



COLBY FREE PRESS

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College offers concealed weapons class

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

It's legal to carry a concealed handgun in Kansas. And Colby Community College is teaching interested people to learn the right way to handle a gun.

Barry Kaaz, director of community relations and institutional research, said the college is the facilitator for the course.

"The idea came from our new president, Dr. (Lynn) Kreider, who initiated it," Kaaz said. Kreider also helped initiate similar classes while in Louisiana.

The first one-day class was held Saturday at the college and the Colby law enforcement range east of town. Twenty-seven people took the class.

Kaaz said anyone wanting to apply for a concealed carry handgun license must take the one-day class and submit proof with their license application. However, he



B. Kaaz

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Barry Kaaz, facilitator

said the permits won't be distributed by the state attorney general's office until after Jan. 1, 2007. A Kansas law allowing concealed carry went into effect July 1.

The eight-hour class includes six hours of classroom instruction and two hours on the shooting range.

"It's a basic introductory course on use of deadly force," Kaaz said.

He explained people learn the considerations when using a weapon, how to handle the weapon safely and what can happen if they use deadly force.

"It makes the student pause and think about the results of what that type of action could be," Kaaz said.

It also touches on the financial aspects of what can happen. For example, just drawing a gun and not firing could result in a civil

suit.

He said people who want to apply for a concealed carry permit are obviously interested in the class, but so are others who want to learn about the requirements. Some people don't want to apply for a permit, but want to educate themselves about the laws and safety concerns of a weapon, just because they can.

The teachers aren't lawyers, he said, and to find out what the different laws are locally across the state and country, people should talk to a lawyer.

On the range, students learn safe handling methods and also how to use the handgun. The qualifications are also to shoot FBI target silhouettes from three, seven and 10 yards.

The class is taught by ProFire from Den-

ver, Colo., with the college organizing and providing a classroom for the course. Kaaz said eventually the goal will be to have the college's own instructors teaching the class, but will still use ProFire for the range portion. The class also offers Utah certification, which allows people to concealed carry in 28 other states. He said the only other place in Kansas to get the Utah certification is Kansas City.

The first session in Colby drew attendees from Topeka and Wichita as well as Colby, Atwood, Oberlin and Hoxie.

Two people who took the class weighed in on their experience. Ed McCart of Colby and Dave Foster and his wife Cheryl, both of Topeka, took the class.

They all plan to apply for a concealed carry permit.

Ed McCart, 65, had two reasons to take the class. The first was educational reasons; the second, for safety on fishing trips.

"It would be convenient, and help with safety. I really have a problem with snakes," he said. "Having the permit makes me feel more comfortable."

McCart said the class was beneficial.

"I thought they were very thorough," he said. "I didn't realize there was so much involved."

He said it was useful to learn the requirements for different states and localities, and how the concealed carry laws differ.

McCart also said he was "delighted" the course was offered in Colby. Dave Foster, 50, said they came to take the course here because the Utah certification is offered.

He said they want to apply for the permit to be legal, and to be able to carry in other states because they travel.

The Utah certification was their draw.

"That was the idea about coming to Colby," Foster said. He said he was unaware of anyplace else in the state offering it.

The class also made them stop to consider if they want to go through the process of actually applying for a permit.

Another session is planned for Saturday, Sept. 23. Kaaz said they have room for up to 32 students but the class is filling up fast.

Two more weekends are scheduled in October, which will be the last for the fall semester.

That 70s class



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School students Levi Schlick, left, and Ryan Baalman high-fived each other Wednesday at the school. The two were dressed up for retro day as part of the high school's

homecoming activities. The high school will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. Friday with the homecoming parade starting downtown at 2:30 p.m.

Many arrested in burglary cases

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

An investigation of a string of break-ins and thefts in Colby has resulted in multiple arrests.

Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn said Wednesday seven people were arrested this week as part of the investigation.

Baughn said, at 9:28 p.m. Saturday his office received a complaint of a burglary in the 2100 block of U.S. Highway 24 in Colby. A locked residence had been entered resulting in theft and damage to the property.

Baughn said Colby residents Michael J. Ackerman, 18; Martina L. Hernandez, 20; and Jose J. Valdez-Castell, 15, were arrested at 11:55 p.m. as suspects in the alleged break-in. The three were arrested for possession of stolen property and Baughn said additional charges

may be sought as a result of the alleged burglary.

