



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

Friday

October 9, 2009

Volume 120, Number 158
Serving Thomas County since 1888

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Party helps kick off 125th anniversary

General George H. Thomas (above, from left), played by Colby Community College teacher Cal Mahn, was on hand Wednesday at the Prairie Museum to help committee president Mike Baughn kick off the Thomas County 125th Anniversary celebration. Wednesday's event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new granite pavers on the museum's front walkway and refreshments. It also saw the unveiling of the celebration's logo, created by Colby resident Pat Turrell (right), who said the design incorporates an old windmill and new wind turbines, signifying a return to the use of the land and its natural resources.



City Council gets a look at new pool plan

By Andy Heintz

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City officials unveiled a sketch of what Colby's new pool and water park would like if a sales tax increase is approved in a special election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at a City Council meeting Tuesday.

On election day, citizens will be asked whether they are willing to support an additional .75 of 1 percent retail sales tax in the city for 10 years beginning April 1 to pay off loans for the city's new fire station and a new pool.

The pool area would have a zero-depth entry (no steps or edge) for

the kiddie pool, a "lazy river" float area, a speed slide, a slide you go down in an inner tube, an obstacle course, an 82-by-45 foot pool with six swimming lanes, high and low diving boards and concrete buildings for storing equipment and to house a bathhouse and concession stands.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the park would have the capacity to hold 615 people.

Armstrong said Aquatic Design Consultants had told her the cost of this new pool was within the \$5 million budget, even with the costs of infrastructure, land and parking

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Federal offices closed for holiday

Monday is Columbus Day, and although the holiday is not one that sees a lot of business or local-government offices closing, there are a few things to note.

Banks will be closed. Federal offices, including all area post offices, will be closed and there will be no mail delivery. The state driver's license office is always closed on Mondays. Other state offices, including the Workforce Center and Social and Rehabilitation Services on Country Club Drive, will be open.

Colby Public Schools will have the day off for a teacher in-service

training day. The district also had today off for parent-teacher conferences. Colby Community College, as well as the Brewster and Golden Plains school, will have class as usual. There will be no classes at either Heartland Christian School or Sacred Heart School in Colby; both scheduled teacher work days.

Colby city offices will be open regular hours and trash pickup will be at its usual time. Thomas County offices and the landfill will also be open.

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President Obama surprised by early Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO (AP) — President Barack Obama won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday in a stunning decision designed to encourage his initiatives to reduce nuclear arms, ease tensions with the Muslim world and stress diplomacy and cooperation rather than unilateralism.

Many observers were shocked by the unexpected choice so early in the Obama presidency, which began less than two weeks before the Feb. 1 nomination deadline and has yet to yield concrete achievements in peacemaking.

Some around the world objected to the choice of Obama, who still oversees wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and has launched deadly counter-terror strikes in Pakistan and Somalia.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee countered that it was trying "to promote what he stands for and the positive processes that have started now." It lauded the change in global mood wrought by Obama's calls for peace and cooperation, and praised his pledges to reduce the world stock of nuclear arms, ease American conflicts with Muslim nations and strengthen the U.S. role in combating climate change.

The peace prize was created partly to encourage ongoing peace efforts but Obama's efforts are at far earlier stages than those of past winners. The Nobel committee acknowledged that they may not bear fruit at all.

"He got the prize because he has been able to change the international climate," chairman Thorb-

joern Jagland said. "Some people say, and I understand it, isn't it premature? Too early? Well, I'd say then that it could be too late to respond three years from now. It is now that we have the opportunity to respond — all of us."

The selection to some extent reflects a trans-Atlantic divergence on Obama. In Europe and much of the world he is lionized for bringing the United States closer to mainstream global thinking on issues like climate change and multilateralism. At home, the picture is more complicated. As president, Obama is often criticized as he attempts to carry out his agenda — drawing fire over a host of issues from government spending to health care to the conduct of the war in Afghanistan.

U.S. Republican Party Chairman Michael Steele contended that Obama won the prize as a result of his "star power" rather than meaningful accomplishments.

"The real question Americans are asking is, 'What has President Obama actually accomplished?'" Steele said.

Obama's election and foreign policy moves caused a dramatic improvement in the image of the U.S. around the world, however. A 25-nation poll of 27,000 people released in July by the Pew Global Attitudes Project found double-digit boosts to the percentage of people viewing the U.S. favorably in

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A shot in the arm



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

Colby Community College nursing student Lillie Haverfield of Monument gave Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy a seasonal flu shot on Wednesday at the Student Union. The nursing students also gave flu vaccine in Goodland last week and will be giving it at the Gove County Hospital in Quinter in November.

Briefly

City to drop clipping collection

Today was the last day Colby city sanitation crews will pick up grass clipping as a separate route this season. Jo Strange at the city office said as of Monday, people can start putting their clippings out with the regular trash. Separate collections will resume in the spring. For questions, call the Public Works office at 460-4420.

Flu vaccine supply spent

The Thomas County Health Department has run out of adult seasonal flu vaccine. There are still a few doses available for children 6 months to age 18, said Finance Administrator Kasiah Rothchild, but none for adults. The department expects its next shipment in November. For information, call the agency at 460-4596.

Soup, auction to help family

A benefit soup dinner and auction Saturday at TNT Auction will raise money for the family of Rusti Hopper, who died Sept. 8. The dinner will begin at 11:30, with the auction following at 1 p.m. The Bruce Bandy Barbershop Quartet, the Bugbee Sisters, Blake and Brandon McLemore and Tom Harrison will entertain. Items up for auction include a king-size quilt, a set of tires, bags of seed corn, a boy's bike and many others donated by area businesses and individuals. Friends say the family needs help with medical and funeral expenses. For information, call Sharon Woofert at 269-7180.

Kiwanis plans pancake feed

The Colby Kiwanis Club will hold a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 220 N. Lake Ave. Cost is \$4 per

person for all you can eat. Tickets are available from any Kiwanian. For information, call Kenton Krehbiel at 462-7904.

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 games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles' Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

125th planning group to meet

The Thomas County 125th Celebration planning group will hold its monthly meeting from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. The group will hear from the logo/theme, education, beads/bonnets and keepsakes committees and con-

tinuing planning events for the county's 125th anniversary next year. For information, call Mike Baughn at 674-2278, Terri Crampton at 462-3388 or Sheila Frahm at 462-6948.

Seniors plan potluck Monday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Monday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverage will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.



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