



COLBY FREE PRESS



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Pitching in down on the farm



It's time for spring field work and someone's got to do it! Aiden Cook, 5, and little brother, Carson, 3, probably have thoughts of planting and harvesting as they went round and round their

imaginary "field" on mom's front lawn Wednesday morning. The two little farmers are sons of Jason and Theresa Cook of Colby.

VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

City agrees to help Arma with dispute

By Andy Heintz

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A battle over a new energy contract between the tiny city of Arma and Westar Energy Corp., one of the largest electric providers in Kansas, has captured the attention of the Colby City Council.

The council approved \$1,022 to help Arma shoulder the costs involved with a complaint it filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission against Westar at its meeting Tuesday evening.

The case has a potential to affect Colby because Westar has a

contract with Midwest Energy, which sells the city most of its electricity.

"If Westar is able to demand an increase of 3 percent in a 20-year contract with Arma, then they could do the same thing to Midwest Energy," said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

Armstrong said Westar had told Arma officials its new deal would be a 20-year contract with an automatic increase of 3 percent a year and that was the only choice the city had.

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County studies budget requests

By Vera Sloan

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County department heads took turns talking about their budgets for next year at a meeting Monday, but commissioners filed the requests away for August, when they have to pare the budget down to what the county can afford.

Extension Agent Clint Milliman and Mike Brown, president of the Thomas County Extension Council, gave the commissioners a heads up on the program's needs for the 2010 budget. They asked for a \$300 increase for the year to help fill out what they called a bare-bones budget.

Milliman said agents are taking a \$250-a-year salary cut, and the state is looking more at merging extension offices into multicounty districts, but are just gathering information at this time.

Brown said the state is cutting \$3,000 out of the the county office's postage and printing budget and his office will have to go electronic for newsletters and other information that can be passed by computer.

Commissioner Paul Steele said the district plan suggested by K-State would mean there would be an area board with representatives from each county. The county

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Area organizations honor veterans

By Kevin Bottrell

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People from all walks of life in Thomas County will come together to honor our nation's fallen servicemen and women, ancestors and others on Monday for Memorial Day.

The Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post will hold a Memorial Day service at 10 a.m. Monday Beulah Cemetery. Veterans should plan to be at the cemetery at 9:30 a.m. At 10, they will march from

the east gate to the reviewing stand.

The Veterans' Auxiliary will post the colors and a chaplain will give an invocation. Post Commander Paul Ohlrogge will give a welcome address and introduce the guest speaker.

A firing squad will give a 21-gun salute and "Taps" will be played. The chaplain will give a benediction, after which the veterans will raise the flags at the east gate from half to full staff, concluding the ceremony.

Immediately following, about

10:30, will be a service at the Sacred Heart Cemetery. The Kansas National Guard will provide an honor guard for both services.

The veterans invite everyone back to the post, downtown at 220 Lake Ave., afterwards for coffee and donuts.

A service at the Brewster Cemetery starts at 9:30 a.m. (Central Time) on Monday with the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars doing the honors. Mayor Mike Baughn will speak, and there should be music, said city Superintendent Mike Schultz.

Fellowship time will follow at the Brewster United Methodist Church. If it rains, the service will be moved to the Brewster School building.

At the Rexford Cemetery, volunteers will be setting flags on veterans' headstones at about 7:30 a.m.

Businesses and offices to close for Memorial Day

Many, but not all, offices and businesses will be closed Monday to observe Memorial Day.

Several restaurants, including City Limits and Montana Mike's, will not be open. However, those looking to dine out will find Colby's fast-food restaurants, such as McDonald's and Subway, open, along with Pizza Hut and Village Inn. If you need groceries, Dillons and Wal-Mart will both be open regular hours.

There will be no Monday edition of the *Colby Free Press*. The next edition will be printed on Wednesday.

The city offices will be closed,

as will Colby Community College, but the Colby Visitors Center will be open to welcome travelers.

City of Colby trash services will not be running. Customers on the normal Monday route will have their trash picked up on Tuesday. Monday customers should have their trash and grass clippings out on the curb by 8 a.m., the city says.

Thomas County offices will be closed Monday, including the courthouse and Health Department. The community transit van will not be running, and the Thomas County Landfill will close at noon on Saturday and not

reopen until Tuesday.

Federal and state offices, including the post office, will be closed. So will all banks and financial institutions.

The Colby Fire Department will be running a normal weekend shift. Some firefighters will be out of town, said Assistant Fire Chief Sean Hankin, but the department always makes sure to have enough to cover any fire or rescue call. The Law Enforcement Center will also be open, with officers of the Colby Police Department and the Thomas County Sheriff's Office both working regular shifts.

Solving the UGLY problems



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby sixth graders Natasha Besse (above, left) and Bridget Bickner worked with some string during the toxic waste project during Colby Middle School UGLY Day on Thursday at Villa High Park. Sixth graders Kelly Sloan (right), Alexa Boehm and Jennilee Gray tried to relay messages with flag symbols to students at the other side of the pond during a signals project. UGLY Day is a yearly middle school activity that promotes teamwork and problem solving.



Briefly

Library book sale this weekend

The Pioneer Memorial Library's Memorable Book Sale continues from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the basement of the library. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Group raising money for Relay

The Colby Community College nursing students' Relay team will hold a fund raiser at Wal-Mart from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. The students will be checking vital signs, which include blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory and temperature checks. For information, call Ron Redick at 269-7174.

Bible school starts Tuesday

Trinity Lutheran Church invites children from age 3 through fifth grade to Vacation Bible School from 9:15 to noon Tuesday through next Friday. The theme this year is "BUGS - Believe and Understand God's

Son." The church is at Fifth Street and Country Club Drive in Colby. To register, go to trinitycolby.com. For information, call Melinda Olson at 462-3497.

Firemen plan to test hydrants

The Colby Fire Department will be flow testing fire hydrants beginning Tuesday, a normal maintenance procedure after the winter months. The department will be testing each hydrant between now and the end of June, and the work may temporarily disrupt some water lines near the hydrants. For information, call Assistant Chief Sean Hankin at the Colby Fire Department, 460-4454.

Ball league sign-up due soon

Colby Recreation swim lesson sign up is due by Wednesday. The first round of lessons will be at the Colby Community College pool, since the city pool

won't be open yet. For questions, call the Recreation Department at 460-4440.

College to hold fishing derby

Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold a free "Kids Fishing Derby" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 30, at Villa High Park in Colby. The lake will be stocked with channel catfish and bluegill. The college radio station KCJC plans to broadcast live. Wildlife experts will talk to kids about fishing, and there will be a food vendor and face painting. For information, call Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, at (785) 460-5429. The park is on the east side of Range Avenue south of the KXXX Radio building.

Church offers financial classes

The Colby Church of Christ will sponsor an introductory class for Financial Peace University, a

money management course, at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call Josh and Ronda Faber at 460-6548 or Jared Spencer at 443-2403.

Friday deadline for money

Next Friday is the cutoff date for Organic Initiative applications in Kansas under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to be considered for Fiscal Year 2009 money. For information, call Andy Burr at the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service county office at 462-7482, extension 301

