



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Successful Saturday story



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Colby played host to the first Western Kansas Great Strides Walk to help raise funds to find a cure for cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease affecting about 30,000 children and adults each year, said Doris Reed, coordinator. The walk was held Saturday morning at Fike Park in Colby, and the event also included music, food

and games. The affair was coordinated with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, she said, since there were no Great Stride walks in this part of the state. "Pulling together some friends and neighbors," Reed said, "we gave it a go and it turned out to be very successful."

Agenda includes parking upgrade at local Armory

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will consider parking improvements at the National Guard Armory building on Range Ave. when it meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday in council chambers.

Money is budgeted each year for maintenance at the armory, said Carolyn Armstrong city manager, and the money has remained untouched for more than a decade.

Improvement issues arose when Sgt. Manuel Rubio, assigned to the National Guard unit in Colby, requested improvements to the parking on the north side of the building.

Another agenda item will be focus on the engineering services for

spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan on well services.

Financial assistance for the Northwest Kansas Shelter, presented by Susan Wegele, coordinator, will also be among items discussed.

Armstrong said the shelter had asked for help last year, but because of budget constraints, the request was denied.

The council also plans to talk about approving documents for utility billing software and a support program agreement with Software Solutions, Inc.

All council meetings are open to the public. For a copy of the agenda or questions, call 462-4410.

Head-shaking follows Bush's tax cut action

By **JOHN HANNA**
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — As they ended their 2003 session, legislators heard a few odd notes from Washington, a weird ending to what had been a symphony of gloomy budget news.

In Washington last Wednesday, President Bush signed legislation providing \$350 billion in federal tax cuts and \$20 billion in aid to the states.

In Topeka on Thursday, Kansas lawmakers held the ceremonial adjournment of a session in which they had labored to balance the \$10 billion state budget. Now, they were learning, it appears that the federal legislation means the state could come out \$140 million or more ahead.

Some lawmakers saw the juxtaposition of federal tax cuts and their own struggle to balance the budget as strange.

"I think it's very ironic that at a time when states are awash in red ink, Congress decides it wants to cut taxes," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka.

Kansas' budget problems stemmed at least in part from the struggling national economy, with the effects on aviation manufacturing especially severe since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Legislators are still debating how much of a role was played by their tax-cutting in the late 1990s — or by higher spending.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and legislators agreed on a package of short-term fixes and accounting tricks to get the state through its 2004 fiscal year, which begins July 1. Legislators delayed \$213 million in school aid payments and granted Sebelius authority to speed up property tax collections.

Most other states confronted the same dilemma this year, seeking to prevent deficits while maintaining what citizens see as basic services.

Yet Bush and Congress, faced with paying for the war in Iraq and other expenditures, still decided to cut taxes. Had Bush prevailed, the package would have been more

than twice as large — \$726 billion over 10 years.

Several legislators noted the most obvious difference between state and federal budgeting: deficit spending.

While Kansas can issue bonds and resort to accounting maneuvers to balance its books, it cannot show a deficit at the end of a given fiscal year. The federal government can.

Therefore, Washington has the ability to help states out of their financial doldrums, said House Appropriations Chairman Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls.

"The big thing in the Bush tax package is to stimulate the economy," Neufeld said.

Conservatives like Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, argue that lowering state taxes would help the Kansas economy, and they're frustrated that the Legislature cannot follow Bush's lead.

Reducing the state's overall taxes would require a corresponding decrease in spending, an undertaking made more difficult by rising costs in medical services for the needy and demands for additional funds in other social programs and education.

"We just have an unquenchable desire to increase spending," Huelskamp said.

Of course, many legislators see bigger budgets not as evidence of an unquenchable desire to spend money, but as a response to constituents' demands for good public schools and an adequate safety net for the unfortunate. Often, the constituents want lower taxes as well.

"We can't have it both ways, like the federal government," said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton.

State officials are still crunching numbers, but they believe Kansas will receive \$154 million in aid from the federal government and lose \$12 million in revenues under the tax cuts because Kansas' tax code is tied to the federal one.

Initially, the state feared losing \$51 million a year.

Medicare drug bill is next for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress launch an intensive drive this week to enact Medicare prescription drug legislation, hoping that a Republican government can end years of partisan gridlock.

