



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Retired postal boss is honored

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Former Colby postmaster Jim McDonald was honored with a belated retirement ceremony Monday morning. A group of well-wishers and postal employees gathered at the post office to give McDonald his official send-off.



J. McDonald

His last day as postmaster was Dec. 24, 2003.

McDonald said the ceremony was postponed from December because of his travel schedule and also the fact the only possible day the function could've been held was Dec. 17. He said that wasn't an option because it was during the post office's busiest time of year and didn't want to interrupt the work going on there.

McDonald said during the ceremony he enjoyed working with everyone at the Colby post office and thanked them and the community's postal patrons for their support over the years.

He spent 36 years in the postal service, starting in 1967 as a clerk in Santa Ana, Calif. McDonald worked in Dodge City and then Colby. He said he enjoyed the ceremony and his retirement.

"We're doing some traveling," he said, adding he and his wife Gayonna are taking the time to go see the country in their recreational vehicle. "That's what we're going to do. We're going to take the time and do things we haven't done before."

The couple has already spent some time in Colorado with more plans to further this spring. Texas and Florida are next on their list along with a trip to the East Coast this summer. Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel said a long career like McDonald's isn't unusual.

"Jim was a good postmaster," Krehbiel said.

The fog wins



Six U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk medivac helicopters were grounded on the tarmac at Colby Airport this morning because of fog. Lt. Col. Scott Schofield said his group of four were from Cheyenne, Wyo. and two are from Helena, Mont. He said he and 18 crew members are on their way to Tulsa, Okla. where the helicopters will be transported to Kuwait where their regular crew is waiting. The birds will be used for medical missions and other operations in the Middle East.

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Wellness Center advances

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College board of trustees discussed the proposed Wellness Center at its meeting Monday.

The board approved the hiring of a professional fund raiser to assist the project.

Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, said the board will be utilizing the services of Bob Hartsok, former dean at the college who now has a fund-raising organization.

Ary said the issue has come to a head since the college found out it would be receiving \$250,000 in seed money from the federal government.

He said the board was taking a "cautious, conservative approach" until it found out about the money.

Now, the group is moving forward.

"At this juncture we're trying to add to that," Ary said.

The building's exterior design was approved by the board last May and the concept submitted by Glen Strait of Strait Associates of Colby was selected during the architectural competition. The firm was also chosen as the architect for the project.

As designed, Ary said the cost is around \$3 million.

Board member Larry Arehart suggested the board look into fund raising before the Wellness Center is built. He didn't think the school's alumni should be asked to donate before a fund raiser was brought on board.

Since that issue has now been settled, he suggested the college re-evaluate the financial situation in six months to see how things are going, just to make sure they're on track to raise the money needed to build the center.

The next regular meeting of the Colby Community College board of trustees is scheduled for Monday, March 15, in the administration building on the campus.

For an agenda or questions, call 462-3984.

Veteran may go to Iraq as educator

TOPEKA (AP) — More than three decades after he first went into combat, a Silver Lake man may be returning to a war zone.

Kendall Phelps celebrated his 20th birthday as a U.S. Marine in the Demilitarized Zone that separated South Vietnam and North Vietnam.

After the war, he moved to Silver Lake, became an educator and served in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring as a master gunnery sergeant.

The Marine Corps now may take

advantage of both skills and send him to Iraq as an educational specialist.

"I've been contacted by the Marine Corps that they're looking for somebody with my educational background to work with the Civil Affairs Group in Iraq, working with the education part of it that they handle," Phelps said.

He expects to know within the next month whether he will be called back to active duty.

His son, Marine Capt. Chris

Phelps, served with the 1st Marine Division in Iraq, coordinating close air support.

Chris Phelps said the Marines contacted his father because CAG wants an education specialist to work with the Coalition Provisional Authority to get schools running in Baghdad. His father has a master's degree in curriculum development.

"I see this as a real challenge, something exciting to do with my education degree," Kendall Phelps said. "It's something that would be

demanding. It's something that would be rewarding."

He also said he might try to get the Silver Lake school system involved, pairing up fourth-graders in Silver Lake with fourth-graders in Iraq.

Kendall Phelps served 13 months in Vietnam, moving supplies to the northern part of the country, including four months in the DMZ.

His son joined the Marines 22 years after Kendall Phelps went to Vietnam.

Colby City Council approves, adopts nuisance ordinances

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council updated and approved the language in four ordinances dealing with health and other nuisance-type issues at its regular meeting Tuesday.

Much of the language was taken from the Kansas League of Municipalities and worded to meet the city's needs, said Mayor Warren Hixson. The gist of the health nuisance ordinance is that property owners will be in violation if they have dead animals on their premises

for more than 24 hours, stagnant ponds of pools of water, filth, rocks, dirt, lumber, and other offensive or disagreeable things either on the street, in an alley, on sidewalks or public or private enclosures whether vacant or occupied.

