



Business shelter plan introduced

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

The Business Shelter Program is being introduced as one of the newest partnerships between the Thomas County American Red Cross and Thomas County Emergency Management and both organizations are looking for businesses wanting to participate.

"This program is designed to provide awareness and preparedness of sheltering options in the event of a disaster or emergency," said Jim Engel, director of emergency management and 911 on Thursday.

There is no cost for businesses interested in this program, he said. Each participating business; however, will be given a Civil Defense can with items to include a comfort kit, medical flip chart, shelter log, stuffed animals for children, and plenty of room to put in personal shelter preparations.

Businesses involved in the program will also receive a sticker to identify them as having an emergency shelter on the premises.

"These facilities will be offered on a space-available basis and, in some cases, restricted to normal business hours," Engel said.

In addition, there is no guarantee of personal safety for those people who use the facility and the public

is encouraged to make private arrangements for individual storm sheltering.



"Places of employment or a person's own church might offer a place of refuge during a severe storm," he said. Requirements for the program are few, but Engel did say that any business interested would need to have an approved ground shelter that could withstand tornadoes or an underground shelter, such as a basement, without windows.

"This is not only for tornado threats, it can also be used as a shelter-in-place location during a chemical/biological attack or a terrorist situation," he said.

Another suggestion Engel made was that businesses in the program obtain a weather radio to monitor conditions as well as other emergencies. Both the Red Cross and emergency management organization encourage business owners to participate in the shelter program and have their employees trained in CPR and first aid.

"It is a priority of Thomas County Emergency Management and the American Red Cross to save lives and educate people as to their options for their own safety," Engel said. For questions or to participate, call Engel at (785) 460-4516.

Homecoming spirit!



LEFT: Colby High School cheerleaders gathered around the Homecoming bonfire at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Thursday. The cheerleaders pumped up the crowd of students and community members during their pep rally. There was also a live

and silent auction for varsity and junior varsity jerseys. **RIGHT:** Shawn and Hayden Reinert watched the bonfire. The Homecoming football game starts tonight at 7 p.m. at Dennen Field with the Eagles taking on the Ness-Dighton Titans.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Health, wellness more than a career at high school

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Colby High School students are learning how to lead healthier lives while learning more about careers in the health and wellness fields at the same time.

Joni Clark-Leiker, counselor, said they're focusing on health and human services careers this year. "I pick one or two each year and concentrate on that," she said.

In the Colby School District, Clark-Leiker said, career activities start at the grade school. Student awareness starts with the fact they realize their parents have jobs. In middle school, they move to learning about what jobs are available and in high school, students have the chance to actually get hands-on experience.

Except this year the topic of En-

glish class or calculating steps into miles in math class.

"We're just getting started," she said.

They'll have advisor sessions once a month, involving the whole student body and in some way related to the topic, including guest speakers.

She is working with Tama Unger at Citizens Medical Center on that and possibly a volunteer program for teens at the hospital or nursing homes in the community.

She said they're exposing the subject to students in a fun way, allowing them to try out and experience different things.

Classes available like Health Occupations II, are allowing students to get hands-on experience. Students are doing rotations at Citizens Medical Center, giving them a



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School students watched Curtis Fulwider (middle) and Cole Garcia (right side) duke it out with dance steps during seminar Thursday.

chance to find out what they're interested in.

During freshman orientation and other activities before school

started, they had sessions that emphasized wellness, like school survival and wellness bowl. Students also had break out sessions where

they could find out more about starting clubs like walking, biking, archery and more.

From those, new activities stemming from two-day session are a Book Club, Walking Club, a Make-Take group and Dance Dance Revolution.

Clark-Leiker said teachers are the sponsors for the groups, but students set up the dance sessions twice a week during seminar.

She said that particular group is doing well because it's giving students a chance to have fun and get exercise at the same time.

As far as career counseling goes, she said they have a chart showing what high school classes students need if they want to pursue a health career, and they have the same information for all of the other 16 career clusters they use.

