



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Memorial Day event scheduled Monday

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

A tribute to those who have served their country will be held Monday, Memorial Day, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

The event starts at 10 a.m. beginning with the parade of veterans, said Phil Finley with American Legion Post 363.

The Colby Honor Guard, lead by Sgt. Lynn Marker, commander, will post the colors. The honor guard will have representatives from every American war dating back to World War II. All four branches of the service will also be represented. "It just happened that way," Finley said.

The honor guard will be followed by opening remarks from Jim Griffin, commander of the American Legion Post. Griffin is also the speaker for the ceremony and will be heading for a tour of duty in Iraq after Memorial Day.

The auxiliaries from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6882 and American Legion will present their wreaths. After that the names of deceased post and auxiliary members will be read.

Finley said after the closing prayer and a 21-gun salute, "Taps" and the raising of the flags will close out the ceremony.

The American Legion Post organizes the ceremony each year and places flags at Beulah Cemetery.

The VFW puts up flags at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Following the ceremony at Beulah, there will be a short presentation at Sacred Heart — a 21-gun salute and lowering of flags to half-staff.

The public is invited to both events and to the American Legion after the ceremonies for refreshments.

My little pony



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kelly Palmgren enjoyed a spin on the merry-go-round Wednesday at Villa High Park. Kelly was at the park with her father, Travis, and brother Gus. With temperatures expected in the high 90s many children are taking advantage of the playground areas around Colby.

Residents don't want pool to sink

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Colby Community College will always have an indoor pool, but it may not look the same in the future.

Ten people attended last week's Colby Community College board meeting to talk about the future of the pool. The college is proposing building a new facility that includes a pool intended for therapeutic use and lap swimming.

"The current pool is 3 feet short of an Olympic size," said Interim President Skip Sharp. "The new pool will provide lap swimming lanes and a therapeutic area and it will operate more efficiently."

Vera Sloan of Colby, serving as the spokesperson for the residents in the audience, said the pool is a valuable resource to the community.

"We are here on behalf of everyone who uses the pool," she said. "There isn't another heated indoor pool for public use for more than 100 miles. Are there any thoughts of not having a pool?" Sloan asked Trustee Kenton Krehbiel.

Krehbiel said the Wellness Center groundbreaking must happen by September 2007.

"We need to have enough money and pledges by that time to support the entire facility," Krehbiel said. "All the money for the project will be coming from donations, individuals, businesses and organizations." Sloan said the trustees' job is to improve on what is already available and add new things.

Rumors regarding closing the pool started more than two months ago when plans for the Wellness Center were discussed at a board meeting.

"Everybody got concerned the

pool would close based on that earlier discussion item," said Skip Sharp, interim president. "The concerns were premature."

What happened at that meeting, Sharp said, was there could be changes in the original plans for the center based on money.

"We talked about cutting back to a smaller facility and in those plans we are looking at lanes for swimming and a therapeutic pool," he said.

When the new center opens, one possibility the board is considering is moving the wrestling practice area and weightroom to where the swimming pool is, since the new pool would be in another area.

"But this is only one of two or three possibilities that we continue to review," Sharp said.

"The pool is open and there is nothing to be concerned about at this point," Sharp said. "We are picking up speed in our fundraising campaign for the proposed Wellness Center."

Reducing the cost of the Wellness Center was based on reaching a more attainable goal.

"Three or four years ago we looked at \$4 to \$5 million for the center, but it's more feasible to get the funding we need by looking at \$3 to \$3.5 million in cost," he said.

Sharp said operating the current pool is expensive and not funded by tax dollars. The cost for lifeguards, heating and other maintenance is about \$90,000 a year.

While some revenue for the pool is generated by memberships the majority of the money to pay expenses comes from student fees.

"We are constantly paying more and more with those student fees," he said, "and there's a lot tugging at that money in addition to the pool."

Top two Enron executives found guilty of conspiracy

HOUSTON (AP) - Former Enron Corp. chiefs Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling were convicted today of conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud in one of the biggest business scandals in U.S. history.

The verdict put the blame for the demise of what was once the nation's seventh-largest company squarely on its top two executives. It came in the sixth day of deliberations following a trial that lasted nearly four months.

