



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Community loses prominent voice

### Don D. Phillips dies at age 91

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

The Colby community has lost one of its most active, prominent, respected citizens in the death of Donald Dale Phillips, 91, at Lantern Park Manor on Sunday.

Mr. Phillips' involvements throughout his life were legend and covered a variety of interests and concerns. He was a member of the Kansas Bar Association for more than 50 years, and was admitted to practice before the Kansas Supreme Court in 1935 and before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1970.

He was appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Kansas in 1969, and retired from the federal judiciary in 1984.

Mr. Phillips ran the Colby and Lyric theaters, opened the Colby drive-in theater in 1950, and owned drive-in theaters in Phillipsburg, McCook, Neb. and Longmont, Colo.

Mr. Phillips took responsibility for the front pages of the *Colby Free Press* for several years after his father died. He later kept in touch with readers by turning out a popular column, "Mostly Movies." His columns continued in the *Free Press* up until early 2002.

He was Colby's mayor from 1965-1969. Mr. Phillips, and many

others, was instrumental in establishing Colby Community College, and was a member of the advisory board from 1965-1967. He was among a group who persuaded state officials to build I-70 to the south of Colby, and due to his and the efforts of others, the community enjoys hospital facilities.

He was Colby *Business Person of the Year* in 1986, and named *Citizen of the Year* in 1989 by the Kiwanis Club. He was a member of the Rotary Club for more than 60 years and established Phillips Park to honor his parents.

Mr. Phillips was born on March 12, 1911 in Goodland. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Arliss; two sons: Richard Phillips, Kansas City, Kan., and David Phillips, Prairie Village; a daughter, Pamela Phillips, Altman, Texas; a sister, Dorothy Crabb, Colby; and 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his brother, Kim.

Visitation is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Harrison Chapel. Memorial services will be held on Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the chapel with Pastor James Mardock presiding. A private family graveside service will be held at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

Memorial donations may be made to the Thomas County Historical Society or Colby Community College and may be left at any Colby bank or at Harrison Chapel.

The *Free Press* will complete the active life of one of its best known citizens in Tuesday's edition.



Don Phillips

## Overland Park attorney elected Dem's chairman

TOPEKA (AP) — Unlike two years ago, election of a Democratic state chairman supported by Kathleen Sebelius went off without incident this year.

Of course, Sebelius is governor, not just the party's expected nominee. And her choice, Overland Park attorney Larry Gates, drew no opposition from union leaders, as Sebelius' candidate did two years ago.

The result was the Democratic State Committee's unanimous vote Saturday for Gates as chairman in 2003-05 and whole lot of harmony among activists who gathered for the party's annual Washington Days convention.

"No bloodletting. No tear gas," said Dan Lykins, a Topeka attorney who was re-elected the party's state

treasurer. "Everybody's happy."

Gates, 55, has been active in the party for more than 30 years, involved in raising money for candidates who included Gov. Joan Finney in 1990 and Sebelius last year. He replaces state Rep. Tom Sawyer, of Wichita, who had served as party chairman for four years, after his unsuccessful 1998 campaign against GOP Gov. Bill Graves' re-election.

Traditionally, activists and officials see a governor as the party's leader, and the state committee accepts the candidate backed by the governor for state chairman.

But that's not always the case — as Gates himself found out in 1983. Backed then by Gov. John Carlin, Gates lost to Wichita labor leader Pat Lehman.

## Spelling bee stress



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Andrea Dizmang, the third grade daughter of Alan and Bonnie Dizmang of Colby, very carefully spelled out her word during the spelling bee held last week at the Colby Grade School. The spell-

ing bee was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization and included participants from third, fourth and fifth grade. Complete results will be in Tuesday's edition of the *Free Press*.

## Turkey's surprise a bummer for U.S.

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's surprise rejection of a U.S. troop deployment is forcing American planners to rethink a strategy that called for attacks from two fronts to hit Saddam Hussein's army so ferociously his forces would have quickly collapsed.

Turkey's parliament rejected the U.S. request on Saturday, leaving the U.S. plan to base 62,000 U.S. soldiers on Iraq's northern border in disarray.

Washington was so sure that it would gain Turkey's support that cargo ships carrying U.S. armor are waiting off the Turkish shore and hundreds of jeeps and trucks have already been unloaded in southern Turkey.

In Germany, the top U.S. military commander in Europe said military officials were considering alternate plans if Turkey remains steadfast in its rejection of a U.S. deployment. "It's very much a wait and see

situation at the moment," Marine Gen. James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, told reporters.

A top official in Turkey's governing Justice and Development Party, Eyup Fatsa, said Parliament isn't planning to take up the issue in the "foreseeable future." But Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis appeared to leave the door open for a new vote, saying leaders will conduct a "process of evaluation."

Basing troops in Turkey, on Iraq's northern border, is so crucial to U.S. war plans that American negotiators offered some \$15 billion in aid to try to win over Turkish approval.

U.S. and Turkish generals agree that a northern front would lead to a shorter and less bloody war, but Turkish public opinion is overwhelmingly against a war. Legislators failed to approve the measure by just three votes, despite lobbying by Secretary of State Colin

Powell.

