



10 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Friday

February 5, 2010
Volume 121, Number 20
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Reunion to include biking and basketball

By Vera Sloan
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It has been five years since the last high school reunion in Colby, and Colby High School Alumni Association committee members Amanda Wahlmeier, chairman, and Jada Tubbs, co-chairman, say the 2010 all school reunion registrations are ready to be put in the mail within the next few days.

“The big thing about this year’s re-union,” said Tubbs, “is that the date has changed to June 17, 18, and 19 – over the Father’s Day week-end – and we’re hoping to get a wider span of people who are unable to attend in August.”

She said the reason for the change is that many schools across the country start in the middle of August, and it’s hard for families to get away when they are busy getting ready for school.

She emphasized that if local families have family members living out of town who have changed addresses, they are asked to contact the committee as soon as possible with the change.

As for the reunion itself, the committee has switched gears a little and have added two new features, Tubbs said. The “Tour de Thomas County,” a bike ride and road race, will be held on Saturday, June 19, beginning at 7:45 a.m. in Fike Park. The second addition is a three-on-three basketball tournament on the Fike Park basketball courts beginning at 1 p.m. Both events require preregistration.

Also new this year will be the “Flight of the Eagles” book, a history of athletics since the beginning of organized sports in Colby High School. Order forms will be available soon. Sales are anticipated to be high since this is the last year Colby will be a member of the Northwest Kansas High School Athletic League.

Tubbs said the price of the all-school reunion registration this year is \$50. It includes admittance to class parties on Friday, admittance to the general assembly and barbecue tickets on Saturday, dances on Saturday night, registration packet, mailers and updates, and a five-year membership to the alumni association. Non-alumni registration is \$25.

Directories are being printed on pre-order only, to save on printing costs. They are available for \$10. An up to date alumni class directory list can be found on the website at www.eaglesalumni.org.

Wahlmeier and Tubbs said they are encouraging local residents planning on attending the reunion to register early to

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Let the puzzle-making begin



Christian Schmid, public relations coordinator for the Thomas County Community Foundation, gave a set of four community puzzle pieces to Sacred Heart School fourth grade teacher Elsie Rietcheck and her students Rachel Van Eaton, Jordan

Hartwell and Hayden Reinert. The class, along with 17 other Thomas County grade school classes, will decorate their pieces and put them together with others from all over the county when the community puzzle is assembled in October.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

City’s officials say keep off the ice at park

By Kevin Bottrell
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Ice skating is a popular winter past time, and although the ice on Villa High Pond might look inviting after during a cold snap, the city of Colby says stay off.

There have been several recent incidents where police had to warn people to stay off the ice, including one on Jan. 16 when two juveniles were biking across the pond.

Police Chief Randy Jones said people should be aware that the ice may look thick, but that doesn’t mean it is and few people bother to check. Jones said in his time with the Colby Police Department they have pulled out many people

and pets who have fallen through the ice.

Public Works Director Chris Bieker said no one had contacted his department asking about the ice. The department sends someone out to check the restrooms at Villa High Park, but does not regularly look at the ice. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the ice is supposed to be off limits at all times.

Information about the pond is hard to come by. The pond is artificial, dug out in the 1960s. Armstrong said she didn’t know exactly how deep the pond is, but it may reach 10 feet in places. Bieker said he knew the east end is very shallow, however, people should still not go out on the ice.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

It may not always look half-thawed like this, but even after a cold snap, city officials are warning residents to stay off the ice at Villa High Pond for their own safety.

Kansas Knights to convene here

By Kevin Bottrell
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One weekend in late April, two to three years from now, Colby will see several hundred Knights of Columbus come in from councils around Kansas.

Dick Parnell of the Colby council said the Knights will be holding their annual state convention here sometime in the next several years. Parnell said he expects 800 to 900 people – including members and their families – from around the state to attend.

Many of the details haven’t been worked out yet, he said, but the conference will probably be the last weekend in April. Knights members would arrive on Thursday, have meetings Friday and Saturday, a mass on Sunday and leave Monday. Much of the event

will be at the Colby Community Building, he said. Some parts of the conference, such as the women’s breakfast, will be held at other venues around town.

Parnell said the meetings will be for members only, but some other events might be open to the public.

The convention rotates among locations in east, central and western Kansas. Parnell said the Colby council had thought about having the convention here several years ago, but decided not to since there were not enough motels for that many people. But with two new motels being built, Parnell said there will be enough beds when the convention comes to town.

