



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby council calls special meeting to deal with bids

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will hold a special meeting Tuesday at 7:45 a.m. in council chambers to reconsider the bid process for the law enforcement building.

The decision to rescind bids from Woofter Construction and Stephens Construction was done after the regular city council meeting last week, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

Although the council did approve the lower bid submitted by Stephens Construction at \$90,449, there was a problem that Armstrong said should have been addressed at that time.

During the regular meeting, she said, Stephens had submitted a bid of \$84,136 with Mike Woofter's bid coming in at \$94,488. The problem was that when Stephens gave his bid he did not provide a proposal for site work. Consequently, Stephens was given the opportunity to add-on the cost of site work bringing the total to \$90,449, which was still lower than Woofter's bid.

At last week's meeting, Councilman Herb Sunderman said it didn't seem fair that Stephens would be allowed to change the bid, even though it was likely just an oversight.

After the meeting, Armstrong said she spoke with Joel Kriss, city

attorney, as to the legality of an incomplete bid.

Following telephone calls to the state attorney general's office and the Kansas League of Municipalities, Armstrong said it was their recommendation to rescind the bid award given to Stephens Construction at the regular meeting and to begin the entire bid process again.

The bid proposal will again include prices for concrete work, plumbing rough-in and dirt work with the basic costs for the building and not the finish work on the interior, she said.

The special meeting is open to the public. For questions, call 462-4410.

A Band-Aid budget is assured

By **JOHN HANNA**

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — The patient needs major surgery, but her doctors say they'll use Band-Aids to keep her alive. She is the state of Kansas, and the disease that's slowing choking her budget is into its third year.

The illness isn't difficult to diagnose. Programs and services are costing state government more than it can afford.

Nor are the potential cures any mystery. To solve the root problem, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and legislators must cut spending, increase taxes, or some combination of both. Yet the state may have to survive with Band-Aids into 2005 because Sebelius and lawmakers appear to lack the will to solve the state's problem.

"I would prefer to deal with that problem," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Melvin Neufeld. "There are not the votes to cut education, which you have to do if you're going to cut your way out of this."

Both the Democratic governor and Republican legislative leaders appear determined to avoid solving the problem. Instead, they're favoring a grab-bag of accounting tricks and fiscal policy.

They're trying to buy themselves time to wiggle out of tough choices. After legislators reconvene Wednesday to wrap up their business for the year, they're likely to resort to an ugly patch job to erase the projected \$254 million deficit in the \$10 billion budget for the 2004 fiscal year. That year begins July 1.

They're also setting themselves up for another ugly patch job for the following year.

Last month, Sebelius proposed issuing bonds, accelerating some tax collections and expanding gambling to prevent a deficit. The GOP-dominated Legislature rejected much of her package and offered a plan for delaying aid payments to public schools and some tax refunds.

Sebelius is negotiating with Republican leaders to draft a compromise that contains some elements from each package.

Neither plan represents particularly good policy. One would take on debt to finance annual operating expenditures and rely on the perpetually over-inflated estimates of gambling's value.

The other would stiff already strapped public schools and force Kansans to wait for money that is legally theirs.

Matt Hamill reception set

A reception for Matt Hamill, the 2003 Honorary Associate Degree recipient at Colby Community College, will be held Wednesday.

College officials invite everyone to attend. The event will start at 3 p.m. in Room 108 in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union on campus.

The honorary degree will be officially conferred at commencement exercises in the Colby Community Building on Saturday, May 17.



Thunderstorms

Tonight...scattered showers and thunderstorms...otherwise partly cloudy. Warm with lows in the lower 50s. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Tuesday...mostly sunny. A chance of showers and thunderstorms late. Highs in the mid 70s. South wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Tuesday night...partly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms through early morning. Warm with lows in the lower 50s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Wednesday...mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

The numbers
Sunday's high, 60
Low this morning, 49
Year ago today, 73 and 30
Records, 97 in 1910, 23 in 1965
Weekend precipitation, 0.02
Month's precipitation 2.24
Water Usage/Colby
3-day average, April 25-26-27=1.013 million gallons

Stating his Case



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Case Rundel of Colby and his Chihuahua were among many participants in the 4-H Spring Dog Show held on Saturday at the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The show offered 4-H members an opportunity to work on their showmanship and obedience skills, said Carrie Bredemeier, dog project leader. Results will appear as soon as they are tabulated.

Briefly

Musical treat scheduled

The James King Band, a nationally known Bluegrass group, will perform at the Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby on Friday, May 2. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and admission is \$10 at the door. Children 12 and under are free. Opening acts start at 6:45 p.m. and will include The Pearce Family from Wallace and Colby's own Larry Booth and The McLemore Family. The James King Band will perform at 7:45 p.m. There will be a jam session following the concert, so people are encouraged to bring their instruments and join in — or just sit in and enjoy. This is a benefit for the "Pickin on the Plains" festival this coming summer.

