

Something fishy



SHAWNA HOWELL/Colby High School

Students in Shawna Dowell’s vocational-agriculture class at Colby High School were treated to a team building exercise involving a minnow race. Thomas Wieland, sophomore, left, and Mikel Ladenburger,

junior, right, worked to get their minnow across the finish line first. The activity provided fun for the students as well as helping them to interact during the first few days of school, Howell said.

Space shuttle Atlantis returns safely

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Atlantis and its six astronauts glided to a safe landing in darkness early Thursday, ending a 12-day mission whose smooth success was briefly upstaged by the high drama caused by mysterious floating debris.

“Nice to be back. It was a great team effort,” said commander Brent Jett immediately after touchdown at Kennedy Space Center at 6:21 a.m. EDT.

More than 1 1/2 hours after landing, the astronauts, all wearing broad grins, left the shuttle to greet NASA administrator Michael Griffin and other agency officials. Then they walked under Atlantis to inspect the shuttle’s heat shield.

“It’s really a beautiful day in Florida, a great way to end a mission,” said Jett. “It was a pretty tough few days for us, a lot of hard work, a great team effort to get the station assembly restarted on a good note.”

Jett and his crew did the first construction work in the international space station since the Columbia disaster 3 1/2 years ago. The astronauts performed three grueling spacewalks and took on other heavy-lifting tasks in one of the most challenging missions ever, adding a 17 1/2-ton truss addition with giant solar wings that will help power the orbiting lab.

The landing 48 minutes before sunrise was a day later than planned because NASA ordered up extra inspections of the spacecraft’s delicate skin to make sure it was safe to come home. The fear was that a mysterious piece of debris spotted floating nearby on Tuesday might have hit the spacecraft. Astronauts later saw other debris.

“We’ve seen a new standard in NASA vigilance,” said shuttle program manager Wayne Hale.

It was a flying piece of foam insulation that knocked a hole in Columbia causing its demise in 2003, killing seven astronauts. Since then, NASA has developed new equipment and practices to guard against similar damage to the sensitive space shuttle.

Those new techniques were used to make sure Atlantis was safe to return. After numerous cameras took pictures above and below Atlantis, some of them maneuvered robotically by the shuttle astronauts, NASA proclaimed the spacecraft damage-free.

The unplanned drama threatened to overshadow what had been a nearly flawless mission filled with strenuous spacewalks and rigorous robotics work.

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If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.

“This Project Funded in Part by the KDOT Public Transit Program”

Church to fight I.R.S.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A liberal church that has been threatened with the loss of its tax-exempt status over an anti-war sermon delivered just days before the 2004 presidential election said Thursday it will fight an IRS order to turn over documents on the matter.

“We’re going to put it in their court and in a court of law so that we can get an adjudication to some very fundamental issue here that we see as an intolerable infringement of rights,” Bob Long, senior warden of All Saints Church, told The Associated Press.

He said the church’s 26-member vestry voted unanimously to resist IRS demands for documents and an interview with the congregation’s rector by the end of the month.

The church’s action sets up a high-profile confrontation between the church and the IRS, which now must decide whether to ask for a hearing before a judge, who would then decide on the validity of the agency’s demands.

IRS spokesman Terry Lemons

would not comment specifically on the dispute.

Get ready for FOOTBALL!

It’s football week at the
Colby Cinema
Sept. 22nd - 28th

GRIDIRON GANG

PG-13 2 hours, 10 min.
Friday 7:00 & 9:25
Saturday 4:00 & 7:00 & 9:25
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Monday - Thursday 7:00

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PG 1 hour, 45 min.
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Sunday 4:00 & 7:00
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AUCTION for Missions

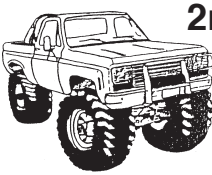
September 24, 2006

Dinner at 12:00 Auction begins 12:30

ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED

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2nd Annual Northwest Kansas

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September 23rd • 2:00 p.m.

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2.5 miles to Cranston Cattle...look for signs!*

**Come cheer on your favorite mud flingin’
trucks & four wheelers**

Admission: \$5 Adults; \$3 Children under 10
Competitors: Driver’s fee \$40 (includes driver and one pit pass) All other pit passes \$10.

*Gates open at 11 a.m.;
all entries must be in
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NEW:
**Powder Puff (Women’s Class)
&
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SIGN UP, TODAY!
Don’t wait for tomorrow!

Wire Feed Welding Class

Thursdays 5 pm - 8 pm (mt)

Starting October 12 - December 21

Limited Space - First Come, First Serve

Cost for Class \$200

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**The Colby Free Press is joining The Goodland Daily News, Saint Francis Herald, Bird City Times
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The Guide will be full of Hunting Maps, Forecasts, Stories and Tips.
The Guide will reach in excess of **30,000 readers**. In addition to newspaper insertions, guides will be placed in selected businesses in northwest Kansas as well as the Tourist Center on the state line.

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