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Fans, coaches enjoy Eagles' victory

By Andy Heintz

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At the Sports Shoppe on Saturday morning, everyone was still basking in the afterglow of the Colby High football team's dramatic comeback victory Friday night.

Players, coaches, and fans jammed into the store, at 400 N. Franklin Ave., at 9 a.m. on Saturday to attend the weekly

"Coffee with the Coaches" event. There was unbridled joy as everyone reminisced about their favorite moments from Friday night's game. Senior defensive end Treat Bugbe's 98-yard fumble return for a touchdown was the most popular topic.

After things settled down, Coach Chris Gardner gave a short talk about the game against Phillipsburg, praising his team's efforts. Then everyone settled down by the television to watch a tape of the game.

Donuts were available for everyone, and the Sports Shoppe provided coffee.

Later, Gardner says he believes in openness. He's not the kind of coach who only shares his opinion with a small group of people while insulating himself from the outside world.

That's why he started the weekly coffee event two years ago, during his first season as head coach here.

The event brings coaches and fans together at 9 a.m. every Saturday during

football season to discuss the last night's game. Fans are allowed to ask the coaches about how the game went. Anything goes, even if they question coaching decisions.

"They can ask me any question they want to," Gardner said, "and I'm going to answer them."

While the coach admits to being protective of his players, he said he believes in running an open program.

"I'm an open guy and my programs our open," Gardner said. "I want to make

communication available to people."

He said the Saturday-morning event is also a way to pay back the fans for their support of the football team.

"The community has been great," he said. "We want to give back to the community in any way we can."

Gardner said many of the fans who regularly attend have been coming since the tradition started two years ago. He said he enjoys talking to them about football, whether the team wins or loses.

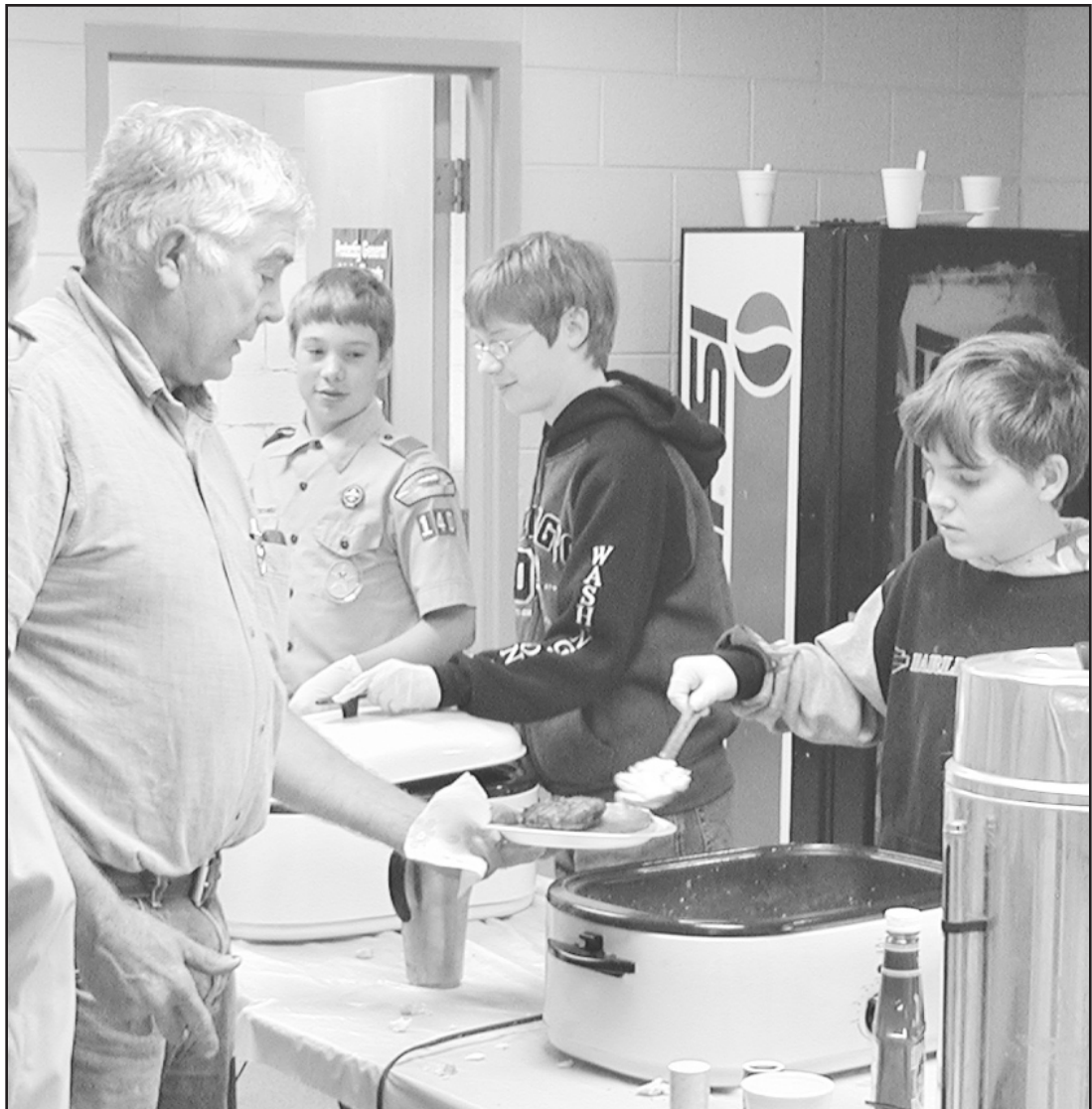


Fog, rain ground planes

The breakfast went on as planned, but the flying didn't at the ninth annual Colby Airport Fly-in Saturday morning. Terry Wendell (above) had been out to check his plane in the fog.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Colby Airport, the fly-in was expected to draw dozens of plane, as well as Eagle Med's King Air ambulance, a Highway Patrol helicopter, powered parachutes and tandem skydiving. However, heavy fog grounded all planes until after 11 a.m., disappointing many of the 214 people who came for the pancake-and-sausage breakfast served by Boy Scout Troop 140 (right).

