by Miller and Associates, an engineering firm with an office in Colby.

Jumper said the work is going well and that he has had good help from the county road department. He expressed appreciation for road boss Clair Schrock's willingness to share the county's equipment.

"These guys have accomplished a lot," Jumper said. "They have followed Miller's suggestion to build a terrace road and to manage the slope so that when rain gets to the center, it will drain two directions so we won't have any washing."

Jumper said his most valuable asset for the entire job has been the men who are doing the work.

Texas accident cuts phones here

By Vera Sloan

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A fiber optic cable cut in the Dallas-Fort Worth area interrupted phone service to S&T, AT&T and cell phones in the Colby area around 11 a.m. Monday morning, leaving many people without service for nearly two hours.

Repairs were made and service resumed around 12:45 p.m., an S&T spokesman said.

Steve Richards, chief executive officer of the Brewster-based co-operative, said everything in the company's service area except for Internet was affected.

"Cell service rides through the same equipment as the voice path," he said, "and we have two voice paths. If one goes down, the other takes over, but this equipment failure affected both voice paths."

See "PHONES," Page 3

Community College to start solar classes

By Andy Heintz

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Two new "energy-tech" classes – "Introduction to Energy Technologies," and "Basics: Small Photovoltaic Systems" – will be starting this fall, the Colby Community College board heard last week.

Tom Moorhous, a history instructor who taught "Introduction to Wind and Other Alternative Energy" this summer, will teach the energy technologies class. Dr. Paula Davis, vice president of academic affairs, told the board at a meeting July 19 at the Student Union. Derek Reiley, Title III activity director and online developer, will teach the photovoltaic

class.

Moorhous will also be teaching the wind and other alternative energy course again this fall, she said, and Reiley is also creating solar-energy classes.

Moorhous encouraged the board to hire a full-time renewable/sustainable energy advisor. Davis, reached by phone after the meeting, said she expects the college to do that in January.

Moorhous said he expected a lot of the initial enrollment to come online from people out of the state or not living in northwest Kansas. Davis said a Sustainable/Renewable Energy Program has already been approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. She said the

See "SOLAR," Page 3



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

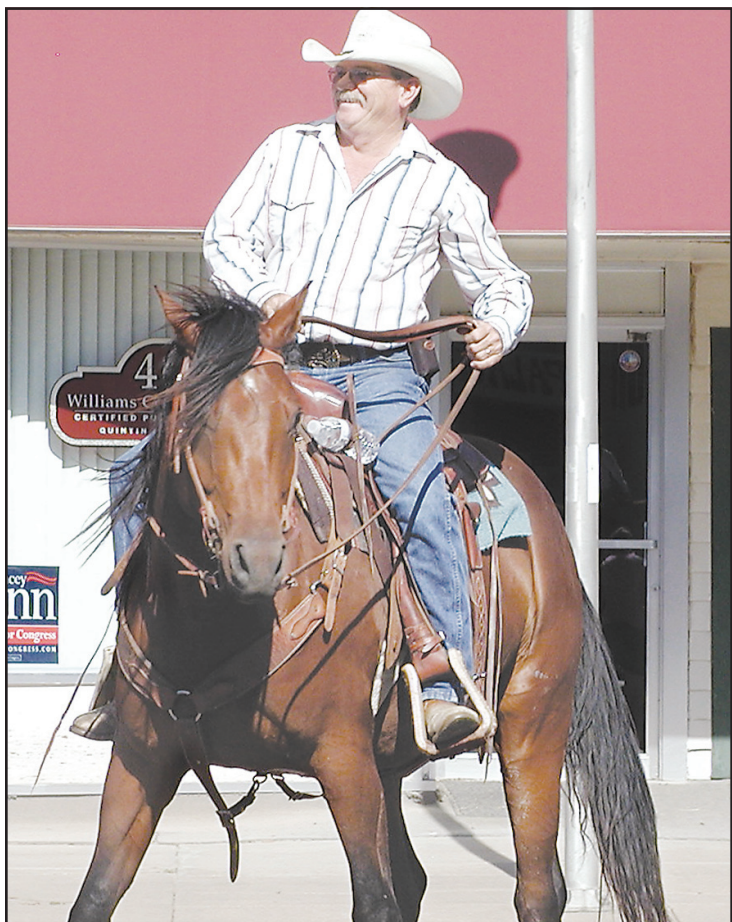
Parade draws despite hot day

The crowd jammed into the shade along the west side of Franklin Avenue to watch the Thomas County Fair Parade on Tuesday. The parade drew more than 60 entries, including farm implements (above); Junior Rodeo Princess Abby Schmeiser (center) and her fellow contest winners; Marshall Rhea (right) of Oakley and his daughter, Jade Kruse, who is this year's Miss Teen Rodeo Kansas; and Shane Stupka (below), who tossed candy from atop a Woofter Construction crane. Awards were given in six categories and Sears won the award for best representation of the theme, which was "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives On." The parade went off mostly with-



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

out incident except for a boy who was injured after falling off one of the 4-H floats. He was taken to the hospital with a possible broken leg.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Briefly

Candidate to answer questions

Brenda McCants, a Republican candidate for the Kansas House of Representatives, will hold a question-and-answer session from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call campaign treasurer Sue Evans at 443-1149.

Walkers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the walking relay at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122.

College class plans open house

The Massage Therapy program at Colby Community College will hold an open house from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday in room 402 at Thomas Hall. The program won accreditation from the National Certification

Board for Therapeutic Massage last semester. For information, call program director Debra Waites at 460-5427.

Cooking class offered for kids

Kids a Cookin' classes will be held for third, fourth and fifth graders at 10 a.m. Tuesday and Aug. 10, at the 4-H Building, using produce grown in the Thomas County Coalition Community Garden. To sign up, call the Thomas County Extension office at 460-4582 by noon Monday.

Farm Service to explain reserve

The U.S. Farm Service Agency will have an information meeting on the Conservation Reserve Program at 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, in room 2 of the Colby Community Building. The meeting will cover the program's sign-up period, from Monday to Friday, Aug. 27, and who is eligible. For information,

call Phyllis Tholen at 462-7671.

Museum plans '125' quilt show

A special quilt show celebrating Thomas County's 125th Birthday will be held at the Prairie Museum of History and Art from Oct. 7 to 31. Quilts of any size, pattern or age with a Thomas County connection may be delivered to the museum from Sept. 1 to 24. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

Commodities here on Aug. 9

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Anyone who's eligible may come and get commodities first-come, first-served. Items will include vegetable soup, apricots, beans, instant milk, spaghetti, and rotini. For information, call the volunteer program office at 462-6744.

Army has fans to beat heat

The Salvation Army has fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Kathy Ryan at the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596.

Signups open for kids' football

Signups are open for Colby Little League Football at the Sports Shoppe for kids in third to sixth grades. A \$100 fee covers equipment rent and other materials. Space is limited. The Shoppe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call Travis Branum at 462-8342.

