

Welcome home alumni!



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Motels filling up fast for Colby's reunion

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Colby's expecting a full house for the All-School reunion this weekend. The motels are almost completely booked. If not, they will be, was the opinion of most motel operators.

Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, doesn't know how many people are coming into town for the reunion but 1,250 welcome packets were put into the reunion packets. She said the community has 517 motel rooms.

Thomas added the event will have a "huge economic impact" on the community.

She said she even hopes coming back to town will help people consider moving back.

Sharon Bieker, one of the event organizers, said they already have about 900 people registered for the reunion and expect between 1,000-1,200 actual graduates in town.

The Comfort Inn will be one of the busiest places in town this weekend, with its 77 rooms already spoken for.

"We've been booked up quite some time," said Margaret Ellis, front desk clerk. "There are no rooms for the next three nights."

She said they've had reservations booked for several months.

Ellis said it's "rare" to be booked that far in advance but considering it's the All-School Reunion, it isn't that unusual.

"We're going to have a couple hundred people," she said.

Irvin Dinkel, front desk clerk at the Quality Inn, said they already have 46 reservations, which takes up more than half of their rooms. People have already started to ar-

rive and they expect a "huge crowd" this weekend.

"We'll probably be pretty busy," Dinkel said.

Super 8 Motel assistant manager Magnum Shea said many of the motel's 62 rooms are already taken. He said things have been so busy they had to block reservations from the Web site and toll-free line two weeks ago to insure there are a couple of rooms each night this weekend for travelers.

The other hotels in town haven't gotten as many reservations but are gearing up for a hectic weekend.

Budget Inn manager James Toms said they don't know what to expect yet but have had many calls. He said most of the motels near the interstate are already full or will be but the Budget Inn will probably get booked up as more people come to town. Country Club Motel also isn't booked solid yet but co-owner Scott Crawford who owns the motel with his wife Jeanne, said they're expecting a "jam-up" weekend.

The motel has 22 rooms plus a three-room, two-bathroom mobile home he called "the nicest room in town."

They have a few guests already registered for the reunion weekend.

"We're in pretty good shape," Crawford said, adding they've had a busier year than usual.

Days Inn front desk clerk Niki Spresser said they're also full so far with reservations. The motel's 45 rooms are mostly booked and she said they are expecting many people. Sara Scammehorn, front desk clerk at the Holiday Inn Express, said they've had quite a few people already booking but didn't know how many of the place's 72 rooms were already taken.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Registration packets for the All-School Reunion were stuffed assembly-line style at the Colby High School Commons Area earlier

Motel 6 front desk clerk Shirley Cranston said they also have quite a few, but aren't full yet. Best Western Crown Motel isn't full yet but Larry Chambers, who works at the

this week. More than 1,000 Colby graduates are expected for the event, said Sharon Bieker, one of the organizers.

already check in for the reunion and are expecting more. They have 50 hook-up sites so there will be plenty of room for anyone with a travel trailer. Bourquin said they've

added staff at the restaurant for the weekend in anticipation of extra patrons. They've also extended their hours to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

No nod for Sunday liquor sales in Colby

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Colby City Council members showed they were not interested in approving packaged liquor sales on Sunday when a motion failed to materialize at a recent meeting.

The issue of Sunday sales, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, is before a lot of communities in Kansas and some have tabled the matter for now.

However, in Colby, where there is a local Dillons Store, the manager, Tom Chain, wrote a letter to

the council asking them to consider passing the ordinance for Sunday sales of cereal malt beverages from noon until 8 p.m.

Armstrong said that most if not all municipalities in Kansas that have a Dillons store were sent similar requests for approval.

By not doing anything, Colby will continue to remain status quo with no packaged sales on Sunday. Councilman Ken Bieber, who owns a drinking establishment, excused himself from the entire discussion. This recent legislation was the

Kansas Legislature's attempt to make the Liquor Control Act more uniform, according to information provided by the city.

The most important part of this bill (SB 298) was in bringing about a "process" for cities and counties to allow for Sunday packaged cereal malt beverage and packaged liquor sales.

All municipalities are to have visited this issue on or before Nov. 15, 2005.

Since Colby is considered a "wet" city, there are alcohol li-

censes issued and liquor can be sold within the city and county.

However, those counties that are "dry," meaning no alcohol beverage of any kind is sold will become "wet" effective Feb. 15, 2006. Currently, Oakley is a dry county, said Armstrong.

All convenience store managers/owners and liquor store owners were sent a copy of the agenda prior to the meeting. However, no one spoke up one way or the other except through written correspondence from Dillons.

College students returning

By Deb Schwanke
Colby Free Press

Residents of Colby will notice a significant increase in activity beginning this weekend as Colby Community College students return to campus for the fall semester. The dorms will open on Sunday allowing students to get settled before orientation and final registration activities.

