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Party planned to welcome new students

By Kevin Bottrell

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It's time for college students to return to Colby, and area organizations plan to welcome them back in style.

Colby Community College, the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau will sponsor a Community Campus Block Party from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday on the lawn on the north side of the Student Union. The college will provide food and a barbecue, and the Chamber and visitors bureau will bring in the band Pieces of Eight as entertainment.

Area businesses, churches and organizations will set up display

tables showcasing merchandise, services or job openings they can provide.

"We can show these students that we're glad they're here and show them what services we have in town," said Chamber Executive Director Holly Stephens.

Stephens said the Chamber is making welcome packets for 300 new students, which will include a letter, information and brochures about Colby and the county and free items, such as pens and coupons from local businesses.

Businesses that did not want to set up a table at the party were invited to contribute to the welcome packets, she said, and the packets will be in a bag that students can use to carry things the rest of the

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Dogs to get wet after pool closes

By Vera Sloan

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Big splashes, wet noses and soggy doggies will be the scene Sunday evening when the Colby City Pool holds its second annual Doggie Paddle, inviting owners and their pooches to swim together anytime between 6 and 8 p.m.

The rules: One dog per owner. The owner must bring proof that their animal is up to date on all vaccinations. The dog must be friendly to people and to other dogs. Everyone who wants to

be in the water with their animal must be able to swim. And it's all at the owners' own risk.

Last year, said Recreation Director Stacey Lee, the event drew 25 dogs. Owners and pooches had lots of fun, Lee said, and they expect the number to grow this year. There will be a lifeguard on duty.

The pool officially closes for the regular season at 6 p.m. Sunday, but re-opens from 6 to 8 p.m. for families and their dogs to enjoy one last fling together at the end of the season.

For questions, call the recreation office at 460-4440.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

College holds sport trade show

Sean McDonald (above), owner of the Manchester Pro Shop and a certified bow technician, talked to a customer at the Outdoor Trade Show on Saturday in the Colby Community College Student Union. Bill Kenney, regional director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, filled out some papers during the show.



Phone system to warn of emergencies

By Kevin Bottrell

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Thomas County now has another way to get the word out with the emergency notification system, which can send a phone call, text message or e-mail to anyone signed up for the system in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan said she sees the system as a backup to regular lines of communication, such as warning sirens and radio or television reports.

"The idea was to make it as easy as possible to get the message through," McMahan said.

She said the system came online earlier in the month and was tested Tuesday, with 107 messages sent out. Only two went unanswered.

Residents anywhere in the county can sign up for the system by filling out an application with emergency management and paying a \$5 yearly fee. Households can add up to three

phone numbers, two e-mail addresses and one pager to get notifications.

McMahan said the county's first responders – firemen, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers and others – are all on the system, paid for by money from the 911 tax, as are many city and county workers.

McMahan said the system could cover situations such as hazardous weather, hazardous materials spills and I-70 closings.

For hazardous materials spills, McMahan said, there are two types of messages that could go out. The first would be to evacuate the area, in which case the message would tell people how best to get out of the area and where to go. The second would be to take shelter in homes or buildings, in which case the message would tell people how to seal up their buildings.

McMahan said the Colby School District and Colby Community College have their own systems for informing students and parents of school closings, but the new county system can be used by the outlying towns and school dis-

tricts. McMahan can set the system to contact different groups, such as the superintendents of all area districts, if a particular emergency affects them.

The system divides the county into quadrants, with U.S. 24 and U.S. 25 as the dividing lines. If an emergency happens that would only affect one of these, McMahan said, she can set it to only contact people who live there. Everyone in the selected group would get the message at the same time, McMahan said.

The manager said she can send an alert from any computer with Internet access, and if she is unable to get to a computer, she can call the vendor, ADT, and they can send the alert for her. The system will tell her whether or not a phone or text message has been received, and will inform her if the message is undeliverable, whether to a disconnected number or an invalid e-mail address.

Three counties in the area, Sheriden, Graham and Phillips, are using the same system.

Anyone interested in signing up can stop by the emergency management office in the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range Ave.

School colors



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Freshman football player Wiatt Binder painted posts at Dennen Field this morning. The Booster Club purchased the paint the boys are using to repaint the post and concession stand building in Eagles' orange and black colors.

Briefly

Rexford enrollment Thursday

Golden Plains School District enrollment will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students will register at the Selden School, while middle and high school students will go to the Rexford building. The first day of the school will be Wednesday, Aug. 26. For information, call Tammy Shaw at (785) 386-4560.

Checks from fair now available

Premium checks from the fair are available for pickup at the from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. at the Thomas County Extension Center, at the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range Ave. For information, call the office at 460-4582.

Music Boosters plan picnic

The Colby Music Boosters will hold their annual

picnic at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at Fike Park. Everyone is welcome; bring a side dish to share, table service and lawn chairs. Drinks will be provided. For information, call Elaine Bremenkamp at 462-7860.

Camp set for kids' football

The Colby Junior Football Program will hold a camp from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday through Saturday at the Colby Middle School practice field for kids in third through sixth grades. The team will have a parents' meeting at noon Saturday, with uniform checkout. Regular practices will be from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, starting next Monday. For information, call Doc's on Call at 460-8000.

Group offers grief support

Good Grief Fellowship invites anyone dealing

with grief to "Putting the Pieces of Life Back Together Again," a free support program, at 2 or 7 p.m. Thursday at the Colby United Methodist Church. For information, call Jo Cheney at 462-2082 or Gloria Mattix at 460-2705.

Tennis meeting is Thursday

Players and parents of the Colby High School girls tennis team are asked to come to a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Friday in the high school commons. For information, call coach Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.

Free school supplies at church

The Colby Wesleyan Church will have free school supplies available for elementary and middle school students from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday during a free kids carnival and family picnic. The event, at the church, 320 W. Pine, will feature games, prizes and a free

supper, starting with registration at 5:45 p.m. For information, call the church office at 462-8391.

College offers crochet class

Colby Community College will offer a class, "Introduction to Crafts – Crocheting," beginning Tuesday. The one-credit-hour class will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Room 410 of Thomas Hall. Instructor for the nine-week course is Shelly Rodenbeck. Students may enroll at the first class session. Cost is \$84. For information, call Rodenbeck at (785) 460-5439.



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