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State expects first vaccine for swine flu

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The first doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine may arrive in Kansas as early as Monday or Tuesday.

Roderick Bremby, secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and the Environment, said in a Topeka press conference that Wednesday had been the first day states were able to order the new vaccine. It will take a few days for the order to be processed and shipped to each state.

The initial amount will be small, about 16,000 doses. Distribution is based on population.

"It's about one half of one percent of what we'll need," Bremby said.

The state will get new allocations of the vaccine every week, he said, adding that it will take until Christmas or New Years to meet the demand.

"This is just the first step in what is going to be a very long vaccination campaign," Bremby said.

The department will allocate doses to county health departments based on 2008 estimates of the population up to age 24. County departments will choose how to distribute the vaccine.

"It's going to be a locally determined matter," Bremby said.

Once the initial needs have been met, he said, the state will recalculate based on total population.

The first vaccine to be distributed will be what is called the live attenuated vaccine. It is a nasal spray designed for otherwise healthy people ages 2-49. Children under two will need two doses.

Dr. Jason Eberhart-Philips, medical director of the department, said the vaccine was developed by the same process as the seasonal flu vaccine, and may have similar

See "VACCINE," Page 3

Dead ostrich found out back

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With a major traffic corridor like I-70 going through town, the Colby Police Department has seen its fair share of strange things fall off a vehicle passing through.

But does anything prepare you for a dead ostrich?

Maintenance workers at Oasis Travel Center found the body of an ostrich, a large flightless bird, behind a storage container in the southeast corner of the parking lot on the morning of Sept. 23. They called police, who came out to

identify the animal.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the bird had probably been on a truck or a trailer passing through Colby on the Interstate. When the owners discovered the bird was dead, they apparently threw it out and went on their way. Jones said that while some people around here have raised emu, a similar bird, he did not know of any who raise ostriches.

Jones said his officers identified the bird, which did not have any tags or collar. Then they called the landowner, who had it taken to a rendering plant.

Air Force jazz band to perform in Colby

The Noteables jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Colby High School Auditorium, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

"We're excited to have them," said Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director for the association. She said the Heartland of American Band, a larger group also from Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, was here several years ago.

This concert is free and open to the public, but advance tickets are required. Send requests via self-addressed stamped envelope to Pat Ziegelmeier, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range, Colby, Kan., 67701.

This jazz ensemble presents music to inspire patriotism in audiences throughout the nation, from formal performances in grand auditoriums to casual concerts in the park.

The group's repertoire of specially tailored standards, contemporary favorites and Big Band classics is highlighted by instrumental and vocal solos.

"We hope you afford us the opportunity to share the messages of excellence, sacrifice, courage and commitment of our brave men and women... the deployed airmen of the United States Air Force," said the group's music director, Master Sgt. Steven C. Fitts.

For information, call Ziegelmeier at 460-5518.

Briefly

Hospital to break ground Friday

Citizens Medical Center will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for Phase 1 of the expansion to the main hospital building at 10 a.m. Friday. The expansion, on the northwest side, will include a new heating and air conditioning system and an enlarged physical therapy area. For information, call Tama Unger at 460-1214.

Free dance Friday for birthdays

There will be a free dance from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday at the Colby Community Building. There will be snacks and cake to help mark the birthdays of Gerald Plantz and Shirley Cranston. For information, call Plantz at 462-6250.

Dance team to give away ball

The Colby High Dance Team will be selling tick-

ets for a drawing at half time of the Homecoming game Friday to raise money for the girls' trip to the Liberty Bowl. The prize will be a football signed by the members of this year's team. For information, call coach Donita Rodgers at 462-1325.

Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for "Coffee with the Coaches" at 9 a.m. Saturday and every Saturday after home and away football games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

Students to give free massages

The Therapeutic Massage Department at Colby Community College plans public clinics on Wednesdays this month in Thomas Hall, room 402. Cu-

bicle massages are 30 minutes and chair massages 15, starting at 6:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Massages will focus on shoulders and back on Wednesday; neck, shoulders and chest on Oct. 14; feet on Oct. 21; and legs and feet on Oct. 28. Donations will be accepted. To make an appointment or for information, contact Director Debra Waites at (785) 460-5427 or e-mail debra.waites@colbycc.edu.

