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Colby High School band holds week-long practice

The Colby High School marching band kicked off its fall season with a week of practice. Director Joey Nickols (left photo), taught the students how to march forward, backward, side to side and even diagonally each morning. The students then spent time inside, splitting into sections to work on their music. Clarinet players Tomi Miller (right photo, from left) and Teal Stewart went with the woodwinds section while drummers Brock Wagoner (bottom photo, from left), Lucas Baumfalk, Steven Kersick, Quade Woofter and Shelby Gardner



went with the percussion section. Nickols invites parents and everyone else to see how far the band has come during their practice at 10 a.m. Friday at the high school practice field, west of the school building.



Abuse group pursues county for tax money

By Vera Sloan

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Only three people showed up Monday for a public hearing on Thomas County's 2010 budget, all representing a group that has been asking for money for programs to counter drug and alcohol abuse.

Sue Evans, Melinda Olson and Melany Wilks, board members of the Thomas County Coalition, said they were there to support the group's request for liquor tax money collected by the county.

Evans told the commissioners that prevention programs work, and can save the county money. For every dollar spent on prevention, she said, \$7 are saved. She said alcohol abuse is the second most costly health problem in the United States, and investing in prevention and education is "the

best form of health care."

Commissioner Paul Steele said the issue was still "very much on the table." He said the money is in the budget, and it has not yet been earmarked.

"We are especially interested in the funds, because the life skills program is no longer funded to educate third and fourth graders," Evans said. "We will be totally accountable and transparent with the funds. When other funds dry up, the sustaining funds in the Thomas County Foundation will be there to carry on the prevention programs."

The commissioners said they will probably be making decisions in December so the distributions can begin going out in January.

County Clerk Shelly Harms told the commissioners some depart-

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Undersheriff catches thieves for speeding

By Vera Sloan

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A traffic stop last month turned up a stolen car and gave rise to a short chase before a Thomas County sheriff's officer and his dog got their men.

Undersheriff Mark Finley said he was westbound on Interstate 70 about four miles west of Colby on July 28, using his radar to check the speed of eastbound traffic. When he turned around to stop a silver Ford for speeding, the driver pulled off at the eastbound rest area, near mile 49.

The undersheriff said he was talking to the driver, Hunter Hodson, 22, Las Vegas, while the two men in the car with him went into the rest room.

Finley said the driver told him the car belonged to his girlfriend, but a check through the National Crime Information Center re-

vealed that it had been stolen.

"It had been stolen from metro Las Vegas," Finley added.

The undersheriff said he put Hudson under arrest, but the two passengers, then standing by the restrooms, ran to the south.

Finley said he yelled at them, but neither stopped. He released his canine partner, "Rev," who apprehended one of the men while Finley chased down the other.

"Backup was on the way," Finley said, adding that he and Rev had all three suspects under control before the other officers arrived.

Hodson; David Eugene Jordan, 19, Henderson, Nev.; and Wade Michael Smith, 21, St. George, Utah, are being held in the Thomas County Jail awaiting court appearances.

They all three have been charged with possession of stolen property and obstruction of legal process.

Colby High team to dance at bowl game

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High Dance team has been invited to perform during halftime at the 51st annual Liberty Bowl at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, in Memphis.

"This is a huge opportunity for the girls," said Coach Denita Rodgers.

It will be the biggest venue the team has ever performed at, she added. The stadium holds over 62,000 people, said Harold Graeter, associate executive director of the game.

The Lady Eagles' dancers were invited to perform by Bowl

Games of America. The company gets cheerleading squads, dance teams and marching bands national publicity. Kristin Kidman, performance director at the company, said they select groups that have received recognition in their community or have been featured in newspaper articles.

"It is an honor to be invited," said Kidman.

Kidman said about 15 cheerleading and dance team squads will be performing. They will do a choreographed dance to the musical act performing at halftime. She said the musical act had yet to be named.

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Area youth attend non-traditional summer camps

By Aubrey Spencer

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Summer camp isn't just tents, campfires and s'mores these days. They still have those camps, of course, but this summer a handful of area students spent their camp time learning about leadership, business and law.

Rachel Lamm attended Pre-Legal Camp from July 15 to 17 at Washburn University in Topeka. Lamm, who will be a senior this fall at Colby High School, said that she's wanted to be a lawyer since she was a second grader.

The camp was geared towards students curious about law as a career, she said. During the 2 1/2-day camp, participants toured the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site,

the State Capitol, the Kansas Supreme Court and the Judicial Center. They also visited the Shawnee County Courthouse.

Lamm, daughter of Donna and Freddie Lamm of Colby, said that one of her favorite experiences was sitting in on a simulated first-day property law class at Washburn. An actual professor taught the class and the campers got a real reading assignment beforehand, she said.

"It gave you an idea of what you would really be getting into," Lamm said. "If you could handle it, you would probably do well in the actual class."

Another exciting activity was getting to participate in a mock trial, a competitive event for undergraduates. Lamm said the campers were all in character, arguing a case about the

five elements of libel, or written defamation. Rachel said her role was closing attorney, and even though neither side was awarded "the win" since it was just a practice event, she said she was sure her side won.

Lamm said she plans to attend Oklahoma State University for her undergraduate studies, then possibly go to Washburn for law school.

Lance Finley, also attended Pre-Legal Camp, as well as Camp BLUE (Business Leaders Understanding Entrepreneurship) July 13 to 15 at Washburn.

Mary Beth Myers and Mysti Rothfuss attended the 2009 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp on July 17 to 19 at Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

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Briefly

Checks from fair now available

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

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a kitten and a neutered male dachshund/yorkie cross – a dorkie – available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Camp set for kids' football

The Colby Junior Football Program will hold a camp from 9 a.m. to noon today 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.

Tennis meeting is Friday

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.

Equivalency classes offered

The Adult Education Department at Colby Community College is offering free General Education Development (GED) preparation classes beginning Monday. The degree is widely recognized as the same as a high school diploma by employers and colleges. Class times are flexible. To enroll call, Nance Munderloh at (785) 460-4663.

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.

Crew needs Eagles' T-shirts

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services is looking for new and old Colby Eagles T-shirts for a fund raiser. Shirts can be dropped off at the ambulance building on South Franklin, near the hospital, or someone will come get them. For information or a pickup, call Dawnelle Umberger at 443-0176.

