

How many can it hold?



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College
Colby Community College students crowded into the lazy river at the Colby Aquatic Center on Monday. The college worked out an agreement with the city to give the students free admission that night. Sixty-eight students took advantage of the free night.

Trip to Seattle offered with art experience class

There is still time to sign-up for the Colby Community College Fine Arts Experience class which includes a four-day trip to Seattle in October. Participants will travel by bus to Denver and then fly to Seattle on Thursday, Oct. 6. They will return to Colby on Sunday, Oct. 9. "The trip will include an architectural boat ride, a visit to the Space Needle, the Seattle Art Museum and several galleries," said art instructor Rebel Jay. "We will experience the Nordic culture of Seattle by visiting parks and dining at unique restaurants." The Fine Arts Experience class traveled to New

Mexico last year and Chicago in 2009. The trip will cost about \$400 for the tour plus tuition and fees. Participants may enroll in the class for one or three hours of college credit. "The \$400 pays for air fare and entrance to museums, etc.," Jay said. "The Art Club raises money throughout the year to pay for the hotel rooms. Participants will need about an additional \$200 for meals." The deadline to register is Wednesday, Aug. 31. For information or to enroll, call Rebel Jay at (785) 269-7065.

Hearing can affect learning

For some children a health problem could be to blame for acting up in class or even a drop in grades. Doctors at Baylor College of Medicine say what might look like a behavioral issue, could actually be a sign of hearing loss or even a vision problem. If a child cannot hear or see properly they cannot pay attention in class, said Dr. James H. Bray, associate professor of family and community medicine. Bray said sometimes the child may not even realize there is an issue. In some cases parents may think their child is showing the first signs of a learning disability, which is why Bray said it is important to see a doctor for a proper diagnosis.

Take the time to meet with teachers

As a new school year begins, a Kansas State University extension specialist encourages parents to visit the school with their child and to speak with his or her teacher. "Visiting the school with your child reinforces the educational process," said Charles A. Smith. Smith said it's important for teachers to know that parents are interested in their child's education and equally important for a child to realize that parents are partners in the learning process. While many schools host get-acquainted nights, back-to-school fairs, and other events to start the

year, calling to make an appointment is also an option, said Smith, who works in the Department of Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State. Also, if a child is new to a school, either because of relocation or advancement, taking a few minutes to locate a classroom, restroom, lunch room and gym can help to ease the transition. Once the school year is underway, Smith recommends following up with the teacher. "If a child is struggling, the sooner parents become aware of an issue, the better," he said. More information about manag-

ing family life and providing opportunities for children is available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and on Smith's web site www.k-state.edu/wparent/.

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