Mother/daughter brunch Saturday

The High Plains After 5 Club is sponsoring a Mother/Daughter Brunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday, at the Quality Inn in Colby. The event entitled, *The Great Puppet Caper*, will feature Martha Bishop from the puppet factory in Goodland. Other guests include Jeannie Cox and her

two daughters singing *Me and My Shadow*, along with Sandi King of Colorado Springs the guest speaker who will talk about *Pulling Strings*. King is a former "Outstanding Young Woman of America," and the wife of a state representative. Reservations can be made by calling Melinda Enfield, (785) 462-6046; Gail Eberle, (785) 672-4729; or e-mail Lori Haberer at lorihaberer@hotmail.com. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 2.

Lantern Park to salute volunteers

A special "Volunteer Tea," has been scheduled Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. in the main dining room of Lantern Park Manor, Colby. The purpose of the event is to recognize the many volunteers who help at the facility, officials said. The "tea" is open to all volunteers. For questions, call 462-6721.

Prairie Senior to honor volunteers

A tea and recognition for volunteers of Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby has been planned for Friday, May 2 at



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Adam Brown of Hays demonstrated how to make armor using chain mail during "A Day At the Renaissance" at Colby High School on Friday. The event gave students in the sixth through twelfth grade an opportunity to experience the arts and sciences associated with the Renaissance period. There was a morning and afternoon program, featuring dancing, fighting and discussions about the European culture of that time.

Way back when...

Armor, fencing fascinate students at Colby High

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Colby High School took on a different look last Friday.

Members of the Society of Creative Anachronism held a "Renaissance Day" with a variety of demonstrations and talks on the European culture during the years from 600 to 1600.

The idea behind the society is to preserve and continue researching the arts and sciences associated with that period, said Troy Bier of Great Bend.

In addition to Bier talking about

ancient times during the two assemblies held in the morning and afternoon, other members were dressed in traditional costume and demonstrated the art of fencing, armor making and dance.

The society has more than 20,000 members; however the majority of those taking part in the high school event were from Kansas.

Informal presentations offered students a chance to talk one-on-one with the members of the society and learn more about how they can get involved.

The society, according to infor-

mation provided, is dedicated to taking the re-creation of the renaissance period seriously.

In fact, members who show skills in specific areas or make unusual contributions to the overall preservation are rewarded with titles.

Those titles, officials said, are given by "queens and kings" in the 15 geographic kingdoms throughout the United States.

This is the second time the society has been invited to Colby to raise awareness about the medieval ages, school officials said.

Mishap on farm claims life of a child

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

A three-year-old Winona boy lost his life on Friday afternoon when he became entangled in some twine on the family's farm in southwest Thomas County.

Quaid C. Huelsman, the son of Michael Huelsman and Alison Siruta, both of Winona, was playing

outside while his mother was burning thistles. Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones said today that the boy had gone into the barn to play with his kittens and somehow got caught in twine that was attached to a haybale elevator.

"This is a very tragic accident in every appearance," Jones said.

After finding the child entangled,

his mother took him inside and called for an ambulance.

Emergency personnel were on the scene within minutes, but were unable to save the child.

Services for the boy will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Harrison Chapel in Colby.

See page 3 for service information.

Hero's welcome for former Kansas POW

MANHATTAN (AP)—Turning down a chance for dinner at the White House, Army Pfc. Patrick Miller, a former prisoner of war in Iraq, received a hero's welcome Saturday from Kansas State University football fans.

During a halftime ceremony at the team's annual spring scrimmage, Miller thanked "everybody for all the support they have given me."

He also urged the more than

12,000 spectators not to forget the troops still in Iraq and "those who died for what we have."

"This is why we live in the greatest country in the world," said Miller, 23, of Park City, in his first public appearance in Kansas since arriving home Thursday night.

The ceremony, which was coach Bill Snyder's idea, was part of a tribute by the university to troops from nearby Fort Riley.

"I appreciate him because he al-

ways alludes to those who didn't make it home," Snyder said.

Plaques and team-signed footballs were presented to Miller, post commander Brig. Gen. Frank Helmick, and the family of Sgt. Jacob Butler, of Wellsville, who was killed in Iraq.

Accepting the plaque and football were Butler's twin brother, Joe, and his parents, Cynthia and James Butler. The brother brushed away tears after receiving the items.

2:30 p.m. Anyone who has volunteered or is interested is welcome to attend.

Big band concert planned Saturday

Jazz band members from Colby High School, Colby Middle School and Goodland High School will be presenting a concert, "The Flatland Big Band," beginning at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby High School auditorium. The event is sponsored by the jazz band at Colby High School along with Brier Hale Music Co., Inc., and Colby Days Inn, said Julie Groom, band instructor. The event is free and everyone is encouraged to attend.

EMS sets "mock" emergency

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services has planned a "mock" drunk driving demonstration on Wednesday beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Colby High School parking lot. The purpose of the demonstration is to raise awareness among high school students planning to participate in prom activities and the dangers involved in drinking and driving.

