



Late hours at new pool will remain

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Despite lower attendance in the evenings, the Colby City Council voted to keep the new Aquatic Center open until 9 p.m.

Pool manager Brent Brooks told the council that numbers some evenings do not justify keeping a full staff on duty and that the city is losing money by staying open late. Evening ball games keep families busy, he said, and the upcoming county fair will draw off more people.

Brooks told the council that the pool has been running with reduced staff at night when there are fewer people, but still requires at least 12 lifeguards on duty to be able to see all of the water areas.

The pool's current public hours

are 1 to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday and 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Brooks proposed changing the hours to 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 to 9 p.m. Friday.

Council President Dave Voss said he thought it was too early to start adjusting the pool hours. Councilman Mike Hake said the city should find ways to get people to the pool during those late hours, rather than close it.

"If you're not open, they're not going to come for sure," he said.

Councilman Tim Hutfles said the original plan had been to distribute brochures to hotels and other businesses so that the travelers on the Interstate who stay in Colby will be attracted to the water park.

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Area 'ham' club plans big display

Colby and area "hams" will join with thousands of amateur radio operators across the nation who will be practicing their emergency capabilities this weekend.

Saturday and Sunday, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with Colby ham radio operators at the Shalz Field terminal north of town and see for themselves what the amateur radio service is about. Showing the newest digital capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the country will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

"Field Day is a means to hone our skills," said Bob McLemore, president of the Trojan Amateur Radio Club (call sign WY0I), "but really we look forward to a week-

end together enjoying our hobby, and competing with other clubs."

Participants accumulate points by exchanging information with other North American clubs. Bonus points can be garnered for such things as using solar power, using ham satellites for contacts and arranging media coverage.

"Last year we broke the 1,000-contact barrier for the first time in five years" said Nathan Rietschke (KCOGLA). "We ranked 84th out of 424 stations in the most popular two transmitter entry category, which was the best Kansas 2A score. Among all categories, we finished 3rd of 25 in Kansas."

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio

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Senate panel holds judge's nomination

TOPEKA (AP) — The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has delayed a vote again on former Kansas Attorney General Steve Six's nomination to a federal appeals court.

Six's nomination to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Denver, was on the committee's agenda Thursday. But the chairman, Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy, announced it was being held over because some committee members want more discussion.

Anti-abortion groups hope to derail the nomination of Six, a Democrat, over how criminal cases involving abortion providers were handled while he was attorney general.

Kansas' two senators, Republicans Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, have announced their opposition to his confirmation.

He was appointed attorney general in January 2008 after his predecessor resigned over a sex scandal. Six lost a race last year to keep the office.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



Relay cut off by lightning after 10 p.m.

Even though this year's Relay for Life cancer benefit was cut short Friday night by a thunderstorm, organizers were able to get in the opening ceremonies, which included a survivor's lap (above) and the main ceremony. Cancer survivors such as Gary Sloan (left photo, from left), Maradith Molstad and Dave Evert went around the track at Dennen Field and released balloons at the halfway point. Next came a team lap (below) and a silent auction. The all-night event was called off when the storm moved in about 10 p.m. Ann Miner, one of the organizers, said the relay raised more than \$14,000 for cancer research.



Briefly

Harvest matchmaker on duty

Roger Hale will be available again this year — at no charge — to help farmers and custom harvesters get together. His office is at Truck Town, 105 W. Horton. For information, call him at (785) 269-7712 or 460-8785.

Museum puts up student art

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is exhibiting artwork created by Thomas County students through the end of the month. The free exhibit includes work by students from Colby High, Middle and Grade schools, Brewster High School, Heartland Christian School and Sacred Heart School. For information, call Programming and Education Director Ann Miner at 460-4590.

College pool open for summer

The Colby Community College swimming pool

has reopened for the summer. Hours are 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday for lap swimming, and 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for open swim. The pool is available for group parties. For information, call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476.

Center giving away materials

The Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center has videos, brochures and other materials on subjects like parenting, substance abuse and neglect prevention available at its office at 140 W. Fourth St. The center will close next Thursday and is giving away its materials. For information, call at 460-8177.

College offers exercise class

Colby Community College is offering two sessions of a water exercise class through Thursday, July 28,

in the college pool. The first session is from 7 to 7:55 a.m. and the second from 8 to 8:55 a.m. Classes are taught by Lesley Wagoner. For information, contact Penny Cline at 460-5404 or penny.cline@colbycc.edu.

Club needs money for fireworks

The Colby Kiwanis Club is accepting donations to help pay for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display. Kiwanis member Rick Dickman said contributions are appreciated, since costs go up each year. To donate, send a check to Kiwanis Club, Box 501, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Church plans social Saturday

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will have a branch social at 6 p.m. Saturday at Andy Rose's house at 11 Cottonwood Drive. Hamburgers

and hot dogs will be provided. Bring a salad or a dessert to share and a lawn chair. For information, call 460-6807.

Picnic in Park is Wednesday

Picnic in the Park begins at noon on Wednesdays at Fike Park. The entertainment for Wednesday will be Shannon Myers. The event is sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press. In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX/KRDQ. For information, call the chamber at 460-3401.