The northern front was also considered vital to maintaining stability in northern Iraq. Turkey has said it will send troops into the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq if there is a war, a move that Iraqi Kurds who have autonomy there have vowed to resist.

With a northern front a war "would be quicker, there would certainly be far fewer casualties ... and far less risk of civil tensions in Iraq," said Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

The northern plan called for the 4th Infantry "Ironhorse" Division and parts of the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" Division to seize the oil-rich cities of Mosul and Kirkuk and drive toward the south when war started, experts said.

Taking the oil cities would be a sharp blow to Saddam and would

also be politically important. Both Kurds and Turks have claims to the cities and each side wants to make sure the other does not gain control.

Meanwhile, the 255 U.S. strike fighters that would be based in Turkey would fly bombing missions in Iraq.

Aircraft including attack helicopters carrying anti-tank missiles and machine guns would fly out of Turkish border areas to strafe Iraqi troops and paralyze transport on Iraqi roads, experts said.

"The idea is to seize as much territory as possible," said Toby Dodge, a Middle East specialist at Warwick University in England. "All of this is designed to ... break the command and control of the army and lead to a coup."

After seizing the oil cities, the northern troops would be poised to start moving south toward Saddam's hometown of Tikrit and later Baghdad, experts said.

## A call she won't forget

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius endured repeated but good-natured ribbing Saturday about her recent cell phone no-no call.

Last week, Sebelius attended an event at the White House with other governors, where her cell phone rang during a speech by President Bush, who was annoyed. All day Saturday, cell phone jokes

abounded at Kansas Democrats' annual Washington Days festivities held over the weekend in Topeka.

During a meeting of the Democratic State Committee, the phone of someone sitting near Sebelius with fellow delegates went off.

The noise prompted her to stand and exclaim in mock frustration, "It isn't me!" to the laughter of party activists.

## City council agenda told for Tuesday

The Colby City Council will pull up their chairs to the table at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday to engage in another session of city business.

The meeting, as is all city council meetings, is held at City Hall at 585 N. Franklin.

Among old business matters is registration of private wells within the city limits, and under new business is recommendation of the airport board on airport management

contract.

The council will also approve the appointment of Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, as "Resident Member" and Mayor Warren Hixson as "Alternate Member" to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board of directors.

They will also signal approval of a retail cereal malt beverage license for Double U's on S. Range.

## Briefly

### New exhibit opens at college

Diane Frazey Mahanna's art exhibit is now open at the Cultural Arts Center gallery at Colby Community College. Kathy Gordon, art instructor, said the exhibit can be seen from 1 to 5 p.m. daily or on weekends by prior arrangements. For questions, call Gordon at 462-3984, ext. 310.

### Caregivers group to meet

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging is sponsoring a support group for caregivers on Wednesday. If you care for someone over the age of 60, you are encouraged to join the group at Colby Community College at 7 p.m. in the Student Union room 106.

### Help available with form filings

Free assistance in filling out the Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications is available to individuals with disabilities until March 31. Free assistance in completing the

Homestead Food Sales Tax Returns will be available until April 15.

For information, or to set up an appointment, call (785) 625-6942 or (800) 569-5926.

### Sacred Heart enrollment this week

Sacred Heart School will hold kindergarten and pre-school enrollment on Wednesday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the school lobby at 1150 W. 6th St. School officials ask that parents or guardians bring a copy of their child's birth certificate, immunization records, social security number, and physical. For questions, call 462-2813.

### Childbirth education series to begin

The next Colby Childbirth Education series will start on Thursday with subsequent classes scheduled March 20 and 27, and April 3. They will be held in the Health Science Building on the Colby Community College Campus. More information is available at 462-6845, ask for Tina Schrick.

### Red Cross course to begin

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross announces a two-day instructor training course on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11 and 12, with times to be announced. Classes will also be offered by arrangement for a "Ready, Set, Roll" class to train drivers in the emergency response vehicle drivers and an introductory class to disaster services. To enroll, call the Red Cross office at (785) 462-7161.

Courses are held at the Thomas County Office Complex.

### Cemetery board meets Thursdays

The Colby Cemetery District board meetings will be held on Thursdays for the next couple of months, reminded Relda Galli, board member. The meetings will continue to be held at the Thomas County Courthouse beginning at 2 p.m. Board members should note that Thursday meetings include March 20 and April 24.

For questions, call Galli at 462-3670.



### Cold, snow

Tonight...cloudy, a 20 percent chance for snow, lows in the 20s. Tuesday...cloudy, a 20 percent chance for snow, much colder with highs only in the upper 20s, northeast winds up to 20 mph. Tuesday night...cloudy, a 50 percent chance for snow, lows 10-15. Wednesday...partly sunny, highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday night...clear, lows in the teens. Thursday, partly sunny, highs in the lower 50s.

### The numbers

Monday's high, 35  
Low this morning, 18  
Soil temperature, 32  
Year ago, 26 and -7  
Month's snowfall, 00.00  
Month's precipitation, 00.00  
Records, 80 in 19374 and -22 in 1960 (coldest March temperature ever for Colby)

