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PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jessica Stockton, Angela Bennett, Drew Miller, Jodi Nicholson and Jennifer Jumper (left to right) discoed the night away on Thursday as a part of the murder-mystery production, *The Last Dance of Dr. Disco*, presented by the Colby High School drama department. Tonight will be the last performance at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Wanted

Investigators to help solve murder

Be at the high school tonight at 7:00

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

Put on your investigator's hat and come on over to the Colby High School auditorium tonight and help figure out who committed the murder.

If you have missed Thursday night's performance of "The Last Dance of Dr. Disco," it'll be restaged tonight at 7 p.m.

The murder-mystery is set in a 1970s discotheque and features two different casts, said Nancy Rundel, director. The play also includes audience participation, which means those attending have an opportunity to determine "who dunnit" before the conclusion of the play, she said.

"During the intermission, members of the audience can question the characters, hunt for clues, and decide who is the murderer," Rundel said. "Audience participants should pay close at-

tention to Hostess Pam when she gives directions at the conclusion of Act 1."

The actors in the play on Thursday night included Jared Cranston as Dr. Disco; Jessica Stockton as Ilsa; Alicia Talsma as Margie; Doug Hurtt as Tony; Carla Sloan as Angie; Jodi Nicholson as Dylan; Angela Bennett as Lynda; Drew Miller as Danny (Tony's friend); Justin Bell as Richard; Pam McAdams as the hostess; and Amber Dempewolf, Jennifer Jumper and Justin Bell rounded out the play as 1970s dancers.

In tonight's performance, the show will feature Darla Nichols as Ilsa; Tina Schmid as Margie; Regina Heier as Angie and Jessica Morton as Dylan.

In addition to recognizing the actor and actresses, Rundel also wanted to acknowledge and thank Hope Schmid, director of sound; John Brottem for lighting; Crystal Mannebach, Pam McAdams, and Jennifer Wassemiller

on spotlights; along with Carla Sloan for choreography.

Thanks also went to Quality Inn, the Colby Public School maintenance staff, Brett Pfeifer, the student council, the service club, Matt Hull, the Colby College drama department, Tom Rundel, Mountain Man Fruit and Nut Company, Jeff Quenzer, assistant principal, and Don Barta, principal, for help in making the show successful, Rundel said.

Tickets for the play will go on sale at the door starting at 6:30 p.m., although there is a dinner prior to the event and tickets for that have been sold out. Admission for adults is \$5 and students, \$4.

There is still plenty of seating available for the performance and Rundel encourages everyone to come out and enjoy the evening theater production.

FBI warns of possible 'spectacular' terrorist attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al-Qaida may be planning a "spectacular" terrorist attack intended to damage the U.S. economy and inflict large-scale casualties, the FBI warns.

An FBI law enforcement bulletin circulated Thursday to officials nationwide contains no information about the timing, location or method of a possible attack. Even so, the warning is unusual because of its dire language. "Sources suggest al-Qaida may favor spectacular attacks that meet several criteria: High symbolic value, mass casualties, severe damage to the U.S. economy and maximum psychological trauma," says the alert, which was posted on the FBI's Web site early Friday after its existence was reported by *The New York Times* and The Associated Press.

The highest priority targets remain

within the aviation, petroleum and nuclear sectors, as well as significant national landmarks, it adds.

Federal authorities previously have issued warnings for those specific industries and national landmarks in general. But there is clearly worry that the danger of an attack is growing because of increased "chatter" picked up through intelligence channels, the continuing U.S. showdown with Iraq and the recently revealed audiotaped warnings believed to be from al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Still, the latest warning has not led the Bush administration to raise the terrorist threat level above code yellow, or "elevated," which is the middle of a five-level scale of risk developed after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that although the ter-

rorism risk level remains unchanged, "We are taking additional precautions to meet the threat."

These include unspecified "additional steps to ramp up our protection and prevention measures" within federal agencies, McClellan said. The FBI and other agencies also are communicating possible threats and assessments of risk to state and local law enforcement agencies and specific industries that could be targeted.

In recent weeks, the FBI has issued warnings about possible attacks on U.S. railroads and on the energy industry, as well as a more general warning about heightened risk during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which started Wednesday and ends Dec. 5.

"We're especially sensitive to timeframes which might be thought

by the enemy to be a time when they might want to make a statement," Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

On Wednesday, the FBI told authorities in Houston, Chicago, San Francisco and Washington to be aware of threats against hospitals.

Even though that threat was assigned low credibility by senior law enforcement officials, the FBI is preferring to err on the side of caution in terms of giving out information, officials said.

The idea is to increase vigilance among local police and people working in industries that are potential targets.

Last week, the State Department warned that Thursday's execution of Pakistani Aimal Khan Kasi in Virginia could lead to reprisals against Americans.

Gov.-elect Sebelius turns to Kansans for ideas

TOPEKA (AP) — Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius is soliciting Kansans' ideas for making government more efficient, but she doesn't want those advising her to discuss everything in public.

Sebelius on Thursday announced a telephone hot line and an e-mail address for taking suggestions. She said both will allow Kansans to participate in her planned top-to-bottom review of state government.

The five review teams she's formed will have public hearings, but Kansans

won't be able to attend meetings when team members discuss some of the suggestions.

Sebelius doesn't plan to say when or where those teams are meeting for their discussions. She defended the secrecy as necessary for candid discussions.

She and her aides have said the five groups don't fall under the Kansas Open Meetings Act because they aren't setting policy, only making recommendations.

The attorney general's office was researching the issue after an inquiry

from The Associated Press.

