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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

National Guardsmen stood at parade rest during the service Monday. The guardsmen gave a 21-gun salute to end the service.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The Legion Riders provided an honor guard for the Memorial Day service at Beulah Cemetery. Some carried American flags while others carried Missing in Action/Prisoner of War flags.

Veterans gather for windy service

By Kevin Bottrell

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Despite the high winds, a good crowd turned out for the Memorial Day service at Beulah Cemetery.

With sustained winds at 40 mph on Monday and gusts reaching as high as 70, members of the color guard had difficulty standing upright in the wind. Flags were kept at half mast instead of being raised to full mast, so that the large flags wouldn't damage the poles. Some of the audience watched from their cars to stay out of the wind.

Veterans of Foreign Wars post commander Paul Ohlrogge spoke briefly about the importance of Memorial Day and its origins. The commander of the Grand Army of the Republic – an organization of Union veterans – started the tradition in 1868 as a way to honor fallen soldiers of the Civil War.

The various veterans' groups recognized their members who have died over the past year, including well-known Colby residents Max Pickerill and Floyd Smith.

The service concluded with a prayer and a rifle salute. The veterans groups then went to Sacred Heart Cemetery for a flag ceremony.

Hundreds flock to pool on opening day

By Tomi Miller

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The Colby Aquatic Center has had a successful first weekend since its opening on Friday.

"We had a lot of positive feedback, it looked like everyone was having fun," said Brent Brooks, pool manager.

Brooks said that all the goals and expectations of the Aquatic Center were met. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the staff has gotten great feedback.

"Everything I have heard has been positive," she said.

Along with the feedback, the staff didn't have any problems with running the pool itself.

"Everything went smooth, we were very pleased," Brooks said.

The pool had a turnout of about 200 hundred people on its first day. It continued to bring in crowds of people through the weekend. In the first four days, the pool brought in around 650-700 people, Brooks said.



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

A lifeguard helped a young boy into the lazy river at the new Colby Aquatic Center on Friday. The new pool attracted more than 650 people during its first weekend.

On Friday and Saturday, the pool didn't have any problems with bad weather. However, on Monday, the pool's busiest day, Colby experienced 40 mile per hour winds,

with gusts even higher, blowing in dust from nearby fields.

Armstrong said the new grass put down around the pool has helped keep the dust more under

control. The city bought a screen to put up on the fence surrounding the pool, but it hasn't arrived yet.

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Legislature begins redistricting fight

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA – Kansas legislators began discussions on redrawing lines for legislative and congressional districts on Wednesday, with the House speaker taking the unusual step of putting himself in charge of the politically charged task in his chamber.

The House's committee on redistricting held its first meeting, an orientation session. The Senate committee was expected to meet later in the day. The two teams expect to have joint meetings throughout the summer and fall for public hearings in communities across the state.

The state redraws political boundaries once every 10 years following the federal census. Lawmakers won't actually re-

draw political boundaries until their 2012 session, which convenes in January. In addition to House, Senate and congressional districts, they will revise districts for the State Board of Education.

House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican, named himself the chairman of his chamber's 17-member committee – reflecting both the task's political importance and his interest in it. O'Neal, an attorney, was chairman of the House's redistricting committee in 2002 under another speaker and was heavily involved in redrawing lines in 1992.

"There are really only a couple of us who've had experience doing this," O'Neal said. "Given that I was going to have

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Briefly

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.

Museum puts up student art

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is exhibiting artwork created by Thomas County students throughout June. The exhibit includes work by students from Colby High, Middle and Grade Schools, Brewster High School, Heartland Christian School and Sacred Heart School. There is no admission fee to view this exhibit. For information, call Programming and Education Director Ann Miner at 460-4590.

Sign up Thursday for junior golf

Registration for Colby Junior Golf will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Meadow Lake Golf Course. Practices will be from 10 to 11 a.m. every Thursday. Junior golf is open to youth ages 7 to 17. Cost is \$15 for Meadow Lake members and \$65 for non-members. For information, call Sara Betz at 269-7394.

Singles dance is Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Meadow Lake Golf Club. Granny Z will be the guest musician. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

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 at the Colby Recreation Fields. The

camp will teach hitting, pitching, base running and defense. The cost is \$30, 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.

Improve your pitching Tuesday

The Colby Recreation Department is offering pitching clinics from 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday mornings throughout the summer beginning Tuesday. Clinics will be taught by Colby Community College staff and baseball team members. Cost is \$30 per player. For information or to register, call the depart-

ment at 460-4440.

Wesleyan Church offers day camp

Colby Wesleyan Church will hold a free summer day camp for children ages 4 to 12 called "Tuesdays @ 10" from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday, June 7 to July 26, at the church, 320 W. Pine. Children will participate in object lessons, stories and crafts. Lunch will be provided. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.



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