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Fire station taking shape

Colby's new fire station (above) is taking shape on South Country Club Drive. Thursday afternoon Mike Miller (left with tape measure), owner of Miller Construction of Goodland, said the project was moving along. He said the winds of the last couple of days had hampered putting on the outside metal. Miller and Joe Aquirre (right) were working on putting roof beams in one of the inside rooms of the new fire station that is being built to replace the one destroyed by an ice storm in December of 2006.

Photos by Tom Betz/
Colby Free Press

Debate is on! Both candidates fly to Mississippi

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican John McCain agreed to attend the first presidential debate tonight even though Congress doesn't have a bailout deal, reversing an earlier decision to delay the event until Washington had taken action to address the crisis.

With less than 10 hours until the debate was scheduled to start — at 8 p.m. Central time — the McCain campaign announced the Arizona senator would travel to the University of Mississippi. The campaign said that afterward McCain would return to Washington to continue working on the financial crisis.

Obama had always planned to attend the debate and was aboard his plane preparing to take off when McCain's announcement was made. McCain quickly moved to his own private aircraft and headed South with his wife and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and his wife, Judith, on board.

The action contradicted the position McCain had taken Wednesday, when he announced, "I'm directing my campaign to work with the Obama campaign and the Commission on Presidential Debates to delay Friday night's debate until we have taken action to address this crisis."

McCain had said he would suspend all campaign activities, but in reality the campaign just shifted to Washington while the work of trying to win the election went on.

McCain had taken a gamble with the move, trying to appear above politics and as a leader on an issue that had overshadowed the presidential campaign and given him trouble. But Democratic rival Barack Obama had not bowed to McCain's challenge, and instead questioned why the Republican nominee couldn't handle two things at once — the debate and involvement in the bailout negotiations.

An Associated Press-Knowledge Networks poll out Friday just before McCain's announcement showed the public overwhelmingly wanted the candidates to debate, 60 percent to 22 percent,

with the rest undecided.

By Friday morning, it appeared McCain was looking for a face-saving way to get to the debate even though a deal had not been reached. He met with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, before heading to his campaign headquarters and issuing a statement that blamed others in Washington for the failure to reach an agreement.

"John McCain's decision to suspend his campaign was made in the hopes that politics could be set aside to address our economic crisis," the statement said. "In response, Americans saw a familiar spectacle in Washington. At a moment of crisis that threatened the economic security of American families, Washington played the blame game rather than work together to find a solution that would avert a collapse of financial markets without squandering hundreds of billions of taxpayers' money to bail out bankers and brokers who bet their fortunes on unsafe lending practices."

Just before McCain's announcement, Obama told reporters that he had spent Friday morning on the phone with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and congressional leaders and he was optimistic that progress was being made toward a bailout deal.

"At this point, my strong sense is that the best thing that I can do, rather than to inject presidential politics into these delicate negotiations, is to go down to Mississippi and explain to the American people what is going on and my vision for leading the country over the next four years," Obama told reporters aboard his campaign plane as they prepared to travel to Mississippi.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a McCain supporter, said the Republican made a "huge mistake" by even discussing canceling the debate.

Both McCain and Obama had returned to Washington on Thursday at the urging of President Bush.

Fly-in brings planes, people

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The Friends of the Colby Airport will be holding a fly-in with breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. The fly-in is meant to get people to become more familiar with the airport.

The Boy Scouts of America Troop 140 will be serving the breakfast. The breakfast served will consist of pancakes, eggs, and sausage. Breakfast will cost \$4.50 per person. Fly-in pilots and passengers get to eat for free.

The money raised at the event will be used to support the airport and the Boy Scouts. The Friends of the Airport has traditionally been used to support youth groups like

the Boy Scouts of America and Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Mark Ostmeyer, airport manager and owner of MC Aviation services (a fixed base operation), said.

Tandem skydiving will be available to the public throughout the day. Plane rides will be available from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"We are trying to get people to come out and have some fun and see how aviation is a huge economic asset to our community," Ostmeyer said. "The airport is your access to the world. It's the first or second most important economic tool in a community."

