



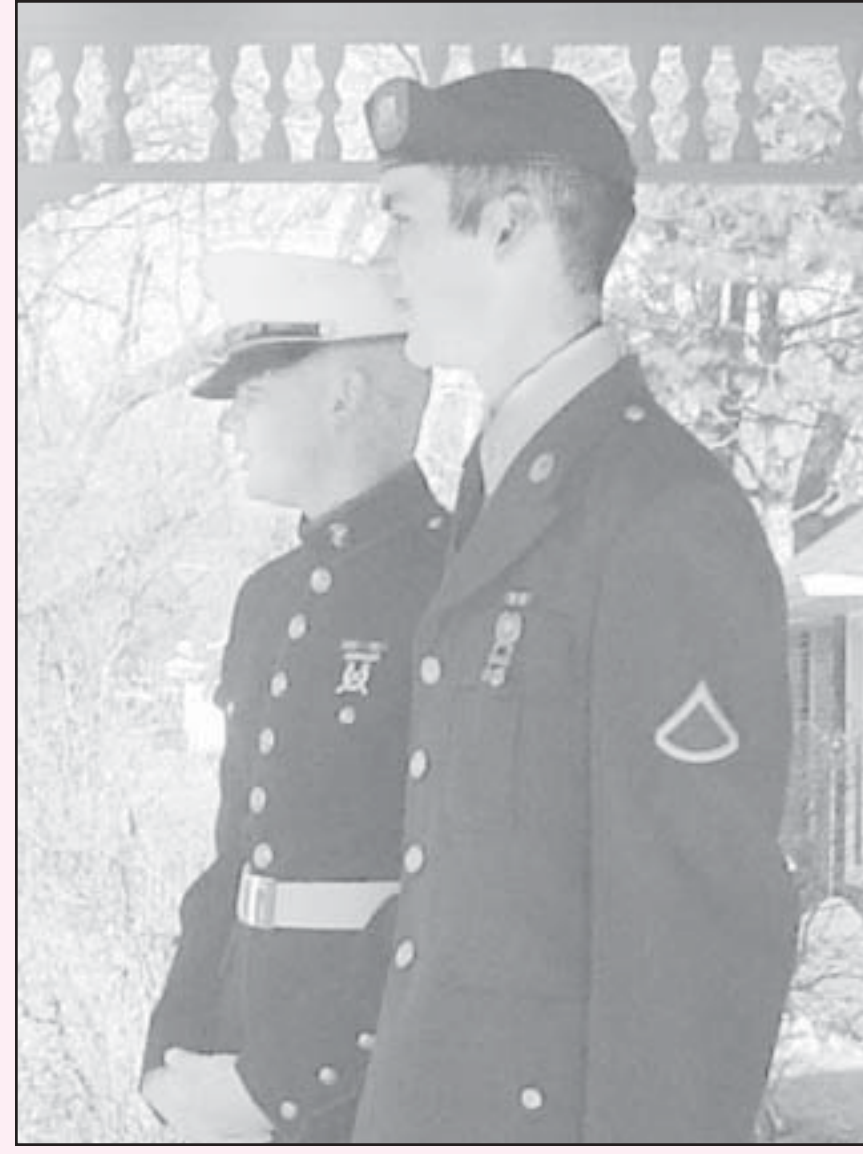
# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Duty In Iraq (page 3)



Jeffrey Saddler



Alex Herbel (front) and Austin Herbel

## Preliminary autopsy reveals inmate's death was natural

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

An autopsy into Wednesday's death of a 46-year-old inmate at the Thomas County jail indicates the man died of natural causes, said Tom Jones, sheriff.

The inmate, Joseph Kelly Jones, born in Norton, and arrested earlier on Wednesday was initially taken into custody on two counts of indecent liberties with a child, he said.

Shortly after midnight, he said, and following a shift change in staff, Joe Jones was discovered lying on

his cell floor with an injury to his head.

The sheriff said David Rodriguez, the jailer on duty, found Jones at about 12:15 a.m. and immediately checked for a pulse.

"It was a short span of time between when Rodriguez came on and when the other deputy (Brett



J. Jones

Mariman) went off duty," he said.

As soon as Rodriguez saw Jones on the floor, he checked for a pulse and discovered the man wasn't breathing.

He also told other officers the man had a gash on the left side of his head (behind his eye and above his ear) that appeared to be from a blunt trauma.

The sheriff said that based on the preliminary autopsy, which was done by Dr. Erik Mitchell in Topeka, death occurred from a severe coronary or stroke.

"This would explain the blunt trauma," the sheriff said, "which would have happened when the inmate collapsed and fell hitting his head on the food table (made of concrete and iron)."

Prior to his death, the sheriff said that Jones had been jovial with authorities and in a good mood considering his circumstances. "There was nothing to indicate the man was sick or dying on Wednesday," he said.

Since the inmate died in the county jail and in this case about

eight hours after being arrested, the sheriff said the proper protocol is to call in a neutral third party.

In response, an agent from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's Garden City office was called to look into the incident.

As for any wrongdoing by the sheriff's department, Jones said he is confident that officers responded according to procedures and that the final report will substantiate that.

As for the charges against Jones, the sheriff said that obviously he can no longer be prosecuted; how-

ever, the office did notify the FBI to relay that he had died.

Jones was arrested at 4:45 p.m., Wednesday, on charges of indecent liberties with a child that were brought forward by the victim, the sheriff said.

Although the charges were very serious this time, Sheriff Jones said, in checking for priors, he had some arrests, but all were lesser-type charges.

As for Jones' body, family members held graveside services today at Edmond Cemetery in Norton.

