

BABY

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were fine. But between birth and going home, the Feimers went through many trials.

"The first time I saw Luke — other than the first few minutes after his birth — his feet were already so bruised from all the pokes from all the blood drawn to take tests," Katie said. "Each time they needed to draw blood for a test, they would do so through a heal poke. He ended up having this done almost daily as one of the issues Luke needed to overcome was jaundice. They checked each day to see what his bill number was to determine if he was ready to come out from under the bill lights.

"It was very difficult to see him in the NICU for the first time, and I don't think we could have ever prepared ourselves for it," she said. "However, we were very lucky that he was as stable and healthy as he was.

"The first day he was there, the nurses gave us a string of beads with his name spelled out and a 'B' bead, meaning bravery. (The staff explained) that this was the bravery bead program that was something the March of Dimes did for the families in the NICU."

According to the Feimers, the March of Dimes and the NICU's support personnel were invaluable. Parents of every child in the NICU are given pamphlets and brochures that help explain what to expect from a stay and also define terms and what they mean.

"There was a NICU family support person that did sit and visit with the families. She was wonderful," Katie said. "She was someone that I felt very comfortable talking to and asking questions to. She was great to support and would often just listen to my concerns and worries. She also was great at working to get the families to be able to connect."

That type of support for the families and children is what the March for Babies is about. According to the March of Dimes Web site, 76 cents of every dollar raised support research programs that help babies begin healthy lives.

According to Feimer, Luke ended up spending 33 days in the NICU. He had not mastered the suck, swallow and breath functions that many babies learn around 35 weeks gestation. He was fed through a feeding tube for most of his stay.

"We were told that all of a sudden, it would click, and it did," Katie said.

"The next issue he had to overcome was weight gain. It takes so much energy for a baby to maintain body temperature, eat and gain weight at the same time. Eventually, they were happy with where he was and let us go home."

The Feimers' doctors were not able to determine why Luke came early. However, he is now an active, healthy and happy 1-year-old.

"So many families go through this experience, that is why we are proud to be the 2010 March of Dimes Ambassador Family for the Yankton March for Babies event," Katie said. "We are very thankful to the March of Dimes for all they did for us during our stay in the NICU."

To register for the April 25 walk, visit www.marchforbabies.org or call 1-800-275-1021.

KYRGYZSTAN

Protestors Mourned, U.S. Base Fate On Hold

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — As a crowd of thousands mourned the Kyrgyz protesters shot dead by police, many expressed hope Friday that the bloody revolt would bring a better government to the impoverished Central Asian nation. Some said they were counting on Russia's help.

Flights, meanwhile, resumed at the U.S. base just outside the capital after being halted Wednesday during the uprising. Manas is a key support center for the international military campaign against the Taliban in nearby Afghanistan, but many in Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic, resent the Americans' presence.

Covering their eyes and folding their hands in prayer, families and friends sobbed for the lives that were lost in the sprawling Ala-Too Square, where protesters were fired on during an opposition rally as some stormed the main government building in Bishkek, the capital.

Deposed President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who fled the capital to seek support in his clan's southern power base, was a focus of their anger.

"We grieve over our heroes. They are real heroes who have sacrificed their lives for the future of Kyrgyzstan," said Khatima Immamalyeva, a 44-year-old office worker holding a red carnation and crying. "Bakiyev must bear responsibility for the deaths."

Another mourner, 26-year-old Azimbek Sariyev, said "my friend Talas perished. I hope he hasn't died for nothing. We have ousted Bakiyev, and won't allow the rulers to mock us."



At least 76 people died in the violence and more than 1,400 were injured, the Health Ministry reported Friday. That figure included 67 people injured overnight in clashes between looters and security forces.

Bishkek was eerily quiet late Friday, with few cars on the streets. Residents

turned on the lights to avoid drawing gunfire.

Maj. John Redfield, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said normal flight operations at Manas had resumed Friday but that officials were temporarily diverting flights carrying troops.

"Decisions on conducting other, non

passenger-related, flight operations from the base will be made on a case-by-case basis," Redfield said.

Officials said they expected the passenger flights to be diverted for only a few days. Until then, troops are being shuttled in and out of Afghanistan using the U.S. base in Kuwait.

Some 1,100 troops are stationed at Manas, including contingents from Spain and France, in support of NATO operations in Afghanistan.

Roza Otunbayeva, the head of the opposition's self-declared interim government, said Friday the base agreement will be continued at least for the near future. Opposition figures in the past have said they wanted to close the U.S. base, located at the international airport serving the capital.

Russia, which also maintains a military base in Kyrgyzstan, had pushed Bakiyev's government to evict the U.S. military. But after announcing that American forces would have to leave Manas, Kyrgyzstan agreed to allow them to stay after the U.S. raised the annual rent to about \$63 million from \$17 million.

The status of the base has been a significant strategic question since the uprising Wednesday.

"We have no intentions whatsoever to deal with the American base now. Our priority is the lives of the people who suffered. A top priority is to normalize the situation, to secure peace and stability," Otunbayeva said as she visited a Bishkek hospital Friday that had treated many wounded.

OWEN

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to hold on to about \$11.5 million that would have otherwise gone back to project developers.

"(The state) gave away too much taxes, quite honestly," Owen said. "The old policy allowed ethanol plants to get a 100 percent tax rebate and allowed anyone who was spend-

ing more than \$600 million to get 90 percent of it back. We have at least provided two years of a more reasonable, easier-to-administer tax program."

From the Chamber's point of view, the changes made sense, he added.

"While the Chamber doesn't run out and embrace taxes, we believe in moderate taxes," Owen stated. "We don't believe you can run government on no taxes. So if you're going to have schools, infrastructure and amenities like parks, you've got

to have a tax structure. Giving away 90 percent is not good tax policy."

The changes will make project costs from \$10 million to \$40 million eligible for a 45 percent refund of the sales taxes and contractor excise taxes paid. Project costs from \$40 million to \$500 million will be eligible for a 50 percent refund. Projects with costs above \$500 million will get no refunds on taxes paid.

Also, despite the protests of Democratic leaders, pipelines will still be eligible for the pro-

gram. They argued that a pipelines such as the TransCanada Keystone project would come through South Dakota whether there are tax incentives or not.

On the issue of giving cities the ability to add an extra penny sales tax for special projects or upgrades in roads, water lines and other service facilities, Owen said the Chamber remained neutral because the issue was going nowhere in the current economic climate.

"The state is probably reserv-

ing that next marginal increase (in sales tax ability) to their own uses," he said. "Even though the bill would have only been enabling, any city that took advantage of it would make it harder for those voters to embrace the state using it. Next year's budget for the state is still \$100 million short without \$60 million of federal money, so it's easy to see how the Legislature might look at what would be their fifth penny and hold it for their uses."

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