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Colby has eye on project

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council agreed with the mayor and city manager that it would be a good idea to apply for a lifelong community pilot project at its meeting earlier this week.

The Lifelong Community Initiative, said Mayor Warren Hixson, assists towns in planning for and better serving the elderly of today and in the future.

Hixson told the council that Colby might have a good chance of being selected since one of the criteria includes geographic location.

In the first round of selections, Atchison, Concordia, Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend/Barton County, Hiawatha, Topeka/Shawnee County and Winfield were selected, he said.

"Since none of those are located in our immediate area, I think we have a good chance for becoming a pilot community and we should file the application for the second round selections," Hixson said.

The purpose of the Lifelong Communities Initiative, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Aging, in collaboration with the local Area Agency on Aging, is to attract people who left their hometowns for employment to consider returning to retire.

The program works on the premise that by identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement in services and issues impacting older people through a self-assessment, along with those of all ages, the process begins for a strategic plan of growth.

"Using the assessment, communities can plan for the future by visioning, setting priorities, and developing and starting action plans to address the needs of their community," Hixson said.

Another reason for applying, he said, is because of the opportunities for building the retirement-portion of Colby.

Statistics provided revealed that in the year 2011, the first baby boomers will turn 65. Over the next 18 years, the number of people over 65 will nearly double, comprising 25 percent of the entire population. "The communities that thrive in the future will have planned for the aging population," he said.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said she would make sure the application was completed and returned to the Kansas Department On Aging prior to the Tuesday, April 15 deadline.



Sun to dominate

Tonight...mostly cloudy early, then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Saturday...mostly sunny and mild. Highs in the upper 50s. West wind around 10 mph. Saturday night...mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Sunday...mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Sunday night...partly cloudy and breezy. Highs in the upper 30s. Monday...mostly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 50s. Monday night, cloudy, rain or snow possible. Lows lower 30s.

The numbers

Thursday's high, 49
Low this morning, 28
Soil temperature, 43
Year ago, 28 and 9
24-hour precipitation, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 1.38
Records, 89 in 1907 and -4 in 1965

Old Glory in the spotlight



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby veteran Dean Ludlow prepared to hoist the American flag in his yard at the corner of Plum and Range this morning as a symbol of patriotism. Ludlow served 22 years in the United States Air Force and flies the flag in his yard 24 hours a day. Although he has had a pole in the yard for 15 years, about 10 years ago he installed the light to be able to fly the flag at night. He said that he takes the flag down in bad weather to help preserve it.

In Colby concert

Gambone to lead Navy Band

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

When the United States Navy Band performs in Colby Tuesday night, it will be under the baton of Commander Ralph M. Gambone, who, in April 2001, was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association, the professional association of master conductors and musicians.

The concert will be held in the Colby Community Building at 7:30 p.m. Although free, admittance is by ticket and these can be secured from Pat Ziegelmeier at Colby Community College.

Ziegelmeier is executive director of the Western Plains Arts Association. The association joined with the Colby Free Press in sponsoring the band's appearance. Ticket holders are asked to be seated no later than 7:15 p.m. If there is room available after seating, those without tickets will be admitted.

Commander Gambone is a native of Annapolis, Md., and enlisted in the Navy in 1969 after receiving his

bachelor's degree in music from Towson State University (Maryland). He was first assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis as a clarinet instrumentalist, and also served as conductor of the Midshipman Stage and Concert Bands. While there he earned a master's degree in music from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

After a tour of duty aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock, Gambone was assigned to The United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. After three years with the band and a promotion to chief musician, he was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel as assistant budget manager for the Navy Music Program in 1978. In 1981, he was commissioned an ensign and reported for duty as music program liaison officer for the Navy Chief of Information in the Pentagon.

After two years as director, Navy Band San Diego, he was assigned as The United States Navy Band's supply officer in 1985, and a year later assumed the duties of the

band's assistant leader. From August 1988 to June 1990, he served as director, Seventh Fleet Band stationed on board the USS Blue Ridge in Yokosuka, Japan, before returning to The United States Navy Band as assistant leader. His next assignment took him to the Armed Forces School of Music in Little Creek, Va., where he served first as executive officer from March to August 1994, then as commanding officer.

Commander Gambone became leader of the Navy Band on Aug. 13, 1998 after a highly successful tour as director, U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis. He was promoted to his present rank in November 1997. In May 1991, he received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Music from Towson State.

He wears the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (2 awards), Navy Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal (4 awards), National Defense Medal, and others.

Tuesday dropped up to 7 feet of snow over a swath of nearly 500 miles, affecting more than 3.5 million people. At least six people died in both Colorado and Wyoming.

One of the dead was a skier who died Thursday in an avalanche near Keystone while skiing with three

U.S., British troops on the move in Iraq

By DAVID CRARY

Associated Press Writer

American and British forces advanced today through southern Iraq, some racing unimpeded across the desert, others meeting hostile fire. Hundreds of Iraqi soldiers surrendered and U.S. officials said Iraq's command structure appeared to have disintegrated.

The allies reported their first combat casualty, a U.S. Marine killed in southern Iraq.

