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Area business earns international honors

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Earlier this year, Murray Roofing of Colby was admitted into Duro-Last Roofing System President's Club, an award that Assistant Manager Darren Rodgers described as very prestigious. The firm was admitted into the club at the 2009 Duro-Last National Sales Seminar in Daytona Beach, Fla. Duro-Last is an

international company that manufactures flat roofing systems.

Rodgers said companies first have to earn masters status and elite status before being admitted to the presidents club.

Jim Murray, owner of Murray Roofing, credited his employees for much of his firm's success.

"Without workers, we couldn't do anything," he said. "Our workers do a good job, and we have good office help".

Businesses must adapt and change,

Murray said, and any business that fails to adapt will no longer be in business.

"You have to be willing to take a risk and not worry about failure," he said. "When what you're doing isn't making you any money, you have to be willing to try something else, or you need to go look for a new job."

And after running his own businesses for 32 years, Murray may have some idea what needs to happen to keep a company running. He has been involved in

many different kinds of work over the years including selling motorcycles, hot tubs, landscaping and of course roofing, Rodgers said. Murray started his roofing company in Colby 17 years ago.

Rodgers said the atmosphere at the company is open.

"We have no secrets," he said.

Murray said there are pluses and minuses that come with having a business in a small town. On the plus side, he said, there isn't an excess of competition in

Colby, but on the minus side, there are not as many buildings as there would be in a bigger city. He said when there isn't much work available here in northwest Kansas, the company subcontracts with dealers in other areas. Over the years they have worked for dealers in several states, with future jobs coming up in Fort Worth and Cape Canaveral, Fla., among others. While his company can put up

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Red Cross drive swings into town

People of all shapes, sizes and, most importantly, blood types will get together on Wednesday for the American Red Cross Colby Blood Drive. The drive will be from noon to 6 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

This year, the Red Cross is getting into the swing of things with the "And the Beat Goes On," theme. Each donor will receive a music-inspired T-shirt, and the Red Cross is encouraging donors to bring their iPods and listen to their favorite tunes.

The Red Cross requires a complete medical history for donors. Anyone who wants to give blood must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. Kansas law allows 16-year-olds to give blood if they have a completed parental consent form. People suffering from certain chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure can donate blood, provided the condition is being treated.

According to the Red Cross, most types of medication do not interfere with blood donation, depending on whether or not the

condition being treated is under control. However, there are some medications that are prohibited by the Food and Drug Administration when giving blood. These include Accutane, Proscar, Propecia, Avodart, Soriatane, Tegison, some types of human growth hormones, some types of insulin and blood thinners.

People who have traveled outside of the United States are not allowed to donate blood within one year of traveling to an area where malaria is found. Additionally, the Red Cross requires donors to wait one year after traveling to Iraq. People who have lived in areas prone to mad cow disease are not eligible to donate.

The Red Cross also prohibits donations from people who have suffered from certain forms of cancer such as leukemia or lymphoma.

According to the Red Cross, summer time is often when blood donations are the most needed. For more information on eligibility and donation, visit the Red Cross web site at www.redcross.org or call 1-800-448-3543.



Trails West teaches about the old days

Students from Sacred Heart school had a "pioneer experience" Friday, when they journeyed to the country to find out what the "old days" were like. Their first stop was at the Clair Schrock horse facility on E. Highway 24 to observe how to prepare and attach shoes to a horse. Schrock "fired" the iron horse shoe before pounding and shaping it to fit the animal's foot. Next stop was Cumberland, 10 miles north of Gem, where the kids got out followed the Sappa Creek the seven miles to the Ryan farm. The Pioneers filed their homestead claim at the Oberlin land office and followed the creek to the new homestead. St. Patricks Catholic church was built along the trail, but the cemetery is still there. As one of the assignments, students have to research the Malone, Flemming and Ryan families genealogy to help trace the beginnings of the first Catholic church in the area. Students ate "buffalo" stew over the open fire made in cast iron cooking utensils, and roughed it for the three day, two night stay. Dave Evert, Sacred heart Principal said this is the 8th year he has taken students on the Trails West field trip.

VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Road department plans web site test

It won't be snowing this week, but the 511 Traveler Information Map (511.ksdot.org) may look like a blizzard is covering the state. The 511 Map will undergo a live simulation test beginning Tuesday (weather permitting), to test its ability to handle information requests when the entire state highway system has snow and ice conditions. During the test, all the highways on the map will display colors simulating snow and ice conditions. Kansas Department of Transportation staff will then use special software to bombard the site with thousands of information requests in a short time to identify the stress point at which the map's performance slows or stops.

