



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Drug seizure money helps Colby hospital

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

Thanks to money provided by the drug seizure fund, Citizens Medical Center is now able to provide another vital service to the community, said Tama Unger, with marketing and public relations.

The development of an adaptive equipment library, will make it possible for people to check out materials on how to use equipment in the home.

The application, Unger said, was forwarded to the Thomas County Drug Abuse Education Committee which reviews requests for funding using drug forfeiture dollars seized by the sheriff's department.

With the \$500 the hospital received, the library for adaptive equipment will include devices such as bath benches, grab bars, reachers, sock donners, low vision equipment, aids for dressing, bathing, toileting, feeding, cook and other day-to-day life skills for people to use in their homes.

The equipment will benefit patients who had hip replacements, strokes, low vision or heart attacks until they are able to return to normal activities.

"With an adaptive equipment library, said Nichole Baker, occupational therapist at Citizens Medical Center, "people would be able to check out materials, be trained in the proper use of the equipment and then implement the equipment in their homes."

By providing this type of service,

Baker said, it will increase the safety for people returning home and allow them to try equipment before having to purchase something that might not work for them.

Contributions such as those received from the Thomas County Drug Abuse Education Committee, said Gina Jennings, also an occupational therapist with the hospital, the library can continue to add more equipment and training materials.

Jennings said she believes this newly developed library will improve the quality of life for those who have had physical limitations after an injury or illness.

Among the many reasons for the addition of the adaptive equipment library, Unger said, is to help patients who might otherwise balk at the price of this equipment and therefore not buy it before returning home.

"Since insurance rarely picks up the bill for adaptive equipment," Unger said, "people are forced to return to their homes without assistive devices making them at risk for further injuries while trying to do simple daily tasks."

Now these types of injuries can be avoided with the help of the adaptive equipment, she said.

Unger encourages anyone who would like to know more about the adaptive equipment library to call either Baker or Jennings at (785) 462-7511.

Donations would also be appreciated in order to continue improving the library's resources.

Household hazardous waste collection slated

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

There's still time to clean out the basement, garage or attic of household hazardous wastes, said Sandy Swob, director.

"Our final collection this year will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.," she said, "and in the event of inclement weather the event will be canceled until next spring."

For those unfamiliar with what types of items can be collected, Swob reminded residents that latex and oil-based paints are unacceptable.

In addition, stains, thinners, varnish, automotive products, pool chemicals, household cleaning

products, lawn and garden chemicals and batteries are also included in household hazardous wastes.

"This is a free service to Thomas County households only," Swob said, "no business wastes can be accepted."

Motor oils will not be accepted, but should instead be taken to the county landfill.

Residents planning to use the facility on Saturday should go to 190 W. 4th St. in Colby.

"Empty containers do not need to be brought to the facility," she said, "these can be thrown away as regular household trash."

For questions, call Swob at 462-4525.

Rap song caution issued

WICHITA (AP) — Police have asked Wichita bar owners to be careful when playing the song "Put Yo Hood Up" after it apparently incited a gang-related shooting last month and another shooting last year.

Lt. John Speer of the Wichita police department said the song by the rap group Lil Jon & the East Side Boyz encourages club patrons to flash gang signs in a confrontational manner.

"We're not asking them to not play the song; they can do as they wish," Speer said. "We're just asking them to be responsible."

Speer said a disturbance started

outside a Wichita club on Jan. 27, 2002, while the song was playing. Four people were shot.

Five others were shot outside another Wichita club on Aug. 29 after a disturbance that began with the playing of the same song.

No one died in the Wichita club shootings. But "Put Yo Hood Up" has been blamed on at least one homicide.

In Wrightsville, Ark., last fall, the song was played at a birthday party, prompting several people to flash gang signs.

A subsequent fight ended when a 17-year-old pulled out a gun and shot and killed a 16-year-old.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

"Celebration on the High Plains" guests got a close up and personal look at an Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter on Saturday during the event at Southwind Plaza in Colby. The

chopper's noon landing was the opening of the day's events. The chopper and its crew are from B Company with the 1-108th AVN out of Salina.

'Celebration' called big success

By **TISHA COX**
Colby Free Press

So far, all signs are pointing to success for the second annual "Celebration on the High Plains" Jada Tubbs, director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, estimated more than 3,000 people attended the event Saturday at Southwind Plaza.

"It was a lot better than last year, to put it nicely," she said. "We did very well."

The concert was also a good draw. "Our evening concert went very well," she said, adding between 2,800-3,000 people at-

tended the evening entertainment that was headlined by country band Sawyer Brown.

The Colby Police Department helped with parking and Tubbs said there were so many cars they had to use more than just the field at the west end of the plaza.

She said overflow went to the east end and across the highway to the Comfort Inn. "We had that many cars," Tubbs said. People from as far away as Derby, Manhattan and Atchison in Kansas and Omaha, Neb. and Denver attended the concert.

