

Weather

Shift of Colby mail sorting delayed

From "MAIL," Page 1

The service has been on hold with plans to consolidate plants and close post offices until May 15 at the request of Congress.

mail, but only until 2014, when tighter standards are expected for area mailings.

each proposal and hold another round of public meetings to explain them before making any final.

business in Edson, Kanorado, Herndon and Norcatu.

Offices would be kept open with shorter hours or other changes, saving the town's independent status and ZIP Code.

City council weighs funding requests

From "CITY," Page 1

services when needed.

He said the center doesn't charge for any of its services. It assigns a forensic interviewer and an advocate to work cases along with a mobile medical unit for examinations.

Fyler said workers have a bus at their disposal to take kids to a court house when they need to testify and can follow up, unlike some agencies.

He said the center has three therapists on staff and offers trauma-focused therapy. He said they follow up with children and their families for two to three years to make sure they are healing.

He said the center got \$5,000 in 2007 or 2008, \$1,500 last year and City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the council approved \$850 for 2012.

"If there's a possibility of bringing that

back to the \$5,000, we'd appreciate it," he said.

Armstrong explained to the council that the amount dropped when the city's Law Enforcement Trust Fund dropped.

She said the center just needs to get a request letter to the city and the council will decide the amount to give during budget sessions.

Fyler added that the center would still come work on cases in Colby even if they don't get anything from the city.

Chris Leth from Options talked about her agency's services next. She said they work side by side with the Child Advocacy Center when they get children's cases.

She said so far this year, Options has 171 new victims that they're helping. The agency runs a hotline that's available 24 hours a day, she said. There is never a busy signal and you'll always get a live person.

Leth said they have been at the Colby

Public Schools four times this year and at the college twice to talk with students about rape and family violence.

"We try and get out there and educate to do some prevention," she said.

Armstrong said the budget item for Options also had been cut to \$850 this year because the trust fund is low.

Typically, the city has been budgeting the same dollar amount for both agencies every year, she said.

Councilman Mark Beringer mentioned that Leth's report showed that they didn't receive any money from the city in 2010 or 2011 and Armstrong said that was because Options didn't turn in request letters those two years, so the city didn't give them anything.

Armstrong said they will get \$850 this year because the agency had already turned in a request.

Joplin graduates suffer tragic year after twister

From "JOPLIN," Page 1

stroyed, with four more among the damaged structures.

The twister arrived hours after last year's high school graduation, forever defining the Joplin High Class of 2011 and their younger classmates as well.

"They had to grow up the night of the storm," Joplin High principal Kerry Sachetta said. "They saw things they never should have had to see."

School officials vowed to return to class on time. They

turned a vacant big-box retail store at the city's only mall into a temporary Joplin High for juniors and seniors, with freshmen and 10th-graders at another location across town.

A middle school relocated to an industrial park warehouse.

Despite the less than ideal location, Joplin students embraced their return to a school they saw as a refuge, a safe haven in a town otherwise gone awry, said Joplin High English teacher Brenda White.

The Joplin tornado helped

tighten bonds, diminish cliques, elevate school spirit and strengthen community ties, students and teachers said.

Fights and other disciplinary violations declined dramatically.

"Once we had been through (everything) this last year, people just weren't interested in a lot of the general high school nonsense," said graduating senior Derek Carter, who will attend the University of Alabama in the fall.

Carter and his classmates

have been feted by celebrities, from American Idol winner David Cook's performance at the homecoming dance to pop star Katy Perry's welcome message for prom.

With few textbooks to salvage from the rubble, the school overhauled its approach to teaching and embraced a technology-first approach, thanks to an estimated \$1 million donation from the United Arab Emirates that helped equip each Joplin high school student with a laptop computer.

Federal court plans hearing in Kansas remapping lawsuit

From "COURT," Page 1

cinct committee member from Olathe.

Legislators adjourned their annual session Sunday without passing any proposals for redrawing congressional, state House, state Senate or state Board of Education districts.

Kansas is the only state in which legislators failed to produce a congressional redistricting plan, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

A bitter feud between GOP factions in the Legislature, anticipating primary elections this summer that will determine which camp controls the Senate next year, prevented passage of any redistricting proposals. As the committee's chairman, Owens was

a key figure in the debate, drafting and defending proposals for new Senate districts that the conservative Republican faction strongly criticized.

Owens and the other individuals seeking to intervene argue that neither Kobach nor Essex can adequately represent their interests. But Kobach said in his court filing today that the interests of Owens, two prominent Overland Park business leaders, two other Overland Park residents, a former Olathe school superintendent and a Manhattan resident aren't different enough from Essex's interests to warrant their intervention.

Kobach also said that if the state holds its Aug. 7 primary election as scheduled, federal law will require Kansas election officials to distribute ballots to overseas military per-

sonnel on June 23. Kobach has argued that the federal court needs to settle redistricting boundaries by June 4 - only a week before the state's candidate filing deadline - for the ballots to be distributed on time.

"Any delay in these legal proceedings has the potential for denying military and overseas citizens their voting franchise," Kobach wrote in his court filing.

But Kobach's arguments did not object to a request from House Minority Leader Paul Davis, a Lawrence Democrat, to intervene. Davis was joined by former Democratic State Rep. Bill Roy Jr., of Lenexa.

One issue in congressional redistricting debates this year is whether Lawrence remains split between two districts and, if so, how.

Briefly

Pool passes on sale starting on Monday

The Colby Aquatic Park opens Saturday. To avoid long lines on opening day, buy your passes early. Staff will be at the pool from 6 to 9 p.m. through Thursday to sell them to early birds. For information, call the city office at (785) 460-4410.

Two dogs available for adoption at clinic

Colby Animal Clinic has two dogs available for adoption: an intact male shorthair, about 8 years old, and an intact male yellow lab, about 3 or 4. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Junior Golf practice begins May 31 at course

Practice for Colby Junior Golf, for kids 7 to 17, will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays from May 31 to July 26 at the Meadow Lake Golf Course. Signup will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 31. Cost is \$15 for Meadow Lake members and \$65 for nonmembers, but scholarships are available. The coaches will be Kevan Taylor, Sara Betz and Ed Schmitt. For information, call Betz at (785) 269-7394 or (785) 460-9855.

Prairie Museum features art club's work

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has a free exhibit by members of the High Plains Art Club up through the end of the month. Works include oils, acrylics, watercolors, mixed media and ceramics and subjects range from landscapes to portraits to flowers. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call Ann Miner at the museum, 460-4590, for information.

Federal employees to meet at Colby site

The Colby Chapter of the National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Montana Mike's. Visitors and prospective new members are welcome. Call Maxine Nelson at 462-3571 for information.

Auditions for dance team set for Saturday

Auditions for the Colby Community College Dance Team will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at Nicole's Dance Studio, 315 N. Franklin. Participants will learn techniques and the audition routine from 10 a.m. to noon. Tryouts will begin at 3 p.m. For information, contact Nicole Weigel at (785) 324-0382.

Grinnell Class of '76 plans reunion Sunday

The Grinnell High School Class of 1976 will reunite from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Heritage Center of the Old Township Hall at Grinnell. For information, call Deanna Beckman at (785) 824-3352.

Weather forecast table with columns for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and precipitation.

LOCAL TV Listings logo and text: Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Large TV listings table for Tuesday Evening, May 22, 2012, listing channels and programs.



Wednesday Evening TV listings for May 23, 2012, listing channels and programs.

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