



Sending help



Employees at Office Works load up a truck this morning with donations for people in Joplin, Mo., which was devastated by a tornado last weekend. Office Works has been taking dona-

tions of food, water, sleeping bags, clothing, toys, games and more since Wednesday. The donations will go to the College Heights Christian Church's relief efforts in Joplin.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Veterans plan ceremonies for Monday

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
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Veterans groups around the county are planning ceremonies to honor the fallen this Memorial Day.

In Colby, Veterans of Foreign Wars members will gather early Monday morning to post flags on the graves of veterans at Beulah and Sacred Heart cemeteries and set up a stage at Beulah.

The main ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at Beulah Cemetery with a veterans' walk down an avenue of flags. After an opening prayer, Post Commander Paul Ohlrogge will give a welcome address. The veterans groups will recognize members who have died over the past year. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will give a rifle salute. Ohlrogge said the guest speaker hasn't been confirmed yet.

After the main ceremony, the groups will go to the Sacred Heart Cemetery for a veterans march and to raise the flags there to full staff. Ohlrogge said the public is then invited to the Veterans post, 220 Lake, for coffee and donuts. Ohlrogge said any veterans who

wish to help fold and store the flags after the ceremony should come to the cemetery at 3 p.m.

The Goodland American Legion will have a ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Monday at the Brewster Cemetery. The speaker will be Mike Pinkelman of the Brewster Community Church. Music will be provided by Danny Mangus and Dani Mangus, and Richard Gannon will play his bagpipes (weather permitting).

In case of bad weather, the service will be held at the Brewster School.

The Selden American Legion and Auxiliary will hold two Memorial Day services, one at 9:30 a.m. in Leoville and one at 10:30 a.m. in Selden.

The two ceremonies will include presentation of the colors by Legion members and a flag salute led by the Girl Scouts. After an invocation by auxiliary Chaplain Benita Aumiller and music by Janel Antholz, Joe Broeckelman will give the keynote address. Paulie Neff will place a wreath and Legion Chaplain Patterson will provide the benediction. The Legion will give a rifle salute.

State fumbles aid payments to tornado-stricken towns

By John Milburn

The Associated Press

TOPEKA — Budget problems are forcing Kansas to delay paying \$2.3 million to electric co-operatives that suffered disaster damage, the second consecutive year the state has pushed back such payments into the next fiscal year due to a revenue slump.

Legislators adjourned this year's session May 6 after completing work on a \$14 billion budget, of which \$6 billion is financed through state tax revenues. However, funds to pay the bills on claims filed with the state for work already completed by rural electric cooperatives were omitted.

Officials say the delayed payments are part of the \$27 million representing Kansas' match for 12 federally declared disasters.

The shortfall comes as Kansas recovers from severe weather, including a tornado that killed one and heavily damaged the small town of Reading.

Senate Majority Leader Jay Emler said legislators have discussed creating a dedicated revenue source to prevent shortfalls and delays to payments in future years.

"We need to find a way that we can set up a fund so we have some money to be in there. It would only be seed money because we have disasters every year," said Emler, a Lindsborg Republican.

Federal funds cover 75 percent of the disaster, local entities, including municipalities and non-government entities, pay 15 percent, with the state covering the final 10 percent.

Stuart Lowry, executive vice president of the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., said the cooperatives were using other financial options, including reserve funds and borrowing money.

"We're caught in the same situation that a lot of folks are caught in that there's not enough money to go around," Lowry said. "It's not ideal."

Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, state adjutant general and director of emergency management, said Kansas has been fortunate that there haven't been large-scale disasters this year to require additional resources. He has spoken with Gov. Sam Brownback and legislators about creating a future funding source.

Tafanelli, a former House member, said it would be helpful to have a fund that would be capped at \$25 million that could be used to make the state match. When the fund is full the tax or fee would lapse until reserves drop.

"There's no perfect idea. The trick is how do you get a fund where legislators don't tap it (for other government bills) in tough times," Tafanelli said.

The unfinished disaster declarations include the May 2007

Greensburg tornado. Many of the disasters are related to winter storms and spring flooding in 2009 and 2010.

In the cases of winter storms, ice and snow caused the downing of power lines and infrastructure for rural electric cooperatives. Much of their costs are for replacing those transmission lines and upgrading the infrastructure to

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Offices to close for holiday

While government offices and banks will close for Memorial Day, there will still be places open to eat and shop.

City, county and state offices will close. The Colby Aquatic Center will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. through Monday and will begin regular hours Tuesday. The Thomas County Recycling Center will be closed through Monday. Pioneer Memorial Library will be open Saturday and then close Sunday and Monday. The Senior Progress Center will also be closed Monday.

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Colby Free Press office will be closed Mon-

day, and there will be no paper that day. The office will open on Tuesday and the next paper will be Wednesday.

Many fast food restaurants will be open Monday, such as Taco Johns and McDonald's. Village Inn, Smokey's, Starbucks and J&B Meat Market will also be open.

Walmart and Dillons will be open regular hours. The Walmart pharmacy will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday while the Dillons pharmacy will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Palace Drug will be closed.

Banks will be closed Monday along with garages and service centers.

The big finish



Dancers from Ashly's Dance Center came to a big finish at Sunday's dance recital in the Colby High School auditorium.

The recital included dance students from elementary through high school.

PAT TUBBS

Briefly

Trash collectors off for holiday

The City of Colby Public Works Department will be closed Monday for Memorial Day. The Monday residential sanitation route will be picked up on Tuesday, May 31. Have your grass and trash to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call Public Works at (785) 460-4420.

Landfill to close this weekend

The Thomas County Landfill will close at noon Saturday for the holiday weekend. It will reopen at 9 a.m. Tuesday. For information, call 462-8139.

Baseball team to hold day camp

The Colby High School baseball team is holding a youth camp fund raiser from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 4, at the Colby Recreation

Fields. The camp will teach hitting, pitching, base running and defense. The cost is \$25 before Saturday and \$30 after, with proceeds going to the baseball team. For information, call 462-8342.

Bible school to visit 'Big Apple'

The Colby Berean Church will hold a Vacation Bible School for kids age 4 to seventh grade from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, June 5 to 9, at the church. This year's theme will be "Big Apple Adventure." For information, call 460-2862.

Lutherans plan Bible school

Trinity Lutheran Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from 9:15 a.m. to noon June 7 to 10 at the church. The school is open to kids age 3 to fifth grade. This year's theme is "Big Jungle Adventure: a

Faith Journey With Jesus." For information, call the church at 462-3497.

RC Flyers to have fun fly

The Colby RC Flyers will have a remote control plane fun fly from daylight to dusk on Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, at the club's field seven miles north of Colby on K-25 and 1/8th mile east. There will be open flying and contests, along with a club trainer to fly. Admission is free for the public. For information, call Nick Nichols at (785) 460-6357 or Marvin Farmer at (785) 443-3593.

Swedish Singers to perform here

The Young Swedish Singers will hold a free concert at 7 p.m. Monday, June 20, at the Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. The 34-member

gospel singing group from Sweden performs gospel, hymns and Swedish folk music, though most of their program is in English. For information, contact the Trinity Lutheran Church at 462-3497.

Enroll now in preschool

Heartland Christian School is taking enrollment applications for the 2011-2012 preschool class. The 3-year-old class will meet Tuesday and Thursday and the 4-year-old class will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

