



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

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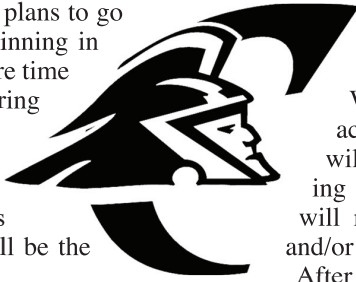
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College classes will be on 4-day week

Colby Community College plans to go to a four-day class week beginning in the fall, allowing students more time for jobs and, hopefully, requiring less for commuting.

Classes will meet on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, officials said, and all class periods will be the same length.

"In addition to the four-day class week, the college will be offering more evening



and weekend classes to accommodate students," said Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs. "We will also be implementing several classes that will meet only on Friday and/or Saturday."

After researching information from colleges that have implemented the four-day class schedule, she said, the

college decided to go forward with the change beginning in August.

"When I was in Alabama and Mississippi, both institutions moved from a five-to four-day class schedule, and the results were very well received," said Dr. Steve Vacik, college president. "Students had an extra day to work at their jobs or visit with faculty to gain valuable assistance. Faculty and staff had a day when meetings and professional development could be scheduled with little fear of overlap-

ping with instructional time."

The new schedule will provide increased flexibility for students who commute to campus or those who work weekends, he noted.

"We believe the new schedule will be attractive for prospective students," Dr. Vacik said. "In addition to convenience, students who are involved in athletics and other activities requiring travel will be absent fewer days."

The four-day class schedule is just

one of the initiatives at the college that makes CCC different and better with a purpose."

Although classes will meet Monday through Thursday, faculty and staff will continue to work the traditional five-day week.

For information about the schedule, contact the Admissions Department at 460-4690.



Pepping up the crowd

The Colby High School pep band (above), led by Joey Nickols, was on hand to keep the energy going during Colby games during the Orange and Black Classic this weekend. The Colby High School cheerleaders worked hard to get the crowd to "Stand up for the Eagles" throughout the tournament and for the halftime show during the boys game Thursday night (right). Activities kicked off early with a dance clinic for grade schoolers Tuesday and Wednesday after school. The young dancers (below) showed off their stuff Thursday night, led by director Donita Rodgers. They did a few cheers and one dance for parents and sports fans.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press



School board gets good report from 2010-11 audit

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

Representatives from the district's accounting firm gave the Colby School Board a good report on the audit for the 2010-2011 school year last Monday as they went over the report and described their findings.

Brian Staats, a certified public account-

ant with Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball of Colby, and his colleagues went over highlights of the audit with the board. Staats said in his letter to the district they have been given the best opinion available, saying "no transactions (were) entered into by the district during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements

in the proper period."

He said no significant difficulties were encountered while performing and completing the audit and no disagreements with the district's management arose.

Staats did list three recommendations to the board to "improve operational or administrative efficiencies and for improving internal control."

• "The business manager should review,

... initial and date ... all special expenditure journals that the clerk posts."

• "The individual who collects gate receipts at sporting events should verify that receipt forms are signed to ensure the correct amount is collected. ... One of the gate receipt forms was not signed."

• "Any employees that work in part on

See "SCHOOL," Page 2

Safe routes sought

Group wants ideas from parents, town

By Christina Beringer

Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

Colby Safe Routes to School is asking for your ideas as the group looks to improve walking and biking routes here.

Parents and others can come to one of two public meetings next month designed to give people a chance to voice concerns about sidewalk, walking routes and what they would like to see.

The first meeting will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, and the second at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 6. Both will be at the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St. The dates were given incorrectly in a photo caption in the Wednesday, Jan. 18, *Free Press*.

"We need to know what the community wants," said program director Megan Carmichael. "We need parents, teachers and the general public to tell us what their needs are and what they are concerned with."

"The information that we get from the public meetings will help us come up with a plan for Colby, which we'll use to seek grant funding. The more community involvement we receive, the better

See "SAFE," Page 2

Tickets available for band

Tickets are still available for the Brass in Blue concert Thursday night, Pat Ziegelmeier of the Western Plains Arts Association says, though it's too late to order them by mail.

The ensemble from the Air Force Heartland of America Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby High School auditorium. Guests need to plan to be seated by 7:20 at the latest, the group says.

Free tickets may be picked up at the front counter of the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth, until Thursday.

The 12-member symphonic brass ensemble will accompany a vocalist, a special treat. Guests can expect a combination of brass and percussion as the orchestra presents a repertoire featuring patriotic favorites, jazz standards, new compositions and other arrangements.

It is one unit of 45 that make up the Heartland of America Band, which represents more than 325,000 Air Force service personnel. The full band performed in Colby several years ago.