An all-student barbecue is planned for Sunday beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Union. New student orientation is set for Monday followed by final registration for all students on Tuesday.

Party in the Park, sponsored by the Colby Chamber, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday. Those wishing to have a booth should call Mary Ann Downing at the Chamber, 460-3401.

Classes begin on Wednesday.

Two hurt in I-70 accident

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

An accident on I-70 early Wednesday morning sent two men to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, the accident took place at 12:30 a.m. eight miles east of Colby on I-70.

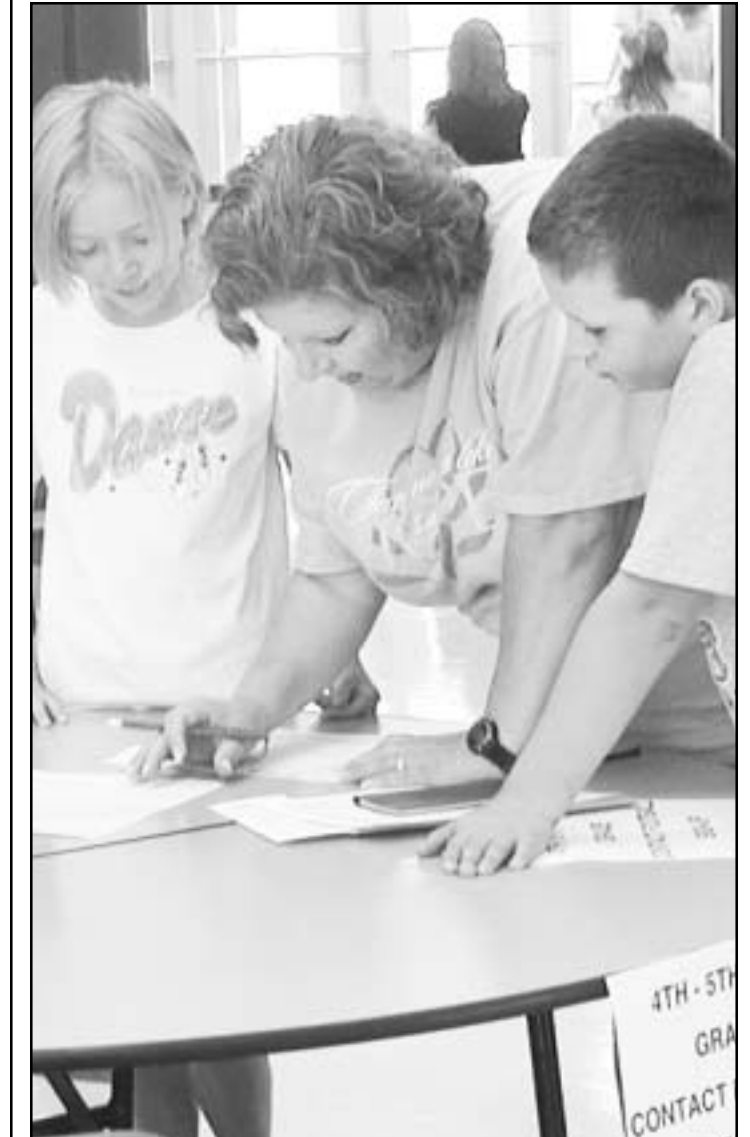
Corry J. Stout, 32, of Tooele, Utah, was driving a 2005 International semi truck pulling a trailer.

The truck left the roadway and entered the south ditch. Stout overcorrected and the truck rolled onto its passenger side.

Passenger Merrill Richard Snyder, 46, of Superior, Colo., was in the sleeper berth of the semi.

Both were taken to the Colby hospital. Jennifer Scott, vice president at the hospital, said both had their injuries treated in the emergency room and were released.

Getting ready



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kourtney Bredemeier, left, watched Nancy Rundel, center, look over football forms with her son Colton during school enrollment Tuesday at Colby High School. The first day of class for Colby students will be Thursday, Aug. 18.

All-School Reunion Schedule

Friday, Aug. 12
8 a.m. Tennis Tournament, Fike Park and Colby Community College
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration, refreshments and tours at Colby High School Commons
Noon Class party 1950 and before, Comfort Inn
10 a.m. to noon Reception for teachers and administrators, Colby High School Commons
2 p.m. High Flying Eagles reception, Prairie Museum of Art and History
7 p.m. Class parties and class pictures

Saturday, Aug. 13
9 a.m. Late registration, Colby Community Building
11 a.m. General Assembly, Colby Community Building
12:30 p.m. Eagle Picnic in the Park, Fike Park
2:30 p.m. Basketball HORSE tournament, basketball court at Fike Park
8 p.m. Non-dancers reception, Colby Country Club
9 p.m. Dance

Sunday, Aug. 14
 Various times, worship at the church of your choice