“If this goes as well as I think it will we’ll probably have another one,” Parnell said. “It might set a precedent for Kiwanis, Rotary or have their conventions here.”

Lawmakers look to lighten liquor laws

TOPEKA (AP) — Liquor stores that hold the monopoly on strong beers are fighting for the exclusive right to keep the tap flowing.

Lawmakers are considering a bill that would push open the door to allow convenience stores and grocery stores to sell stronger beer. Currently, those cereal malt beverage vendors are capped at selling 3.2 beer, but the bill would allow the sale of beer with 4 percent alcohol by weight. The bill also would put Alcoholic Beverage Control in charge of cereal malt beverage vendors.

For proponents, the bill is about fairness. They say they need help overcoming a perception that 3.2 beers are inferior and argue they took a hit in business when the drinking age was raised to 21.

Brenda Ellsworth, owner of Pump’n Pete’s in Parsons, argued that liquor stores are able to profit from their advantage and charge higher prices for a product she said customers perceive to be superior. Raising the level to 4 percent would allow cereal malt beverage vendors to sell most major domestic brands at regular strength, just as they are sold in liquor stores.

“What customers want is competition, they want choice, and they want convenience,” she said.

Rep. Scott Schwab argued the bill was about allowing the free market to operate without constraints.

“As you listen today,” he said in testimony, “I ask you to consider the same question as our founding fathers: How can we free the marketplace and encourage free enterprise?”

Liquor store owners said it wouldn’t be fair to change the law. Owners argued that they were in a better position to ensure stronger beers were only sold to of-age customers since the law requires that their workers be 21 or older. Hiring workers who are 21 or older, they said, is just one requirement they face that they said cereal malt beverage vendors wouldn’t have to comply with.

Rodney Robson, who owns Jo’s Liquor Store in Caney, said convenience stores could sell beer at far lower rates that would drive an estimated 200 liquor stores out of business.

“Kansas cannot afford the loss of jobs, and we cannot afford to change the liquor laws that have withstood the test of time for years,” he said. “It is not time for change. It is time to realize that the regulated role of state-licensed liquor stores has value.”

Dance planned for Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday at Casa De Burritos. Gary Phipps will provide entertainment. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 855-2341.

Lions club feed Saturday

The Colby High Plains Lions Club is planning a ham and bean feed at Orscheln’s Farm and Home Store from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Donations will be accepted to help send two area band students to the State Lions Band Camp and Convention this summer. For information, call club secretary Sheryl Brenn at (785) 586-2384.

Archeology group plans meeting

The first 2010 quarterly meeting of the High Plains Archaeology Group, a chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association, will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at the

Prairie Museum of Art and History. Guest speaker will be Kathy Murray, an Apache who was raised on the Mescalero Reservation in New Mexico. For information, call (785) 462-0933 or (785) 460-6653.

Commodities distribution here

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Any eligible person can get these commodities, which will include peanut butter, corn flakes, vegetable mix, apricots, instant milk, orange juice and cherries. They will be distributed according to income guidelines on a first-come, first-served basis. For information, call the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office at 462-6744.

Flu clinic Tuesday

The Thomas County Health Department will hold an H1N1 flu clinic from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at

the department’s office, 350 S. Range. The vaccine is available to all residents. This is a walk-in clinic and no appointment is necessary and there will be no charge. For information, call the flu line at 460-4599 or the office at 460-4596.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible by an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Service group to serve soup

Kappa Upsilon, a service organization, will hold a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby

Community Building during the Colby-Garden City basketball game. There will be chili, chicken noodle and vegetable beef soups with cinnamon rolls, cookies and vegetables. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Puddle Duck preschool. For information, call Amy Jennings 460-2603.

Low income tax help at library

The AARP will have a tax help seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. every Thursday until April 15 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The seminar is designed to help low- and middle-income people with special emphasis on those age 60 or older. For more information, call Alvin Volk at (785) 460-2645.



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 8 9 8 3

Weather
Corner



National Weather Service
Tonight: Patchy freezing fog after 2 a.m. Increasing clouds, with a low around 20. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Saturday: Patchy freezing fog before 9 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Slight chance of snow before 9 p.m., then areas of freezing drizzle. Areas of freezing fog after 9 p.m. Mostly cloudy, low around 22. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 10 percent.
Sunday: A chance of snow and freezing drizzle, mainly after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 33. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.
Sunday Night: Snow likely. Cloudy and blustery, with a low around 16. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.
Monday: A 40 percent chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 20.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 5.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 27.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 10.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 35.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 13.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37.