The test is designed to help diagnose a problem that occurred during the snowstorm in March when the 511 Map stopped displaying snow and ice conditions during heavy use. If the test confirms the diagnosis, the department will install software to fix the problem

then run the test again to check the results. The work should be completed by Friday.

During the test, information about road work activities and incidents will be real but may not display as the stress point is approached. Users can turn off the snow and ice condition colors by un-checking "Roadway Weather Conditions" in the legend on the left side of the map. The real highway information will be available in the Road Conditions List and will be listed separately from the simulated snow and ice conditions.

While the 511 Map is being tested, travelers can get current road work activities, incidents and weather information (all unaffected by the test) by calling 5-1-1 from anywhere in Kansas or 1-866-511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. The department of transportation anticipates the highways to have normal, seasonal driving conditions during this time, which may include wet pavement.

Charity rides to blast through county

The roar of motorcycles will be heard along I-70 next week as two cross-country rides come through Thomas County heading east.

The first of the rides is the 15th Annual Kyle Petty Charity Ride coming through on Tuesday afternoon heading for Hays where the riders will spend the night.

The second is the 21st Annual Run For The Wall coming through from Burlington on Sunday morning about 9 a.m. on I-70.

More than 250 motorcycle enthusiasts will kick off the Kyle Petty Charity ride in Stevenson, Washington today and travel over 3,800

miles through Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina. Riders will break ground on the new Victory Junction in Kansas City and conclude the ride with campers and their families at Victory Junction in North Carolina.

NASCAR driver Kyle Petty combined his passion for helping others with his love of motorcycles to create the Chick-fil-A Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America. The annual trek raises funds for charities that support chronically ill children and engages celebrities, ride sponsors, motorcycle enthusiasts and

fans. Since 1995, more than 6,100 riders have logged 7.9 million cumulative motorcycle miles and donated more than \$12 million to children's charities.

The riders are expected to come through on I-70 on Tuesday afternoon and will be stopping overnight in Hays, including a special event at Doerflers' Harley-Davidson expected to start about 7:30.

Sunday morning the XXI Run for the Wall will leave Burlington about 8 a.m., headed to

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Briefly

Girls scouts to collect flags

Members of Troop 165 of the Colby Girl Scouts, led by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, are collecting old U.S. flags to conduct an honorable disposal. People can put worn flags in a box in the lobby of the Pioneer Public Library from now through Wednesday, May 20, she said. "Flags should be disposed of if they appear to be excessively dirty, faded, repaired to a point where they are no longer recognizable, or in general disrepair," she said. For information, call Ostmeyer at 460-3298.

College band concert Tuesday

The Colby Community College instrumental music department's Spring Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center, featuring the Concert Band and Jazz Band directed by Tony Schroer. Everyone is invited to this

free performance. For information, call Schroer at 460-5519.

Alliance forum Wednesday

Thomas County Economic Development Alliance will hold a public forum at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Little Theater at the Colby Community Building. The public is invited to bring ideas about future growth in Thomas County. For information, call Rick Patrick at 460-4511.

Planning meeting Thursday

The Local Emergency Planning Committee will be holding a meeting Thursday at noon at 360 N. Franklin. The committee will be training and the yearly table top exercise. For information, call 460-4516.

Friends plans enrollment here

Friends University will hold an open house at

Colby Community College, the All American room (105), in the Student Union from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14. This is a time to either enroll or ask questions about programs. In June, the Wichita school will begin a 13-month bachelor's completion program in organizational management and leadership, as well as a 24-month Master of Business Administration program. For information, call Danielle Murray, (620) 276-0435.

Last chance to see ceramics

A ceramics display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History will be open for a last-chance showing until artists have picked up their items. "Nontraditional" students who have been taking a ceramics class at Colby Community College have had their art on display for the past 30 days. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1

to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Ball league sign-up due soon

The deadline to sign up for all kids' summer ball leagues - T-ball, softball and baseball - is Wednesday. Registration for adult softball leagues is due by Friday, May 22, and swim lesson sign up is due by Wednesday, May 27. Girls summer-league basketball registration is due Wednesday, May 20. Players and parents should double check their information on summer activities to get kids and teams signed up on time, and to pay close attention to late registration policies. For questions, call the Colby Recreation Department at 460-4440.



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