



COLBY FREE PRESS

Prayer rally attracts large crowd Forgiveness, reconciliation are themes for gathering seeking medical resolution

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press
A "Prayer Rally for Community Reconciliation" might have achieved its greater purpose of reconciliation for the community, a spokesperson for the event said today.

The rally went very well, touching on forgiveness and reconciliation in the community and for the hospital and its doctors said Leonard Burgess, pastor at College Drive Assembly and one of the presenters.

Rich Epp, emcee for the event, said the need for the rally was prompted by a situation in the community.

"We've had a medical issue that involved one of our doctors (Dr. Victor Hildyard) in the community and the hospital," he said. "It's become a divisive issue."

More than 100 people attended the rally that featured nine speakers, including pastors from local churches and anyone else who had something to say.

They included Leonard Kinkade, Brewster, speaking on forgiveness. Speakers from Colby included Pastor Carol Rahn on love, Steve Ziegelmeier on miracles, Pastor Fran Harwerth on prayer, Pastor Tim Morris on faith, John Jones on unity and Edna Hansen on repentance.

Hansen said she was pleased with the rally and it was a chance to "seek the Lord on the issues."

She said she felt positively about it because a similar prayer rally for rain was held in February.

"God answers prayers," Hansen said.

"I felt overall that the tone underneath was very good," Burgess said.

"There wasn't any meanness at all." He added that it even touched on how people can begin the process of reconciliation. People should go to one another and ask forgiveness.

Epp said he felt the rally went well and the attitude for the evening was "reverent."

"I'm hopeful that in the long run

it will be productive for those that were there, those that weren't there and for the community in general," Epp said. The rally, he said, stressed repentance, forgiveness, unity, and the importance of prayer and of love toward one another.

"We're expecting that the Lord we serve would deliver a miracle," Epp said. "The ultimate goal is that the community can live in harmony and with each other without anger, without resentfulness, without vengeance."

Todd Stramel, one of the event's organizers, said it went well, but he couldn't take credit for it.

"It wasn't my effort," he said. "It was really a group effort."



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Mike Tubbs, Colby, was one of many attending the "Prayer Rally for Community Reconciliation" held Tuesday in the Little Theater of the Colby Community Building. Also pictured are Donna and Dave Jennings.

Kansas Marine is killed in Iraq

DERBY (AP) — Robin Hamilton didn't try to ease into the bad news.

The simple truth was that her son, Ryan Cox, wouldn't be coming back to Derby from Iraq.

"She just flat out told me that Ryan's not coming home — those were her words," said Ryan Cox's friend, Aaron Norton. "It hit me like lead. There was a silence, like 20 seconds."

Hamilton said her 19-year-old son enlisted in the Marine Corps for its structure, fun and a view of the world.

She said she is comforted because those visions came true.

Sunday, the Department of Defense said Cox was killed by a "non-combat weapons discharge."

Cox's stepmother, Deborah Cox, said she has heard little from the military.

Ryan Cox, a private first class, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division out of the Air-Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Brian Staats with Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, Colby, presented the 2002 audit report to the Colby City Council during its regular meeting Tuesday night. Seated beside Staats is Beverly Stieben, city clerk.

At Tuesday's meeting

Auditing firm tells council the city's books look good

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The City of Colby's 2002 audit report went well, according to information provided at the council meeting Tuesday night.

Brian Staats of Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, along with Cynthia Biebler, also with the firm, spoke to the council about the annual report citing no "reportable conditions."

Those types of conditions, Staats said, would involve matters relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control, but in the city's audit, these conditions did not exist.

In fact, he commended the city and its staff for the quality and organization of their records.

"There were no irregularities and we believe the city is doing a great job and in good financial shape," he said.

While there were no major concerns, Staats did offer some suggestions with respect to reconciliation of encumbrances and accounts payable and municipal court deposits.

He told the council that his firm noted the balance sheet encumbrances and accounts payable did not agree with the printout of encumbrances at year end.

"We suggest that the balance sheet be adjusted to the actual and that a reconciliation of payables be performed at least prior to the end of the year."

Regarding municipal court deposits, Staats suggested that instead of making deposits once or twice a month, that it might be better to do this at least weekly.

Each year an audit is done on financial statements, he said, with the information of findings passed along not only to Mayor Warren Hixson, the council members and

management, but also to the State of Kansas.

In addition to discussing the audit report, Staats was asked to talk about alternative investment considerations.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, said that in view of the low interest rates, she thought the council may want to think about changing its current policy which only has local banks in place for investments.

The council decided to consider changing the policy to give more latitude for investments by including the state's municipal fund pool if local banks cannot match the pool's interest rates.

The council did note that while it has no plans at this time to change the way investments are handled, it was decided that the policy can be expanded in the event interest rates differ greatly in the future.

Arizona bishop charged in fatal accident resigns

PHOENIX (AP) — Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation today of Bishop Thomas O'Brien of Phoenix, who has been charged with leaving the scene of a fatal pedestrian-car accident.