An additional charge of possession of drug paraphernalia is being sought against Ackerman.

The sheriff's office was contacted at 2:44 p.m. Sunday about the alleged theft of a purse from the 600 block of West Eighth Street in Colby.

Baughn said charges in the case are being sought against Jacob D. Rogers, 22, of Colby. He said Rogers has been linked to the incident in the 2100 block of U.S. Highway 24. Charges of burglary, theft and criminal damage to property are being sought against him in that case. In an unrelated case, Baughn said Timothy E. Sutton, 18, and Kyle Hernandez, 17, both of Colby and Darcy A. Peterson, 24, of Ludell, were arrested for a theft in the 1300 block of First Street Annex in Colby.

Art series begins

The 36th season of the Western Plains Arts Association will open 3 p.m., Sunday, when Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians perform at the Hoxie High School.

Mary Akers, publicity with the arts association, said admission will be by WPAA season pass or at the door: \$15 for adults, \$8 for students.

On Monday, at 8:30 a.m. (Central Time) director Al Pierson will give a lecture/demo at the Quinter School. The band will play a wide

variety of music featuring the Big Band style of ballroom dance music which has earned them international acclaim since 1919.

This presentation is supported by Mid-America Arts Alliance with generous underwriting by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kansas Arts commission, and foundations, corporations and individuals throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.

Lions Club goes to the dogs

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Have a strong stomach and want to test your mettle? Then the inaugural High Plains Lions Club hot dog eating contest is the place to do it.

The event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Dillons parking lot.

Club member John Mead said the event has two purposes. The first is to have a fun event for the community and the second is to benefit a local 5-year-old who is blind.

The entry into the hot dog contest is free. There are two divisions — over 18 and under 18. The first place prize for both divisions will be a \$25 gift certificate. Contestants will have eight minutes to eat as many hot dogs within a bun as they can and international competition rules will be used.

"So far, there has been much interest generated in the contest. The college is interested in fielding a team or two, as are area churches," Mead said.



And this won't be the only year for the contest.

"We're going to do it every year and pick a good cause for it," Mead said. Next year, the Lions Club hopes to bring the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile or the Johnsonville Big Taste Grill.

Besides the hot dog eating contest, Dillons will provide bratwurst and barbecued ribs — along with the buns and hot dogs for the contest. Pepsi is providing its drinks.

In addition to the contest, the Lions Club will sell raffle tickets for a week-long stay at a time-share anywhere in the world, with proceeds benefiting the child.

First Baptist Church will bring remote-controlled cars for children to play with.

New Web site promotes give and take

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

Even though the yard sale season is coming to a close, people will still have an opportunity to rid of those unwanted items.

Amber Kersensbrock, 23, of Levant started a Freecycle Web site marketed toward western Kansas. People can give things away on the site and might like something somebody else has.

The Colby division, is an offshoot of the national Freecycle Web site started in 2003 in Tucson, Ariz.

"The only rule is that everything offered must be free and legal, as well as appropriate for all ages," Kersensbrock said.

Becoming a member is also simple. Anyone interested needs to have an account with Yahoo and answer a few simple questions. Once a member, the sky is the limit for giving items away, or posting items wanted.

"As the local volunteer," she said, "I moderate the forum to make sure everything is running smoothly."

For example, members can post



anything they want to get rid of such as old chairs, baby clothes, magazines, crafts and other items.

"There is no trading or selling allowed," she said, "but a member can request something they are looking for — maybe old lumber or other treasures."

As items are posted, other members who are wanting that particular item can then arrange with another member a time to pick the item up.

Kersensbrock said she was thinking about starting this site for a long time.

"When I first heard about Freecycle, I thought it would be a great resource for the Colby and Thomas County area and when I realized we had no group in the area, I decided I could start one myself."

Kersensbrock receives no benefit for coordinating the Web site, saying her motive for starting it was to offer a fun, easy and free location for people to recycle items.

Even though, the site was started primarily for Colby and Thomas County, Kersensbrock said it's open to anyone in the area.

The local group can be found by

going to: www.freecycle.org and clicking on your region or <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/colbyksfreecycle>.

Kersensbrock is also willing to assist someone with questions about the site.

As far as Kersensbrock knows, there are only a few places in Kansas with a Freecycle chapter.

"It's ready to go and I really hope this can take off and become an asset for people in the area," she said.

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