Thursday: High, 35; Low 24
Precip: Thursday Trace
Month: 0.06 inches
Year: 0.55 inches
Normal: 0.52 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Saturday 7:46 a.m. 6:11 p.m.
Sunday 7:45 a.m. 6:12 p.m.
Monday 7:44 a.m. 6:13 p.m.
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Reunion to include
biking and basketball

From “REUNION,” Page 1

avoid a late registration fee. The committee said they are expecting 2,500 out-of-town registrations. For those preferring to not register, there will be an admission fee at the door of the various activities. A fund has been established at the Thomas County Community Foundation for funding future alumni reunions. Donations are being accepted. “If we can work off an endowed

fund in the future, it means we’ll have available money for promotions, stamps, printing and all the other costs associated with hosting a reunion every five years,” Tubbs said. A packet stuffing session will be held at 7 p.m. in the high school commons area on Wednesday evening, June 17, and organizers are looking for volunteers. Registration questions can be directed to Amanda Wahlmeier at awahlmeier@yahoo.com.

Ag agencies to offer
electronic verification

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Internal Revenue Service will be offering an electronic information exchange process for verifying compliance with the adjusted income provisions in Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service programs. The process will ensure that payments are not issued to producers whose adjusted gross income exceeds certain limits. The limits set in the 2008 farm bill are \$500,000 nonfarm average for commodity and disaster programs; \$750,000 farm average for direct payments; and \$1 million nonfarm average for conservation programs. The department and the IRS are cooperating to reduce fraud in farm programs and streamline payment limits for family farmers. The move is also intended to strengthen the integrity of the department’s farm safety net programs and help the agricultural industry meet requirements included in the 2008 farm bill. The electronic process reviews data from tax returns, performs a series of calculations, and compares these values to the income limitations. The Natural Resource Conservation Services will receive a record that indicates whether or not the program participant appears to meet the income limits. Written consent is required from each producer or payment

recipient. No actual tax data will be included in the report IRS sends to the department. As a part of the process, participants whose average gross income may exceed the limits will be offered an opportunity to provide third-party verification or other information to validate their income. Meanwhile, beginning with the 2010 program year, the department has amended the rules that govern the requirements to be “actively engaged” in farming. The rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter Cyclical program or the Average Crop Revenue Election program. The department implemented the changes to permit certain operations, most often family run operations, to meet the “actively engaged” requirements under less restrictive rules. Every stockholder or member of a corporation does not have to contribute labor or management if both of the following apply • At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or management that together makes a significant contribution to the farming operation. • The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members does not exceed \$40,000.

Fancy a game of oversized chess?



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College
Colby Community College students Chris Crocker and Brent Arnerberger played a game of chess using the new large chess set in the H.F. Davis Library. Instructor Lowell Coon is organizing a chess club at the college. The library has several smaller chess sets available for loan. Coon will be working with the chess club to schedule tournaments. Instruction will be offered for beginners who want to learn the game. For information, contact Coon at 460-5422.