"I think there is a balancing act," Sebelius said. "Having every discussion monitored at every point along the way, I don't think is a very productive way to conduct business."

Kansans can make their suggestions by e-mail with a form available on the Internet at the transition team's Internet site.

The hot line is toll free for callers, but the state is paying \$25 a month for the line and 9 cents a minute on each call.

"Many of the people who will be

answering the phone are state employees," Sebelius said. "Some of them are former campaign employees who we will be keeping on to do this."

The hot line will be answered from 1 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday. Sebelius said the hours are designed to accommodate working Kansans.

"This will make it very easy for those citizens to be involved. They don't have to come to Topeka. They don't have to write a letter. They don't even have to be named," Sebelius said.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

John Johnson worked on the canopy at the old C-Mart on west Fourth Street. Johnson is employed by Owens Construction of El Dorado, which is fixing the canopies of C-Marts for Cenex Fuels, which will be the fuel sold by Kabredlo's when it opens in December.

Vacant west side location is getting a new business

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Colby's west side will have a convenience store again, when two Nebraska brothers from Lincoln open a Kabredlo's where the old Coastal Mart was located at 1615 West Fourth Street.

Mike and Mark Oiderbak, who own and operate 20 Kabredlo's in Lincoln and Omaha, have purchased 10 defunct Coastal Marts in northwest Kansas and Southwest Nebraska and plan to have them all up and operating by January.

New Kabredlo's stores will be opening in Goodland, Hays, Atwood, Oakley, Scott City, and McCook, Neb.

The target date for the Colby store to open is the first week of December, according to Andrew Langdon, who supervises the seven Kabredlo's stores in southeast Kansas.

"We want to make sure that when

we open," he said, "we have everything right, as far as licenses and stuff goes."

The store will be open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. The store will sell Cenex fuel

The Colby Coastal Mart closed last year when its parent company, Vista Corp., went bankrupt. Jada Tubbs, with the Colby Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber was excited about the store re-opening.

"It's going to be nice because there needs to be service available for the people on that side of town," she said. "Management was very encouraging and polite," she added.

By the way, the pronunciation of the name of the new store, which is the owners last name (Oiderbak) spelled backwards, is, according to the way they answer the phone at the company's corporate office in Lincoln, "Kuh-bread-lows."

Gun maker also figures in verdict

WESTPALMBEACH, Fla. (AP) — Both sides are claiming victory after a gun distributor was ordered to pay \$1.2 million to the widow of a teacher killed by a teen gunman.

The six-woman jury's decision, announced Thursday, found that Valor Corp. was liable for 5 percent of a \$24 million judgment for selling the small handgun that 13-year-old Nathaniel Brazill used to shoot Barry Grunow more than two years ago.

The suit contended Valor was responsible because the weapon lacked a childproof gun lock and could be associated with a toy because of its small size.

The judgment assigned half the blame to Elmore McCray, the family friend who kept the gun unlocked in a dresser drawer, where Brazill found it. And the Palm Beach County School Board was found 45 percent responsible.

The judgments against McCray and the School Board will not be collected because they were not defendants in the case.

"This is a huge victory for safer guns," said Allen Rostron, an attorney for the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Defense attorneys touted the jury's decision as a fair compromise, since the lawsuit was seeking \$75 million from the gun company.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Thursday's high, 54
Low this morning, 30
Year ago today, 69 and 36
Temperature at 11:30 today, 49
Soil temperature, 46
Records for Nov. 15, 81 in 1941, 4 in 1920

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows mid 20s.
Saturday, sunny, highs upper 50s, west winds up to 15 mph.
Saturday night and Sunday, clear, lows lower 30s and highs mid 60s.
Sunday night and Monday, clear, lows mid 30s and highs lower 50s.

Briefly

A Quality clarification

Julie Saddler, interim manager of the Quality Inn in Colby, said today that Thursday's headline in the *Free Press* about the changes at the Quality Inn was a bit off the mark. She said the motel has a new name and new franchise, but the same owners.

Amusement Association to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association will meet Monday at 7 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex. Darwin Strutt, of F&M Insurance, will be speaking about the insurance coverage needed and to answer any questions that the group may have. There will also be updates on the ferris wheel and the financial progress of the organization. The public is encouraged to attend.

Bake sale fund raiser is Saturday

Citizens supporting Colby's medical community will have an opportunity to express their support by purchasing items at two bake sales with the first starting at 8 a.m. Saturday at Dillons. The

second bake sale is scheduled for the following Saturday, Nov. 23, also at the same time and location. Free-will donations will be accepted and proceeds from the event will benefit various aspects of the medical community.

Health care group sets meeting

The Area Citizens for Health Care will meet next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theater of the Colby Community Building. The public is invited.

Hospital gift shop plans event

The Citizens Medical Center Gift Shop, 100 E. College Dr. in Colby will hold its annual holiday open house from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The event will feature a large selection of ornaments and Christmas figurines. Everyone is encouraged to visit and get started on their holiday shopping early, organizers said. All proceeds go to benefit the hospital in purchasing needed items or other equipment.

Businesses asked to participate

With the Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate. The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the student union on the Colby Community College campus. Blood work will be done on Saturdays, Jan. 4 and 11. The registration fee is \$5, with the addition fees for some of the tests. For more information about business coupons for the Wellness Fair call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797.

Methodist Ladies need your help

As part of their "Experience Christmas Tour" on Dec. 8, the Methodist Ladies of Colby hope to have a Christmas/Winter Art Show in the Fellowship Hall, and to that end they are asking anyone who has a Christmas or winter painting or other artwork — such as cross-stitch or embroidery pictures of that season of the year — if they would share those with the public.