Several aviation based organizations have been invited to the fly-in Ostmeyer said. These organizations include highway patrol helicopters, the Kansas State

University-Aviation Program, and RANS (an aircraft manufacturer based in Hays). All of these organizations have participated in past fly-ins.

The fly-in may include Experimental aircraft (home-based aircraft and heavily modified aircraft that don't necessarily meet Federal Aviation Administration standards), antique aircraft, powered parachutes and Radio control aircraft.

Ostmeyer encouraged everyone to come out to the event. "Come out and support the airport, support the Boy Scouts, and support the community," he said.

For more information about the event call Ostmeyer at (785) 460-4438.

Workshop takes Christian approach to family financial management

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Money may not buy happiness, but a severe lack of it can certainly cause a person a lot of stress. This is why Kylee Phillips is bringing the Financial Peace University to the Colby Wesleyan Church at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

The Financial Peace University is a biblically based curriculum that teaches people how to make wise decisions with their money. It is a 13-week program that features Dave Ramsey,

founder of the university and the best selling author of the book Total Money Makeover, giving advice via DVD about how to pay off your debt, and make investments in the future so you can accumulate wealth.

Ramsey advocates giving some of this newfound wealth away to charities or other worthy causes.

Ramsey is a man who became rich early in his life only to lose it all. Through frugal spending and wise investments he was able to become wealthy again.

Since regaining his wealth Ramsey has spent a significant

portion of his life giving advice to people about how to spend their money more wisely and how to get out of debt.

Ramsey is a religious man who fuses his religious beliefs with his financial practices when he encourages churches to host the program. According Ramsey's web site more than 10,000 churches nationwide have hosted the program.

Phillips attended a Financial Peace University at another church with her husband. Watching the program inspired her to host the program at her own church.

Briefly

Free early childhood screening offered

A early childhood screening clinic will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Colby United Methodist Church for those in the Colby school district. Parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers are encouraged to take advantage of this developmental screening. The screening will be done by professionals who know how children grow and learn. This free screening will check how well the child talks, feels, learns, gets along with others and how well the child does things independently. Staff from the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center will be assisting and appointments can be made by call Amy Huffles, RN, at Colby Elementary School (875) 460-5111 or 460-5100.

School group plans book fair

The Colby Grade School Parent-Teacher Organization will hold its annual Scholastic Book Fair from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2, with the theme "Book Fair Safari - Soma! (Read!) Ota! (Dream!) Kua! (Grow!)" The fair offers new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books and current bestsellers.

Health Department schedules flu shots

The Thomas County Health Department will be offering flu shots from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at the Senior Progress Center in Colby; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at Golden Plains school in Rexford and 1:15-3 p.m. at the Rexford Red Barn; 8:30-10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Mead-

owlark Manor in Colby, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Brewster school and 2:45-4 p.m. at the Brewster Senior Center; 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Fairview Estates in Colby, 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Colby grade school and 11 a.m. to noon at the Colby High School.

Shots will be available at the health department from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8, Wednesday, Oct. 22, Tuesday, Nov. 4, and Monday, Nov. 10, and from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, and Monday, Oct. 20

The cost is \$25 and all clinics are walk in.

Childbirth education classes to begin Thursday

Citizens Medical Center will hold a four week series of childbirth education classes. The classes will begin on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 7-10 p.m. and will continue on Thursdays Oct. 9, 16, and 23. Expectant

mothers in their last trimester or are due to deliver before January are encouraged to attend. The labor support partner who will be with the mother in labor, is also encouraged to attend classes. Classes will be held at the Citizens Medical Center. For more information or to register, contact Jeanene Brown, RN in the hospital Education Department at (785) 460-4850.

County extends mercury collection

For a ONE time only, NO Cost deal the Thomas County Landfill will be extending their free mercury collection program through Friday, Oct. 3. Eligible items include elemental mercury, mercury containing devices such as thermometers, barometers, manometers, mercury displacement relays, heating/cooling thermostats, and mercury switches. Not Eligible items include mercury salts, Fluorescent lights including compact fluorescent bulbs, and batteries. For questions on product eligibility contact Larry Jumper at (785) 462-8139.