The Vatican appointed Santa Fe, N.M., Archbishop Michael Sheehan as apostolic administrator of the troubled diocese, the Santa Fe archdiocese said.

As apostolic administrator, Sheehan has been granted full authority over the Diocese of Phoenix until the Vatican appoints a new bishop.

He also will remain archbishop of New Mexico's largest diocese.

Other than being charged with leaving the scene of the accident, O'Brien had also recently struck a

deal to avoid indictment for allegedly sheltering molesters in the clergy.

The Vatican didn't give a specific reason for O'Brien's decision to resign.

In a two-line announcement, it said the pope had accepted O'Brien's resignation as the spiritual leader of Arizona's 430,000 Catholics under a clause of church law allowing a cleric to resign for illness or "some other grave reason" that makes him "unsuited for the fulfillment of his office."

O'Brien, 67, was charged Tuesday with leaving the scene of a fatal accident after police investigating a weekend hit-and-run traced a license plate number to the bishop's car and found the windshield caved

in. A pedestrian, Jim Reed, was killed in the accident, according to the report.

The bishop told police he thought he had hit a dog or a cat or that someone had thrown a rock at his vehicle. The bishop didn't report the accident, but prosecutors say he attempted to have his windshield fixed.

He could be sentenced to anything from probation to less than four years in prison if he is convicted on the current charge, a felony.

The new diocese administrator, Sheehan, said in a statement that his heart goes out to the clergy and Phoenix's Catholic community.

"You have suffered greatly these last few months," he said. "I hope

to bring healing. God's grace will help us through this challenging time."

Sheehan was traveling to Phoenix today, said Celine Radigan, a spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

She said it was not immediately clear how long Sheehan would stay.

Prosecutors said the charge against O'Brien wouldn't affect a landmark agreement announced two weeks ago in which the bishop relinquished some of his authority, sparing him from obstruction charges for protecting priests accused of child molestation.

O'Brien has admitted that he allowed priests to work with minors after he knew of sexual misconduct allegations against them, and that he

transferred them to ministries without telling their new supervisors.

He has denied committing any crimes and has apologized for any "misconduct, hardship or harm" caused to victims by priests in the diocese.

At the time of the deal, O'Brien offered to resign, but the pope refused, prosecutors said.

Under the deal with Maricopa County Attorney Rick Romley, O'Brien agreed, among other things, to appoint the equivalent of a chief of staff to supervise the enforcement of the church's sexual misconduct policies.

Romley said O'Brien's resignation "will provide an opportunity for the Catholic church to move beyond this."

Briefly

Trophy sponsors wanted

The Thomas County Extension Office is looking for businesses and individuals to sponsor 4-H trophies for this year's county fair, said D'Ette Sholtz, county extension agent. Each trophy is \$8, she said. For questions or information call (785) 462-4582.

Personal, real estate taxes due

The second half of 2002 Thomas County personal and real estate taxes are due by Friday. For questions, call the county treasurer's office at 462-4520.

Babysitting class planned

The Super Sitter Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, June 25 in the Thomas County Office Complex. Children who have completed fifth grade are eligible to enroll, said officials at the Thomas County Health Department.

Events planned throughout the day include baby bath demonstration, interaction with local daycare children, fire safety and 911. Children who plan to attend need to bring pen and paper and a sack lunch. Snacks will be provided. The cost of the class is \$15. To enroll, call the health department at (785) 462-4596.

Share delivery date noted

Heartland Share delivery is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, at 10 a.m. in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium. As an added bonus this month is those ordering Share and a special of the month will have an opportunity to win a barbecue grill. Questions to 460-3579.

La Leche League plans told

La Leche League of Northwest Kansas announces a summer series of informal meetings for women interested in finding out more about breast feeding. Meetings will be held

Sunday, June 22 and Sunday, July 20, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church meeting room, 515 W. 4th St., Colby. A family potluck is also planned from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17 at Fike Park. The events, said Connie Davis, with La Leche League, are for all interested mothers-to-be, mothers with nursing babies and their partners or support people. For information, to rent or buy a pump or questions about the meetings, call Davis at (785) 462-7188 or (785) 675-3501.

Swim lessons continue

The Colby Recreation Department is offering swim lessons. The second session is underway and will conclude on 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.



Thunderstorms

Thomas, Logan Counties

Tonight...Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Thursday...Cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Warm with highs in the lower 80s. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast late. Chance of rain 30 percent. Thursday night...Cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Chance of rain 30 percent. Friday...Cloudy and warmer. Highs in the mid 80s. Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

By the numbers

Tuesday's high, 81
Low this morning, 61
Year ago today, 103 and 58
Records for the date, 107 in 1936, 42 in 1895
Soil temperature, 74
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.26
June's precipitation to date, 2.14
Year's precipitation to date, 8.49
2002's precipitation to date, 4.02
Water Usage/Colby
June 17 = (not available)