Lay was also convicted of bank fraud and making false statements to banks in a separate trial related to his personal banking.

Lay was convicted on all six counts against him in the trial with Skilling. Skilling was convicted on 19 of the 28 counts against him, including one count of insider trading, and acquitted on the remaining nine.

"You have reflected on this evidence for the last few days and reached a very thorough verdict, and I thank you," U.S. District Judge Sim Lake told jurors. He set sentencing for Sept. 11. Lake set a \$5 million bond for Lay and ordered him to surrender

his passport before he leaves the courthouse.

The judge said the bond already in place for Skilling was sufficient. The judge said he did not believe home confinement was necessary for either.

The former corporate titans are now felons facing years in prison after being convicted of running an elaborate fraud that gave the company a glamorous illusion of success. Jurors declared through their verdict that both men repeatedly lied to cover a vast web of unsustainable accounting

tricks and failing ventures that shoved Enron into bankruptcy protection in December 2001.

The conviction was a major win for the government, serving almost as a bookend in an era that has seen prosecutors win convictions against executives from World-Com Inc. to Adelphia Communications Corp. and homemaking maven Martha Stewart.

The panel rejected Skilling's insistence that no fraud occurred at Enron other than a few executives skimming millions from

secret scams behind his and Lay's backs, and a lethal combination of bad press and poor market confidence sank the company.

Both men testified in their own defense. Skilling is expected to appeal. The government's victory caps a 4 1/2 year investigation that nabbed 16 guilty pleas from ex-Enron executives, including former Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow and former Chief Accounting Officer Richard Causey. All are awaiting sentencing later this year except for two who either finished or are serving prison terms.

Sebelius signs 'Jessica Law' on penalties against sex offenders

OLATHE (AP) — Many first-time sex offenders who prey on children will face 25 years in prison under a politically popular "Jessica's Law" signed Wednesday by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.



Sebelius

The law, which applies to crimes committed after July 1, also imposes harsher penalties on repeat criminals, so third-time sex offenders will be sentenced to life without possibility of parole. The 25-year sentence for a first-offender contrasts with the maximum of 13 years and nine months the rape of a child.

Both Sebelius and Attorney General Phill Kline have called for tougher punishments for sex offenders, arguing that Kansans overwhelmingly support them. But even as Sebelius and Kline celebrated the law's enactment, at least a few legislators harbored doubts about the

new law. The bill was modeled after a Florida law and named for a 9-year-old girl killed last year by a convicted sex offender. Arkansas, Oregon and Virginia have enacted similar laws this year.

"These are the very criminals who need to be behind bars and away from children in our neighborhoods," Sebelius said before signing the bill.

Sebelius signed the bill in a courtroom at the Johnson County Courthouse, flanked by Kline, legislators and District Attorney Paul Morrison, as about 40 spectators watched.

"It is part of an ongoing correction of Kansas law, which has been much too weak on those who harm our children," Kline said.

Sebelius introduced Morrison as a representative of the state's county prosecutors, but he's also running against Kline this year, having switched to the Democratic Party to challenge the GOP incumbent. The two men shook hands before the ceremony began.

"One of the things that we're try-

ing to get better at doing in Kansas is trying to separate offenders that we're mad at versus those we're afraid of," Morrison said. "These people are the ones we need to be afraid of, and that's why they're going to be getting longer prison sentences."

But Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman John Vratil, R-Leawood, called the new law "a huge gamble" and said it would not deter sex offenders from victimizing children.

He agreed offenders in prison won't have new victims but added, "We're going to have to pay for it, too."

Legislators didn't approve any plan this year for expanding the state's prison system, or allowing the state to place inmates in private prisons in Kansas. Officials estimate the new law will require 1,000 additional prison beds over the next decade.

"The Legislature has shown no inclination to deal with our problem with near-capacity prisons," Vratil said, noting that state prisons are more than 95 percent full.

Stop and go work



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Loren Wegele of Commercial Sign in Colby worked earlier this week to level off concrete around the base of a new sign at the Oasis Travel Center. The truck stop is in the process of becoming part of the Petro 2 chain.