On the eve of a debate likely to

resonate in the 2004 elections, administration officials and lawmakers agree a formidable array of obstacles must be cleared before legislation can reach Bush's desk.

They involve policy — whether to offer all Medicare beneficiaries the same drug benefit, for example. They also include ideology — how

large a role the government should play — and political considerations — how aggressively to seek Democratic support, particularly in the Senate.

But by their own words, Bush and GOP leaders put the issue high on the legislative agenda, and the president is expected to actively

press for the measure when he returns from a European trip.

Majority Leader William Frist, a Tennessee Republican who is the Senate's only physician, intends to have legislation on the floor for a vote at mid-month.

Speaker Dennis Hastert seems no less determined.

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

More than 100 friends and co-workers attended the retirement reception for Corky Delzeit, director of public power, held Friday in council chambers of Colby City Hall.

"The city has been fortunate to have had an employee of Corky's caliber for more than 36 years," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

"I have appreciated his expertise and assistance during my 10 plus years here," she said.

Delzeit accepted his first job as a lineman for the city's electrical department in December of 1966. After 12 years as a lineman, he was promoted to line foreman. In January of 1982, his job title changed to metering and instrumentation supervisor.

He again accepted a challenge in 1982 when he took over as electric technician and for the past 13 years, Delzeit has continued as public power director since his promotion in December of 1990.

"We are glad Corky plans to stay in Colby after retirement not only so we can see how he is doing, but also



Corky Delzeit listens to the praises of many at his retirement reception at City Hall on Friday afternoon. His career spanned 36-plus years.

so that we can check with him from time to time if we have problems," said Mayor Warren Hixson.



Thunderstorms

Thomas, Logan Counties
Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms from late evening on. Lows in the mid 50s to around 60. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south late this evening. Chance of rain 30 percent. Tuesday...Partly sunny with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs 75 to 80. East wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

By the numbers
Sunday's high, 83
Low this morning, 54
Year ago today, 105 and 69
Records for the date, 105 in 2002, 33 in 1969
Soil temperature, 73
24-hour precipitation up to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
May's total precipitation, 2.33
June's precipitation to date, 0.15
Year's precipitation to date, 6.50

Water Usage/Colby
May 30-31, June 1 = 2,540 million gallons (average).

Delzeit praised for long city career

Briefly

City offers swim lessons

The Colby Recreation Department is offering swim lessons with three different sessions available. All children must be five years or older to participate. The first session started today and will conclude on Thursday, June 12. The second session is from Monday, June 16, until Thursday, June 26, and the third session is from Monday, June 30 until Thursday, July 10. All sessions have start times of 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., or 10:30 a.m. Lessons will run Monday through Thursday, with Friday being a makeup day if there is rain.

For questions or to register, call the Colby Recreation Department at (785) 462-4440.

Prayer rally meeting set

Those interested in a "Prayer Rally for the Local Medical Community" are urged to attend an organizational meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Questions to 462-3222.

Flea market scheduled noted

Rexford PRIDE is sponsoring its Farmers/Flea Markets now through September. The events will be held on the first Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Booth cost for vendors is \$10 with a lunch stand provided by various community organizations. Questions to (785) 687-3925.

'Harvest for Health' tourney planned

The Citizens Foundation is sponsoring its 13th annual "Harvest for Health" golf tournament on Friday, June 20 at the Colby Country Club. Registration will be from 8-9 a.m. with tee time starting promptly at 9 a.m. The cost will include prizes, a light breakfast, lunch and hors d'oeuvres. Questions or to register, call 462-1214.

Carnival 'work days' reminder

The Thomas County Amusement Association continues to hold "work days" each Saturday at the fairgrounds and everyone in the community is encouraged to lend a hand.

Contact the association's vice president, Chad L. Zimmerman at 460-1818 if you need additional information.

'Pens and Pics' scheduled Thursday

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, 1675 W. 4th St., Colby, will host "Community Inclusion with the Arts." Judy Kleinsorge, of the Prairie Museum of Art and History, will give a program, "Pens and Pics." The free program will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday and is open to everyone. Questions to 462-3012.

Still accepting military photos

Colby Photo at 420 N. Franklin is still accepting pictures to honor military members either serving overseas or in the United States. Ardash Beringer, owner of the business, said the "window to honor our troops," can also include Reserve and National Guard members. Photos used in the tribute will be returned. Questions to 462-8169.