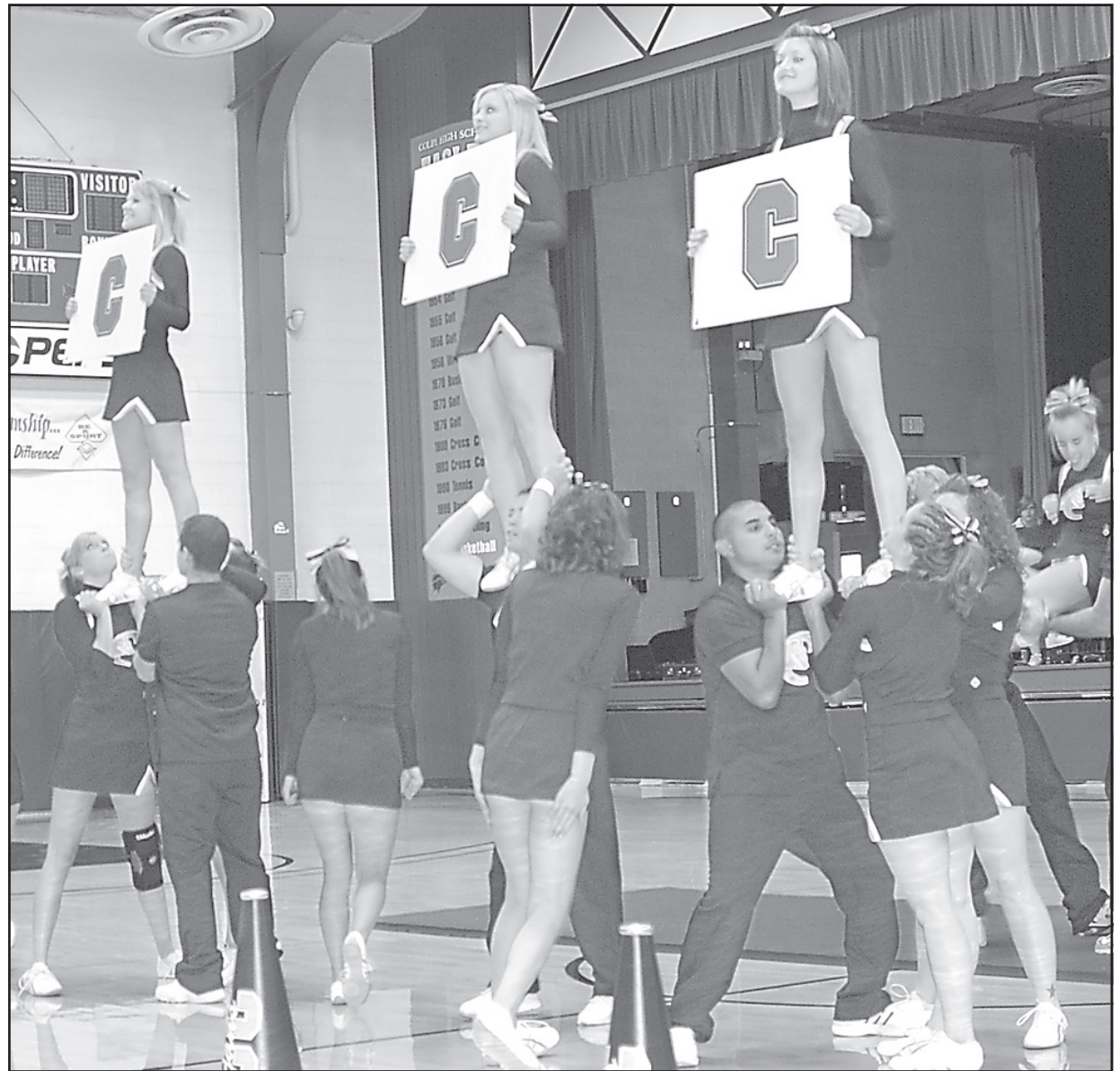
Foundation to meet Monday

The Thomas County Community Foundation will hold its annual meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday at the City Limits Convention Center. The speaker will be Michelle Cummings, founder of the Colorado-based Training Wheels, an organization that puts on community development talks and workshops. For information, call Executive Director

Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

Food offered at senior center

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodity distribution will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Any eligible person can get these commodities, which will include peanut butter, vegetable soup, canned chicken, juice, mixed fruit, egg mix and peanuts. They will be distributed according to income guidelines on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are asked to bring a sack or box. For information, call the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office at 462-6744.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

College kicks off fall sports seasons

The cheerleaders (above) got the crowd fired up during the Trojans Tip-off pep rally for Colby Community College athletic team's on Wednesday at the Community Building. Students, faculty and fans participated in games at the rally.

Basketball coach Dustin Pfeifer (right) spun around in circles with his head on a baseball bat during a race between Trojans' coaches. Sophomore Jordan Michelson (below) maneuvered

freshman Alecia Palm down the court wheelbarrow style during a race between several two-person teams made up of players from mens and womens basketball teams.

The college introduced fall and winter sports teams, as well as the cheerleading, equestrian and rodeo teams, and the pep band played. The rally was organized by the Student Senate with the help of supporters.