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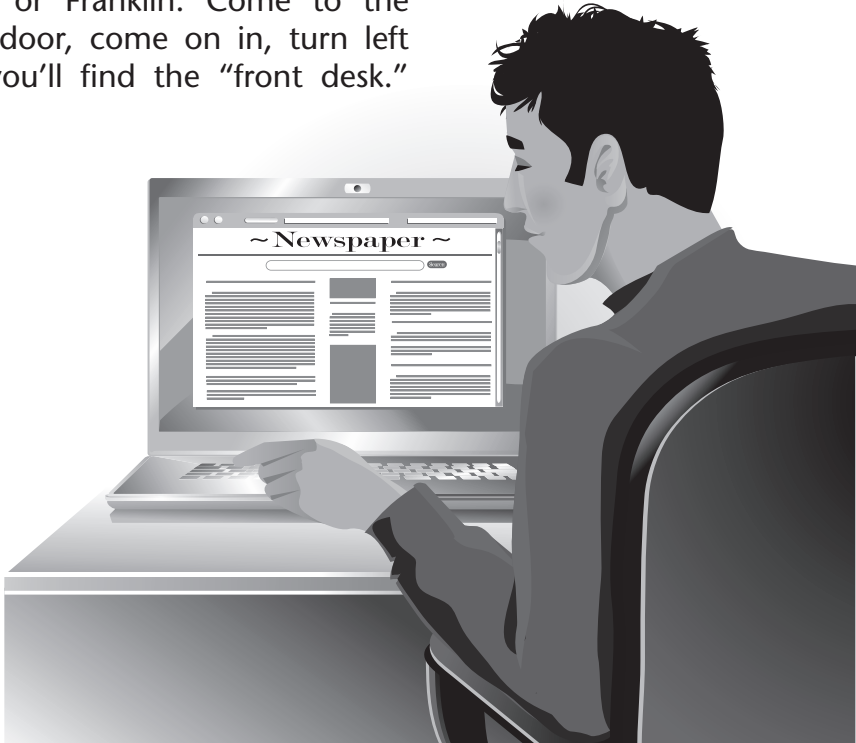
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Monday Evening										February 8, 2010	
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
KAKE/ABC	Bachelor-Love				Castle		Local	Nightline	Jimmy Kimmel Live		
KBSL/CBS	How I Met	Purpose	Two Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami		Local	Late Show Letterman	Late		
KSNK/NBC	Chuck		Heroes		The Jay Leno Show		Local	Tonight Show	Late		
KSAS/FOX	House		24		Local						
Cable Channels											
A & E	Intervention		Intervention		Hoarders		Paranorma	Paranorma	Intervention		
AMC	The Bodyguard							Never Been Kissed			
ANIM	Animal Cops Miami		Pit Boss		Pit Boss			Pit Boss		Pit Boss	
BRAVO	Kell on Earth		Kell on Earth		Kell on Earth			Kell on Earth		Shear Genius	
CMT	Smarter	Smarter	Grumpier Old Men					Grumpier Old Men			
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360					Larry King Live	
COMEDY	RENO 911!	RENO 911!	Futurama	Futurama	Goode	South Pk	Daily	Colbert	Tosh.0	Martin	
DISC	MythBusters		Howe & Howe Tech		Motor City Motors		MythBusters		Howe & Howe Tech		
DISN	Princess Diaries 2				Phineas	Montana	Wizards	Deck	Suite	So Raven	
E!	E! Special		E! Special		Bank of Hollywood		Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Special	
ESPN	College Basketball		College Basketball				SportsCenter		NFL Live	Final	
ESPN2	Wm. Basketball		Wm. Basketball				Homecoming		SportsNation		
FAM	Secret-Teen		Make It or Break It		Greek		The 700 Club		Make It or Break It		
FOOD	Good Eats		Good Eats	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diners	Diners	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	
FX	Armageddon				Damages		Damages		'70s Show	'70s Show	
HGTV	Property	Property	House	My First		For Rent	Estate	My First	House	My First	
HIST	Pawn	Pawn	American Pickers	Pawn	Pawn		American Pickers	Pawn	Pawn		
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		The Secret Lives				Will	Will	Frasier	Medium	
MTV	MTV Special		MTV Special		MTV Special		MTV Special		MTV Special		
NICK	G. Martin	Malcolm	Chris	Chris	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	
SCI	Ghost Whisperer		Ghost Whisperer		Ghost Whisperer		Monster	Monster	Darkness	Darkness	
SPIKE	Money Train				CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn	Real Vice	
TBS	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Lopez Tonight		Name Earl	Name Earl	
TCM	A Thousand Clowns				Julia				Sophies		
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Ultimate Cake Off		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	
TNT	NBA Basketball				NBA Basketball						
TOON	Ed, Edd	Ed, Edd	Tn-Titans	Tn-Titans	King-Hill	King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Chicken	Aqua Teen	
TRAV	Brown-Vancouver		Bourdain		Bourdain		Bourdain		Brown-Vancouver		
TV LAND	Griffith	Griffith	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	
USA	NCIS		WWE Monday Night RAW				White Collar		Psych		
VH1	Celebrity Rehab		Celebrity Fit Club		Pep		Celebrity Fit Club			Pep	
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		WGN News at Nine		Scrubs	Scrubs	S. Park	S. Park	
Premium Channels											
HBO	24/7	The Black	Forget Sarah				Ali				
MAX	Get Smart				Dragonball: Evolution			Life on Top 03: Kiss and Tell			
SHOW	Meet the Browns		Nurse	US Tara	Call Girl	Tracey UI	La La	Call Girl	La La	Tracey UI	

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- Because of the flooding, we are working in the back room. The front door is open, but Fifth Street is closed. Parking is available on Chick or Franklin. Come to the front door, come on in, turn left and you'll find the "front desk."
- As always, customers are our priority at the Colby Free Press. We're here to serve you. Please pardon our mess.



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