



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

It's all about safety

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

With warmer weather just around the corner, the Colby Police Department reminds motorists and pedestrians to know the right-of-way rules everywhere, but particularly in the downtown area.

Downtown area, said Randy Jones, chief of police, runs from the railroad tracks on the south side of Franklin Avenue to Eighth Street.

"There's a 20 mph speed zone for the business district, even though intersecting streets such as Fourth are posted 30 mph," he said.

For the most part, he said, there are pedestrian crossings on both sides of the streets at each block downtown and motorists must yield to those using the crosswalks.

"Even if traffic lights aren't in place, whenever someone enters the crosswalk or is in the process of crossing the street, vehicles are required to yield," he said.

When there isn't a marked pedestrian crosswalk; however, Jones said those crossing the street must wait for vehicles to pass by first.

"We want to remind pedestrians to use crosswalks when available and not jaywalk for their own safety," he said.

Although most people understand the right-of-way for pedestrians and motorists, Colby Mayor Warren Hixson said he recently had calls about the speed of vehicles



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Larry Horinek, with the Colby department of public power, was one of three employees changing out lenses and bulbs for all stoplight directions on Fourth and Franklin Avenues last Friday. These were an upgrade and are more expensive, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, but should make it easier for motorists to see when the sun reflects against them during certain times of the day. The total cost for the new upgrades was about \$3,800. No plans are in place to change out other bulbs at this time.

downtown. In an effort to raise awareness, both Jones and Hixson said they agreed that a reminder to

both walkers and drivers could maybe avoid a bad situation from happening.

'Cardiac arrest' here tops \$6,500

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

This year's 'Cardiac Arrest' netted more than \$6,500, said Shawn Reinert, coordinator of the Colby activity.

The event is sponsored annually by the American Heart Association and held in conjunction with the month-long national observance in February.

"The purpose of Cardiac Arrest," said Randall Braden of Hays, who also serves as the fund raising coordinator, "is to raise awareness and money toward research in areas such as CPR, bypass surgery, the heart-lung machine and repairing heart defects.

"The American Heart Association also provides targeted educational programs available for the workplace, schools, healthcare facilities and other organizations."

At the Colby fund raiser, Reinert said that some very important citizens went to jail to raise money for

the association. "Some of the charges were guilty of overeating, taking candy from a baby and others — the charges were trumped up a bit — but it was all in good fun," Reinert said.

He also wanted to thank everyone for making the event a success.

"Without their generosity we wouldn't be able to fund life-saving research, community programs and public education," said Reinert.

Those assisting Reinert with the effort were Wade Baker, Donna Finley, Tina Harris, Sara Juenemann, Danielle Kaiser, Tracey King, Elaine Koerperich, Jim McLaughlin, Dick Parnell, Debbie Schwanke, Jeannie Solko, Tammie Strutt, 'Judge' David Jennings, Ryan Sturdy and the City of Colby, Susan Hawkins and Subway, Linda Taylor and Gambino's of Colby, Lynette Hull and Dillon Stores, Eldean Griffith and Culligan Water Conditioning and the Colby Free Press.

Responsibilities increase

Military chaplains also prepare for war

WICHITA (AP) — Capt. John Hubbs leads Sunday worship services, counsels and simply builds friendships with the soldiers at McConnell Air Force Base.

But as war with Iraq moves closer, duties for Hubbs and McConnell's other military chaplains are expected to increase.

For one thing, there will be more reasons and opportunities to pray for soldiers.

At the top of Hubbs' prayer list are those in the military who will have to make the tough calls: people such as the intelligence gatherers whose information determines where deadly strikes will take place.

"You're always going to have people second-guessing you," Hubbs said.

"We are so conscious of inflicting damage on innocent people. I don't think we take it lightly."

In the Air Force, an estimated 60 chaplains from many religious affiliations have been deployed in connection with Operation Enduring Freedom, the ongoing military response to Sept. 11.

Hubbs, 38, who comes from the

Free Methodist denomination, shares duties at McConnell with chaplains from Southern Baptist, Roman Catholic and Church of God backgrounds.

While answering a call to minister, they are sensitive to their audience's faith, they said.

"I have to balance the fact that I have a calling to share my faith," Hubbs said.

"But as a chaplain, I have to be sensitive to the faith the military member brings to the table. To me, that's the Golden Rule."