Twelve more Marines — eight British and four American — died when their helicopter crashed and burned in Kuwait. Officials said the crash was not caused by hostile fire.

Hoping the regime might capitulate, U.S. military commanders held back-channel negotiations with Iraqi commanders and refrained from all-out bombardment. Instead, U.S. missiles and bombs struck specific targets including the main presidential palace in Baghdad and strongholds of the elite Special Republican Guard.

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Sa'eed al-Sahhaf said one of Saddam Hussein's homes was hit in the bombing, though no one was hurt.

U.S. officials said they had no definitive word on whether the Iraqi leader was caught in the attack, but indicated that medical workers were summoned to a compound in Baghdad after it was hit.

The officials said Iraqi forces subsequently seemed cut off from their leadership.

The official Iraqi News Agency said 37 people were injured in the latest strikes on Baghdad, and Iraqi military said four soldiers were killed. There were no figures given on Iraqi losses in ground combat.

Thousands of American anti-war

activists protested, blocking streets, boycotting classes and chaining themselves together.

More than 1,500 people were arrested, mostly at a raucous demonstration in San Francisco.

U.S. and British forces moved on a broad front, with infantry racing across the desert in thousands of tanks and trucks, plumes of dust in their wake, and Marines edging cautiously toward strategic oil towns and military outposts, calling in air support to take out snipers.

In some cases, units were preceded by special forces teams.

Capt. Al Lockwood, spokesman for British forces, said the U.S.-led attack could reach Baghdad swiftly.

"If I was a betting man, and I'm not, I would say hopefully within the next three or four days," he said.

In western England, American B-52 bombers began taking off from a British air base.

Officials refused to disclose their mission; they would be capable of reaching Iraq in about six hours.

U.S. Marines seized a portion of the main road leading from Kuwait to the city of Basra, suppressing resistance from Iraqi mortars and arms.

Officers said the seizure could help speed the takeover of Basra, southern Iraq's largest city.

Another Marine unit, the 7th Infantry's 3rd Battalion, had to delay its foray into Iraq after it was reported that numerous tanks were sighted unexpectedly on the Iraqi side of the border.

The unit took small-arms and artillery fire Thursday night, and at one point a U.S. Cobra helicopter accidentally fired a missile at an American tank, injuring one soldier and forcing abandonment of the smoldering tank.

Kindergarten changes are on board's agenda

The Colby School Board, at its regular meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, will listen to Terrell Harrison, elementary school principal, explain planned kindergarten changes for next year.

Harrison is recommending that kindergarten students attend school three full days a week instead of the five half days which is the current practice.

Also, the board will review an out of district field trip request to attend the Northwest Kansas Area Techni-

cal College Career Day in Goodland on April 9.

Other agenda items include:

- Reviewing a recommendation from the Coordination Council about state graduation requirements for the incoming freshman class.

- Reviewing a request for emergency substitute teacher status for Jodi Dillinger.

The meeting will be held in the administration building at 210 S. Range.

sible. Abandoned vehicles, some buried in snow, were still scattered across metropolitan Denver.

Most schools remained closed, but mail delivery resumed, some businesses reopened and leaders of both states were back in their capitols.

Briefly

Red Cross offers CPR class

The Thomas County Red Cross is offering an Adult CPR class at the Thomas County Office Complex from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 26. For questions or to enroll, call the Red Cross office, (785) 462-7161.

Bluegrass pancake feed planned

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed on Saturday, March 29 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to defray costs of the annual Bluegrass Festival, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators of the event.

Corn Grower annual meeting set

The annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Corn Growers Association starts at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27, at the Quality Inn, 1950 S. Range Ave., Colby. Agenda items

include updates on the ethanol plant, water issues, corn and the corn commission. All area agricultural producers are welcome and urged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Chamber reservation deadline noted

Reservations for the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet must be made no later than Monday, said Jada Tubbs, executive director. The dinner and meeting begin at 6 p.m., Friday, April 4 and will be held at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. Costs are \$25 for individuals and \$250 for a corporate table. Judge Tom Webb of Sublette will present the program entitled *Making a Positive Difference*. For questions or to reserve a place, call Tubbs at 460-3401.

Turkey permits arrive

Spring turkey permits are now available at the Thomas County Clerk's office, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby. For questions, call 462-4500.

Free seminars for job seekers

Job seekers are invited to attend a free employability seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. March 24-28, sponsored by Colby Community College in the Adult Education Center in the basement of the H.F. Davis Library. Topics to be covered, said Nance Munderloh, at the college, include *How to Look for Employment*, *Filling Out Applications*, *Preparing a Resumé*, *Writing a Cover Letter*, *Interviewing*, and *Employer Work Place Expectations*. "This short, intense seminar is designed to help individuals hone their skills prior to entering the job market," she said. For questions about the seminar, call Munderloh at 462-3984.

Report cards out next week

Colby Public Schools said report cards for the third nine weeks will be sent home with students in kindergarten through 12th grade on Tuesday. Students, teachers and staff are currently on spring break this week. For questions, call the administration building at 465-5000.