Clark-Leiker said it's also part of the school improvement plan, combining academics, employability skills and career awareness at the same time.

She said the overall effect is a more personal impact for students instead of just cut and dried career information, helping them make healthy choices and lead healthier lives.

Also, she said it's a chance for students to connect with the community, like with the wellness fair next year, Relay for Life, and walk/bike across Kansas.

The activities they've focused on are also lifelong pursuits.

"Most of those things they could do on their own without a team," Clark-Leiker said.

"We're trying to show that fitness can be throughout a life."

Deputy dies from gunshot wound

By **Jan Katz Ackerman**
Colby Free Press

Local law enforcement are mourning the death of one of their own today.

Authorities were called to the home of Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy Cory Wang, 23, where they found him dead of what is being called a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

According to Colby Police Department Detective Gary Shull, dispatchers were called at 12:40 a.m. this morning by Wang's roommate, Brent Mariman.

"When I arrived, the Thomas County Emergency Medical Service personnel had arrived just a minute before me," Shull said. "And Dr. Victor Hildyard, the county coroner, had arrived and his preliminary ruling, as far as I know is self-inflicted gunshot wound."

Shull said the Kansas Bureau of Investigation is assisting with

the investigation.

Wang had worked for the Thomas County Sheriff's Office since March, 2002.

According to Undersheriff Jason Moses, Wang had recently furthered his career by becoming a certified K-9 officer. His partner, Diego, is being cared for by the office's other K-9 handler, Marc Finley.

Sheriff Mike Baughn said his staff and deputies, along with those of the Colby Police Department, are grieved by Wang's death.

"It's one of those unforeseen tragedies that nobody can predict," Baughn said.

"Law enforcement is a very close-knit community and the loss of one is felt by many."

Baughn said Wang's young age makes it a tougher loss for those who knew him.

"Cory was a vibrant young man who recently certified in canine and he'll be greatly missed," Baughn

said. Effective today, Wang's badge number and radio number were permanently retired by the sheriff's office.

"I've issued an order retiring his badge number and radio number in Cory's honor," Baughn said.

Wang was a third-generation law enforcement officer.

"Cory's father, the late Roger Wang, was an officer with the Clay Center Police Department and later Undersheriff with the Clay County Sheriff's Office," Baughn said.

Wang's grandfather, Warren Wang, was a 1950s law enforcement officer in Manhattan, Baughn said.

Baughn believes Wang's mother, whose name he does not know, lives on the West Coast. He said Wang was raised by his grandparents, Larry and Arlis Steele, of rural Tribune.

Wang's funeral services will be conducted by Harrison Chapel, services are pending.



Deputy Cory Wang with his K-9 officer, Diego.

Brownback wants future judges opposing abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Sam Brownback voted Thursday in favor of Judge John Roberts to become the next chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court but said he wants to see future nominees more clearly oppose abortion rights.

"The next nominee should let the political branches make political choices and should have a record of devotion to life and liberty that our Constitution protects," the Kansas Republican said at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing.

The committee voted 13-5 to send the nomination to the full Senate, virtually assuring the conservative judge confirmation by the Senate next week. Five of the eight Democrats on the committee opposed Roberts.

Meanwhile, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., confirmed his intent to support the nomination when it comes before the full Senate.

"John Roberts possesses a bril-

liant legal mind and a thorough understanding of the law," Roberts said Thursday.

"His pragmatic approach to the application of our nation's laws resonates with Kansans."

Roberts' nomination to replace the late William H. Rehnquist has not provoked a major fight between Democrats and Republicans. But lawmakers are anticipating more heated debate once President Bush makes his choice to fill a second vacancy on the court, left by retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Brownback said he was satisfied that Roberts appreciates the limited role of federal judges and that he is committed to the "faithful interpretation of the Constitution as it was written." At hearings last week, Brownback asked Roberts if he considered a fetus "a person or a piece of property." The White House wants Roberts to be in place as the nation's 17th chief justice.