Other items in the health nuisance ordinance include grass or weeds not usually conducive to the area, or abandoned iceboxes or refrigerators not in use, unless the door has been removed, any articles that could be deemed dangerous or hazardous to others in the neighbor-

hood and fences or other structures blocking streets, sidewalks and other thoroughfares.

The environmental code was adopted to authorize the city to take action when abandoned cars and other types of vehicles are incapable of moving or in a junked or wrecked condition, along with a variety of garbage and trash accumulating (such as fruit, vegetable and animal waste matter resulting from handling or preparation), residences that are not used for people to live in or dangerous items (such

as flammable materials to include cardboard boxes, wood, paper, etc.). Should the owner or agent choose to have a hearing, it would need to be done within 15 days, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, who reviewed the information.

Other corrective measures would require that the person in violation fix the yard or other unlawful items in 15 days from the date of the mailing or in 45 days if the infraction was to fix an exterior problem.

With regard to weeds and the fourth ordinance passed, the proce-

dures would be similar to the way it has always been, Armstrong said. If weeds are out of control or creating a hazard, the owner would be notified and asked to take care of the problem. The major difference between the weeds ordinance and the other two dealing with environmental and health issues is that those would be brought to the entire city council's attention, she said.

In Friday's edition of the Free Press, the complete wording on all the approved ordinances will appear in a legal.

Briefly

Singles dance Friday

The Colby Singles dance is planned for Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight with entertainment provided by "Off Limits," featuring Dick and Maybelle Moore and Bill Summers, all of Colby. All single people and alumni are invited. For details, call Don Birzer, 462-2127.

'Shelter operations' class planned

The Thomas County American Red Cross is sponsoring a "Shelter Operations" class on Tuesday, starting at 6 p.m. The class is open to people interested in assisting at winter storm shelters that are opened when the roads are closed or anyone wanting to become trained to respond to large scale state and national disasters. The class will be held at the chapter office, 350 S. Range, Colby. Call (785) 462-7161 to register.

Musical production tonight

"The Unsinkable Molly Brown" production, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association, will begin at 7:30 p.m., tonight, in the Colby High School auditorium. Admission at the door will be \$15 for adults and \$8 for students or Western Plains Arts Association season passes.

Deadline for Walk Kansas nears

Registration for the Walk Kansas program are being accepted until Wednesday, March 10, said D'Ette Scholtz, Thomas County Extension agent. "Walk Kansas is a fun, health and fitness program sponsored by the K-State Re-

search and Extension," she said. The event runs from Sunday, March 14 until Saturday, May 8. Registration forms are available at the extension office, 350 S. Range, Colby. For questions, call Scholtz at (785) 462-4582.

Free workshop planned

Colby Community College will host a free workshop on the new Kansas Destination-Based Sales Tax Law on Thursday, March 25, in the Colby College Student Union, Room 106. The 90-minute session will begin at 9 a.m. Larry Barrett, one of the presentors, will review the purpose and methods of the new program and how it affects local businesses. This program is being provided at no charge as a business outreach service of the Colby College community service division. For information call Barrett at (785) 462-6215 or email <mailto:lbarrett@kspeach.com>lbarrett@kspeach.com.

Musicians wanted for praise rally

A pre-national Day of Prayer rally is being organized on Wednesday, May 5 with "A Night of Praise and Prayer" as the theme. Coinciding with this event, musicians and vocalists are wanted to participate on a praise team or to perform special music during that evening. Pastors and lay people are also needed to offer specific prayers for the specific needs of the country, said Karen Merryman. For questions or to volunteer, call her at 460-9077.

Orchestra performs Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will celebrate the winter season with a concert entitled "Broadway's Gallery" at

the Colby High School auditorium on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. "Broadway's Gallery" will feature selections from Phantom of the Opera and West Side Story featuring vocalists Amanda McGee, Colby High School vocal director, and Bruce Frahm. Soloists will also perform. Admission to the concert will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership or tickets available at the door.

After 5 Club planned Tuesday

The High Plains Kansas After 5 Club is inviting everyone to its dinner party "This Old House," from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, at the Shepherd's Staff Conference Center in Rexford. Reservations and/or cancellations for the March dinner party must be received no later than Saturday by calling Carol Bohme, (785) 462-2791 or Janis Bakan at (785) 672-3809. Another reservation alternative is to contact Lori Haberer by e-mail at: lorihaberer@hotmail.com

Send off Friday for Colby Trojan Ladies

(see details page 8)



Snow tonight

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area
Tonight...Snow then a chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 2 inches. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. Chance of snow 80 percent. Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. Friday night and Saturday...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 50s. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 44
Low this morning, 32
Records for March 4, 84 in 1921 and -18 in 1960
Year ago today, 21 and 15
March moisture to date, 0.52
March snowfall to date, trace
Soil temperature, 38
The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.
A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119.
Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