Hubbs served as pastor of two churches in Illinois before a letter from the Navy invited him to consider military chaplaincy.

Not someone who has a thing for ships, he decided on the Air Force about five years ago.

McConnell is his second U.S. base assignment.

Like other enlisted personnel, military chaplains are prepared to be deployed abroad at any time.

Hubbs returned in December from his first deployment abroad, a 90-day stay at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

Earmarked for arts, education

Anonymous gift aids foundation

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Thomas County Community Foundation has a \$3,000 fund for arts or education to give as grants, said Becky Donelan, the foundation's executive director.

"This is an exciting opportunity for nonprofit organizations whose mission and programming

includes arts or education to apply for funds," she said. "Any nonprofit organization serving Thomas County in these program areas are eligible to apply, and a selection emphasis will be on the impact the proposed grants will make in the community."

Donelan said the grant applications and further guidelines are

available from the Foundation by calling 465-9152 or by email at tccfoundation@kans.com. The grant application deadline is April 1, 2003. All applicants will be notified of the selections by April 22, 2003.

The Thomas County Community Foundation was established in 2001 as a public, nonprofit organization.

It serves primarily as a collection of permanently endowed funds for the long-term benefit of the county, and additionally helps donors create funds that reflect their charitable goals.

Donelan's number is 465-9152 for those wanting more information about establishing a fund, or have questions.

Clinton, Dole square off in first of several TV 'debates'

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Clinton, in his first televised mini-debate with Republican Bob Dole on Sunday, said that a tax cut at a time that war is looming in Iraq is "bad economics."

Dole, Clinton's opponent in the 1996 presidential election, said the Bush administration has launched a global war to protect the American way of life, "which means, among other things, the freedom to save or invest our own money."

The retired politicians have agreed to revive the "Point-Counterpoint" segment on "60 Minutes," television's most popular newsmagazine.

In the two-minute debate, the two will face off on a subject of their own choosing. Sunday's segment was the first, and Clinton chose to talk about his successor's proposed tax cut; Dole gets to choose the next segment.

Clinton said a conflict with Iraq

and the subsequent rebuilding will cost many billions of dollars when the country is at a deficit.

"Now when we're cutting back on everything from homeland security to education and with Iraq still to pay for, your party wants another big tax cut," Clinton said. "Never before have we had a big tax cut in times of national crisis. Lincoln didn't. FDR didn't. With over 200,000 young Americans in the Persian Gulf, we shouldn't. It's

wrong and it's bad economics."

Dole responded that it didn't have to be one or the other.

"For President Bush to practice the economics of 'either/or' would not only invite political attack from your friends who want his job, it would risk winning the battle and losing the war," the former Senate majority leader said. After their initial 45-second segments, both politicians were given 15 more seconds to make another point.

"Leadership is about choosing," Clinton said. "So let's give up our tax cut."

No war, said Dole, arguing that many of the nation's economic problems could be traced to an economic hangover from the roaring '90s.

"The Bush tax cut has barely kicked in," Dole said. "But I'll tell you what. I'll gladly donate my tax cut to a worthy charity, if you will. Maybe even to the Clinton library."

Briefly

Enrollment is still open

Enrollment for next year's Colby public school kindergarteners has been held, but for those who missed this pre-enrollment, Terrel Harrison, principal, is asking parents and/or guardians to stop by the school office, 210 N. Grant, as soon as possible to enroll your child. Harrison said to bring the child's immunization records, birth certificate and social security number for the enrollment. Any children residing in the Colby School District and who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2003 is eligible to enroll.

It is not necessary to bring children for the pre-enrollment, she said.

Storm spotter meeting is Tuesday

The National Weather Service will be conducting storm spotter training in the Little Theater room of the Colby Community Building on Tuesday. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge.

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.

Childbirth education series begins

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.

New art exhibit 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.

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.



Warming trend is week's call

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid teens. Southeast wind 10 mph becoming southwest early in the morning. Tuesday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south late. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper teens. Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Thursday...Mostly clear and warmer. Highs in the 60s.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 34
Low this morning, 12
Soil temperature, 35
Year ago, 65 and 10
Month's snowfall, trace
Month's precipitation, 0.03
Records, 82 in 1989 and -5 in 1948

