



8 pages

75¢

Thursday

April 14, 2011
Volume 122, Number 59
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Facebook threat prompts lockdowns

By Kevin Bottrell
Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Colby Community College was evacuated and locked down this morning after officials learned of threats posted on a former student's Facebook page.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the student, Jamie Adams of McDonald in Rawlins County, had been removed from campus on Wednesday, and the Facebook threats – against himself and others – were discovered this morning.

Jamie Lee Adams, 20, McDonald, was booked into the Thomas County Jail

about 8:35 a.m., records at the sheriff's office indicated. He was charged with disorderly conduct by Colby police. Adams, described as 5 feet, 11 inches tall, 200 pounds, with blue eyes and brown hair, was released at 10 p.m. Wednesday with a notice to appear in court.

His booking sheet said he was released to a parent or guardian.

College officials said they received a call from a third party informing them of the threats early this morning, Chief Jones said, and administrators called the police and sheriff's office around 8 a.m.

"There is an ongoing investigation with regards to this student," Jones said today.

"He has been withdrawn from classes as of yesterday."

The college's Emergency Response Team – which includes Debbie Schwanke, public information director, administrators and other key staff – met in the morning and decided to close the campus at 10 a.m. Classes were cancelled for the day and the staff and students told to leave. The dorms were not evacuated, Schwanke said, but they were locked down and students told to stay put. Schwanke said the college took the students box lunches.

"We want to be as cautious as we can," she said.

The college was posting information

on its website. At noon, an entry said the campus was fully secured by about 11:30 a.m. By late morning, the campus was quiet and mostly deserted. No police cars were visible.

Colby Public Schools were put on a "modified lockdown," officials said in a "reverse 911" notice sent to parents as text messages or e-mails. Outside doors were locked, with employees station to monitor them, but students were not restricted to classrooms.

Colby High School had no regular classes today, since it was the site for the State Large-Group Music Festival. The festival went on as scheduled.

Schwanke said student events today and tonight at the college have been cancelled, including the Spring Formal and a discussion group on last week's Max Pickerill Lecture.

About noon, a notice was posted saying "the situation on campus has stabilized." It said classes and activities will resume Friday, with the campus to remain "on heightened awareness."

The response team continued to meet throughout the day. Schwanke said the college's website, www.colbycc.edu, will be updated with more details. The college set up a phone bank at 462-3984 to answer questions.

Area Tea Party to meet on Saturday in Goodland

The third annual Tea Party will take place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Gulick Park in Goodland, and all citizens are welcome to come participate, said organizer Ken Klemm, a Sherman County rancher and businessman.

"The Tea Party will be held for citizens who are disgusted with government's free-spending, irresponsible, unconstitutional and heavy-handed ways," Klemm said. "These Tea Parties have become a nationwide phenomenon and provide a forum for peaceful, law-abiding citizens to express

their concern, and even rage, with our government's free-spending habits."

He said, people are encouraged to bring their signs and show Washington officials just how out of touch they are with what he called Real America.

Rep. Rick Billinger, a Goodland Republican recently chosen to replace the late Rep. Jim Morrison, will speak.

Our state is now in the depths of grave economic

See "TEA PARTY," Page 3

Waiting their turn



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Colby High School staff had snacks available for the band and choir students awaiting their turn to perform at today's State Large Group Music Festival at the high school. Classes were cancelled today to make room for the festival, which lasted all day.

Bank plans 'celebrity' dinner to help Colby student athletes

Support the Colby High athletic teams and get served by local "celebrities" at the Celebrity Waiter Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 26, at the Colby United Methodist Church.

Farmers and Merchants Bank is sponsoring the meal, which gives people the choice of beef or chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes.

"Celebrity" waiters include parents of athletes and other community members such as Brent and Sherrie Wiedeman, Sacha Sanguinetti, Chad Jones, Sean and Brette Hankin, Darvin and Tammi Strutt,

Lou and Audrey Hines, Luke and Jada Tubbs, C.W. Cheney and Jason Mader, Melinda Cheney and Tiffany Mader, Mike Wiens and Mark Winger, Eric and Amanda Griggs.

The cost is \$10 per plate and money raised goes to the Colby High athletic department.

Ashley Mosier, one of the organizers, said that with budget cuts looming over the Colby schools, the bank wanted to do something that would let people support Colby High's athletics programs.

"We're doing this to benefit them, not us," she said.

Anyone who plans to attend should make a reservation to the Chamber of Commerce office at 460-3401 by Friday, April 22. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Mosier said the Colby Public Schools music students will entertain. The musicians will be set up in the chapel so people can go listen after they're done with dinner.

Mosier said the dinner is a come-and-go event, rather than a more formal sit-down meal. Diners can come any time and leave whenever they're ready.



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Couples arrive in style at the prom

Brittany Tuma (above) and her brother Mitchell paused for the cameras outside the Colby High School prom on Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center. Some students arrived in unusual transportation, including horses, stretch sport-utility vehicles or cars from the 1920s, such as the one that Kenzie Curry and Connor Kriss (right) rode in.



Briefly

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has an 8-month old neutered male lab mix and a 2-year-old male Jack Russell terrier 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.

Treasurer's office to close

The Thomas County Treasurer's office will close for staff training from noon to 1 p.m. today and Friday. For information, call the treasurer at 460-4520.

Two groups plan egg hunts

The Colby Kiwanis Club will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fike Park. Kids 3 and under start at 10 a.m., 4 to 6 at 10:10 and 7

to 9 at 10:20. For information, call Sean Hankin at 460-4454. The Colby Care Center will have a hunt for kids of all ages at 2 p.m. that afternoon. Call the center at 462-6721.

Boating safety class Saturday

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold boating and water safety seminars and free boat-safety inspections from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the Colby Walmart parking lot. For information, call Wildlife Officer Michael McGinnis at 462-7602.

Walking trails focus of sessions

Meetings on a walking trail plan for Colby will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin, and from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The plan is a joint effort of the Thomas County Coalition, the Wellness Committee, the Multipurpose

Activity Center and the city. Refreshments will be available and you might win a door prize. For information, call Karen Merryman at 460-8177.

Sale, donations to help family

The Brewster community plans a bake sale and fund raiser for Vernon and Sally Patton from 7:30 a.m. to noon (Central Time) Saturday at the Brewster Frontier Ag elevator office on South Kansas Ave. Donations of food and cash, as well as shoppers, are needed to help the family with medical bills. For information, call Lila Mayer at (785) 694-2715.

Girl Scouts collecting old flags

The Colby Girl Scouts will have a collection box in the lobby of the Pioneer Memorial Library through Saturday for their annual flag disposal drive. They remind everyone that U.S. flags should be properly disposed of if they're dirty, no longer rect-

angular, faded or in general disrepair. For information, call Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer at (785) 443-2479.

Rexford church offers missions

The Rexford Community Church will hold its annual Missions Conference from Friday to Sunday. Activities include a youth-group pizza party at 6:30 p.m. Friday; breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday and a supper at 6:30 p.m. for everyone; and a combined Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., and a fellowship dinner to follow. For information, call the church at (785) 687-3305.