"It just went from all over," she said.

On Friday, the chamber office sold more than 300 tickets. Tubbs said that was a significant amount for just one location and was still tabulating sales from other locations this morning. She said people did enjoy the concert and said it was "awesome."

"It was so much fun," Tubbs said. "Sawyer Brown put on the show we promised. We delivered what we promised."

Before the concert, she said the patriotic tribute also went well and featured 47 Harley-Davidson motorcycles and their riders. She said another highlight was the Black Hawk helicopter landing at noon

and the craft and food vendors who had their wares on sale all day. "We had some great food and craft vendors," Tubbs said.

There also were demonstrations and entertainment on the small stage every hour. "There were things going on constantly," she said.

The Thomas County Amusement Association also had a busy day. Tubbs said the two jumping houses the association had for kids to enjoy were full all day.

She said people are already starting to ask about next year's event, but she said she needs a little time to figure that out.

For continued effort in Iraq

Bush wants \$87 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, facing doubts about his handling of Iraq amid rising casualties, is asking Congress for \$87 billion to fight terrorism and cautioning Americans that the struggle "will take time and require sacrifice."

Bush's money request — surpassing earlier unofficial estimates — would come on top of the \$79 billion that Congress approved in April for the initial costs of the war and its aftermath and for worldwide efforts against terrorism.

Despite calls from Republicans and Democrats alike for more troops, Bush said the 130,000 U.S. forces in Iraq were sufficient. But he urged other nations, even those that had opposed the war, to contribute troops and money.

The president addressed the nation Sunday night, his first speech on Iraq since May 1 when he stood on the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and declared an end to major combat.

In the four months since, U.S. casualties have risen steadily, to the point where more have died in the

aftermath of the war than during the combat phase.

The attacks on American forces continued Monday when an explosion struck a U.S. patrol convoy near the center of Baghdad. Two soldiers were wounded, a military spokesman said.

Bush described Iraq in his 18-minute speech as the central battleground of the terrorism war and blamed the violence on Saddam Hussein loyalists and foreign terrorists.

"We are fighting that enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan today, so that we do not meet him again on our own streets, in our own cities," Bush said, four days before the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

While the confrontation with Saddam made the president's popularity skyrocket, public confidence in his handling of Iraq has dropped since the war, leveling off in the mid-50 percent area.

Heading into a campaign year hoping to unseat Bush, Democrats have been emboldened to criticize him on Iraq. Even some Republican

allies have urged him to change course.

A fresh burst of Democratic criticism followed the speech.

"Now that the president has recognized that he has been going down the wrong path, this administration must begin the process of fully engaging our allies and sharing the burden of building a stable democracy in Iraq," said Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., a White House hopeful.

Howard Dean, another Democratic candidate, said Iraq had pulled the country's attention and resources away from homeland security and the economy.

Comparing Iraq to Vietnam, Dean said, "The government again is feeding misinformation to the American people in order to justify an enormous commitment of U.S. troops."

Questions have been raised by the administration's failure to find any of Saddam's illegal weapons or the ousted Iraqi leader himself. Bush made just one reference in his speech to weapons of mass destruction — a sharp contrast to his re-

Briefly

Childbirth classes start Thursday

Colby Childbirth Education classes will begin on Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m..

This is a four-week series and is held at Colby Community College in the Health Science Building. Call Amy Hutfles at 460-4344 if you need additional information.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds.

Items on the agenda include: Thomas County extension agent reports; financial report; bills; committee reports on buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, ideas for parade improvement and setting the date for the 2004 fair parade; demolition derby; 2004 race dates; fair book changes for 2004; and the wall of support list and total donations.

Center enrollment underway

The Thomas County Learning Center, 305 N. Franklin in Colby, is now taking enrollment applications. One function of the center is to give students a chance to get their high

school diploma. For those wanting to enroll or for eligibility information, call 465-7900.

Job Service open over noon hour

The Colby Work Force office (formerly known as Job Service) at 485 N. Chick is staying open during the lunch hour. Linda Groff, local supervisor, said the change went into effect this week and is expected to be a permanent situation. For questions or information about how the Colby Work Force office can help people find jobs, call the office at (785) 462-6862.



Thunderstorms

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms from late evening on. Lows in the upper 50s. South wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. **Tuesday...**Partly sunny with a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. South wind 10 mph becoming northeast early in the afternoon. Chance of rain 20 percent. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Lows near 60. Chance of rain 30 percent. **Wednesday...**Mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of rain 40 percent.

By the numbers
Sunday's high, 78
Low this morning, 58
Records for the date, 103 in 1971 and 34 in 1909
Year ago today, 90 and 65
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 0.00
Year's precipitation to date, 14.00
2002's precipitation to date, 8.78

Water Usage/Colby
Sept. 5-6-7 = 2.475 million gallons daily average

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby and the Colby Public Works Department.