Once the fog lifted and the sun came out, though, more than 50 people were able to enjoy plane rides donated by area pilots. Attendance was up from 190 last year, said airport manager Mark Ostmeyer.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Student callers look for dough

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Colby Community College's best and brightest will be calling on two October weekends, asking for money for scholarships during the annual Endowment Foundation Phonathon.

"It's one of the two main fund raisers for scholarships we do during the year," said Debbie Schwanke, public information director at the college.

The foundation was put together over three decades ago to help raise money so the college can offer scholarships to students interested in attending classes here, officials say.

"We want to give them an opportunity to come if they want to," said foundation Director Nick Wells, adding that the group raised about \$50,000 last year.

Wells said this year, the foundation hopes to exceed that number. Students will be calling from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19, 20 and 21, and Oct. 26, 27 and 28.

The Phonathon brings together about 50 or 60 Presidential Scholars, college Student Ambassadors, members of the Student Senate and student representatives from clubs and organizations. They will try to solicit donations from about 12,000 alumni and friends of the college over two weekends.

Wells said he hopes the money they raise will help increase attendance at the college, as did Schwanke.

"We need to grow our enrollment so we can get the best and brightest students to come to our

college," she said.

All calls are made at the back part of the student union, where fifteen phones are set up on tables. Schwanke said about 15 students work the phones each night of the Phonathon, making calls from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The students manning the phones introduce themselves to the caller and talk to them about the college, Schwanke said. She said there is no script.

The foundation sent letters out to alumni and friends this week, Wells said, so those who didn't want to be called could send donations in advance. He said the foundation will begin calling people in two weeks.

President Lynn Kreider talked in a release announcing how important the campaign is in regards to raising money to pay for scholarships this year.

"We have an increase in freshman enrollment numbers this semester," said Kreider. "The completion of the new 160-bed dormitory, the new programs, and the increasing competition to attract the best students to Colby Community College are all factors that contribute to the need for additional scholarships."

The college is starting three new programs this year, entrepreneurship, feedlot certification and therapeutic massage therapy.

"These programs are meant to attract students both inside and outside of the northwest Kansas area," Schwanke said.

Officials say more than half of Colby Community College students receive a scholarship and 80 percent of full-time students get some form of financial assistance.

World markets sink as credit crisis grows

NEW YORK (AP) — Financial markets around the world had a rocky start today after European governments moved to limit the damage from the growing global financial crisis. U.S. stocks appeared headed for a steep drop at the opening, and the credit markets remained under strain.

Investors are realizing the Bush administration's \$700 billion rescue plan won't work fast enough to unfreeze the credit markets, and that many banks still have diffi-

culties gaining access to cash.

Over the weekend, governments across Europe rushed to prop up failing banks. The German government and financial industry agreed on a \$68 billion bailout for commercial-property lender Hypo Real Estate Holding AG, while France's BNP Paribas agreed to acquire a 75 percent stake in Fortis' Belgium bank after a rescue failed. Germany, Ireland and Greece said they would guarantee bank deposits.

Briefly

Join food program this week

Prairie Land Food, formerly SHARE, is having signup for October delivery through next Monday at State Farm Insurance, 905 East Fourth St., Colby. Delivery will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Sacred Heart Catholic School gym. The cost is \$23.50 plus two hours of volunteer time. Meat only and fruit/vegetable-only packages are available. For information, call Gene Griffin (785) 460-3579.

Shelter dogs need homes

The Colby Animal Clinic has several kittens — said to be "really cute" — available for adoption and

two full-grown labs — one chocolate and possibly purebred, and one black and white. Both are very friendly and would make good pets. Call the clinic at (785) 460-8621 or stop by 810 E. Fourth and take home a new pet. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

College board sets meeting

The Colby Community College trustees plan a special meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the board room at Thomas Hall. In a notice to members and the press, Dr. Lynn Kreider, college president, said the topic would be "opportunities for the college."

Free screening offered for kids

Early childhood screening by professionals who know how children grow and learn will be offered Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church for

preschoolers in the Colby School District. Screeners will check how well the child talks, feels, learns, gets along with others and does things independently. For an appointment, call nurse Amy Huffles at Colby Elementary School, (875) 460-5111 or 460-5100.

Hunter education course starts

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Colby Recreation Department plan a hunter education class at the Colby Community Building from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and next Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday. Registration is at the Pirates Den, 1115 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. For questions, call the store at (785) 460-6631, Benny Young at (785) 462-7602, or Matt Bain at (785) 462 3367.

Single seniors plan potluck

A new group for those 50 and over who are wid-

owed, divorced, never married or have a partner in a nursing home is forming in Colby for fun and fellowship.

The second gathering of the group, More Fun Together, will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. next Monday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverages will be provided. The church is handicapped accessible; enter through the east door. For information or a ride, call (785) 462-6342.

Lutheran youth selling greens

The Trinity Lutheran Church youth are selling fresh greens, wreaths, sprays, garlands and trees for the holidays to arrive the week of Nov. 17. Orders placed by Monday, Oct. 27, also be shipped out of town or delivered here. To order, call Raenette Martin at (785) 462-3400 or Linda Pabst at 462-3497.