## Colby College Endowment Association gives okay to fundraising

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Endowment Association board approved the hiring Thursday night of Bob Hartsook of Hartsook and Associates of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., a professional fund-raising company, to do a fund-raising assessment. Board member Stan

Edmundson voted against the motion.

The action came during a special meeting with the college's board of trustees.

Board members in favor of the motion were Sherry McDonald, Mark Winger, Karen O'Neal, Diane Williams, Nancy Saddler, Troy Faulkender and Gina Jennings.

The association will use a \$25,000 check from the Tex Garvey Foundation to pay for the \$14,000

assessment plus expenses for the study which will be done to see how much money could be potentially raised during a capital campaign to raise money for the endowment association and proposed wellness center.

Hartsook was at the meeting to answer questions, and explained the original proposal submitted to the college board was a two-pronged approach, starting the assessment while also beginning the fund rais-

ing effort at the same time.

He said the process is concurrent because it is needed to build infrastructure and also gives a chance to start raising money.

"The reason is you've got to give us a shot," Hartsook said.

Hartsook said if everything in a campaign runs well, solicitations will usually go well also.

"What do you expect of us?" asked endowment board member Darla Mosberger. "I just can't see us

doing this without help."

Hartsook said his company will help drive the fund raising and if hired for that project, he said they will need the endowment, college board and president behind them also.

Edmundson said he didn't think it was in their best interests to make a hasty decision.

"I think I need a little more time to mull this over," he said.

Board member Mark Wing said

he thought they could learn much from the assessment phase, adding it would let them know the potential of a campaign. He said then there wouldn't have to be a bond issue.

College board member Kenton Krehbiel said there's never been an intention to levy taxes or float a bond for the wellness center.

"We aren't going to ask for a bond issue," he said. "That's not a way any of us wants to go."



### Warm and windy

Colby-Oakley-Hoxie

**Friday**...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs around 90. South winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon.  
**Friday night**...Partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.  
**Saturday**...Partly cloudy. A slight chance of thunderstorm. Highs around 90. South winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the west in the afternoon. Gusts up to 35 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.  
**Saturday night**...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the lower 50s.  
**Sunday**...Highs in the 70s.  
**Memorial Day**...Highs in the 70s.

The numbers

Wednesday's high, 88; Low this morning, 50; Records for May 27, 100 in 1895 and 22 in 1907; Year ago today, 84 and 50; Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00; May total, 0.95; Soil temperature, 71

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

## Attempts to override Sebelius vetoes fail

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators attempted but failed to override Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' vetoes of funding for a program that helps pregnant women and two other budget items.

The attempt dealing with the pregnancy maintenance program came the closest to succeeding Thursday, the legislative session's 90th and final day.

The House overrode Sebelius' veto, 88-24, giving supporters four votes more than the two-thirds majority they needed, even with 13 members absent. However, the vote in the Senate was 23-13, leaving supporters of an override four votes short, with four members absent.

Senators held their roll open for more than 30 minutes while attempts were made to bring the four absent senators to the Statehouse.

However, several senators switched their votes, making an override impossible even if the ab-

sentees returned.

Conservative Republicans accused Senate President Dave Kerr of rushing the process to bring a quick end to an otherwise ceremonial adjournment session.

In most years, the final House and Senate sessions are short, with no real business transacted. Most legislative business was completed by May 8.

Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said although he was unaware the House planned to consider overriding the governor's vetoes, it was not unheard of. Each override attempted started in the House.

Legislators appropriated \$300,000 for grants from the Department of Health and Environment to nonprofit groups providing services to pregnant women.

When she vetoed the funding last week, Sebelius said the nonprofit groups receive money from other sources and that many health care

initiatives already compete for limited state resources.

But supporters of the program said the nonprofit groups' work decreases the number of babies born with low birth weights.

Gov. Bill Graves vetoed a similar item in 2001, but he and legislators later worked out an agreement to restore the funds to the budget.

A provision accompanying the funding prohibited any money from going to groups that provide abortions. Because Sebelius supports abortion rights, some legislators suggested that abortion politics lay behind her veto — something spokeswoman Nicole Corcoran said wasn't true.

The House also attempted to override Sebelius' veto of \$200,000 for a new, two-person white-collar crime unit in the attorney general's office, but the tally was 69-43, leaving supporters of an override 15 votes short.

## Briefly

### No Free Press on Monday

The Colby Free Press will join in the observance of Memorial Day on Monday. Tom Dreiling, publisher, said the employees will be given the day off to be with family and friends. Normal operations will resume Tuesday.

### No trash collection Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be op-

erating Monday due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Yard waste and trash will not be picked up on Monday, but will be picked up Tuesday, June 1, along with the regular Tuesday route. For questions please call the Public Works Dept. at 452-4420.

### College pool opens next week

The Colby Community College swimming pool will re-

open on Wednesday, June 2. Lap Swimming is Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open Swimming will be Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

### Landfill closed for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed Sunday and Monday for the holiday. The landfill will be open Saturday.

## 100th birthday celebration marred by honoree's fall

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Celebration plans for a Colby woman's 100th birthday featured in Thursday's edition of the Colby Free Press are now on hold following an unfortunate incident earlier today.

Emma Louise (Plante) Hamel, highlighted in a front page article, fell in her home about 8:30 a.m. this morning breaking her hip, family members said.

Mrs. Hamel was taken by ambulance to Citizens Medical Cen-

ter and then flown to Hays Medical Center where she will receive treatment for her injury.

It was unknown today as to which hip was fractured.

Prior to the accident, family members said they were planning some special activities to honor her this weekend, but now are wanting to make sure friends are aware that everything will be on hold.

One of the events included was an open house celebration from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, at the American Legion Club in Colby. Due to accident, Mrs. Hamel's family is requesting that friends be thinking of her during this difficult time and pray for her speedy recovery.



E. Hamel

