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SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



DEBBIE SCHWANKE/Colby Community College

College students attend block party

Colby Community College was buzzing Tuesday afternoon with new students, staff, faculty and others in the community attending the Community Block Party held on campus. Mayor Gary Adrian (left) handed Tino Thompson a "welcome bag" for the event, which also featured a free barbecue with meat donated by Tubbs and Sons Ford Sales. Board of Trustees member Kenton Krehbiel (below) cooked pancakes Monday for the free breakfast on orientation day.



Council decides on manager job

City of Colby, meet your new city manager.

The council approved a contract with Tyson McGreer as the new manager during its meeting Tuesday night.

"I'm excited," McGreer said, "the community's got a lot of momentum going for it."

He described the new job as "just the opportunity of a bigger city for myself to manage and the opportunity to grow with Colby."

McGreer toured the city on Aug. 6, and will start work on Monday, Sept. 24. His base salary will be \$80,000 a year. He said he was interested in the infrastructure and development projects he saw in town.

Plus, he said, "my boys love the pool complex."

McGreer has been the city administrator of Grant, a city of about 1,160 in southwest Nebraska, since 2008. Before that, he worked as a division manager at Hi-Line Cooperative and an energy specialist at Cenex Harvest States, both in Elsie, Neb. He has

a bachelor's degree in industrial distribution from the University of Nebraska.

He is coming to Colby with his wife, Mandy, two sons, Brody, 6, and Tate, 3, and another child on the way.

McGreer was one of six possible candidates for the job. The council and Mayor Gary Adrian discussed the candidates during closed-session meetings, sometimes during the city council meetings and sometimes at special times. They were aided by representatives from the Austin Peters Group, a human resources consulting firm based in Wichita.

"We're not trying to do anything behind closed doors," council member Dave Voss said before McGreer was announced as the new manager. "We're moving at what probably appears to be a fairly slow speed to the general public, but we're moving at a speed that we're comfortable with."

An Aug. 2 press release identi-

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Senator talks policy at dairy

By Sam Dieter
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Colby Free Press

Farm policy in Washington was central to the discussion when Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts stopped by Thomas County.

Roberts stopped at McCarty Dairy west of Rexford from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday as part of his traditional tour of all 105 Kansas counties.

A group of 12 people, including McCarty Dairy employees and Robert's aides, met in the main office before taking a tour of the

farm. Roberts talked about congressional bills concerning the nationwide drought, industry regulations and learned about the farm itself.

"We've got to feed 9 billion people in a couple decades, 6 billion now," Roberts said. "Show me a country that cannot sustain itself, and I'll show you a country in chaos."

Roberts was one of a handful of lawmakers still on the floor on Aug. 2 when the Senate entered its summer recess without voting

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Outdoor skills day fun for all

By Sam Dieter
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Colby Free Press

Although they are all in scouts, the O'Brien kids were not outside Saturday morning to get a badge.

It was just to brush up on their outdoor skills, their mother Lois said, plus, "it gives them a chance to shoot that they don't normally have."

The O'Briens, of Colby, were among about 40 participants at the 12th Annual Youth Outdoor Skills Day, which started at 8 a.m. Saturday. Walking up and down through a valley at the Pat Jones property, six miles north and two miles east of town, they got a chance to learn map reading, trapping, archery, shotgun shooting and muzzle loading. The free event in-

cluded lunch.

"It was fun," Cosette O'Brien, 11, said while in line for lunch, just after firing muzzle-loaders. "I liked it more than I thought I would."

Her brother, John, 15, said he liked the trapping the most, while Brock, 13, said he liked archery. John, Brock and their brother Luke, 10, are Boy Scouts, Lois said, while Cosette and her sister Kara, 8, are in American Heritage Girls, a group similar to boy scouts. Kids who came to the youth day belong to several groups, including Scouts and 4-H.

"I think they're building an appreciation, yes for hunting, but for outdoor stewardship," said their father, Dan O'Brien.

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Candidates spar on health care

By Julie Pace
Associated Press

MIDLAND, Texas — Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are seeking to call President Barack Obama to account on several fronts, going after his stands on health care, taxes and the debt as the GOP ticket looks to build momentum heading into the party's convention.

Obama, meanwhile, readied for a second straight day of criticism

on the GOP ticket's proposals on education, an issue that resonates with middle-class voters.

Romney and Ryan, campaigning separately Wednesday, were to level their criticism of Obama in three key battleground states: Romney was campaigning in Iowa, while Ryan had stops planned in Virginia and North Carolina. The campaign was also hitting the airwaves with a new television advertisement linking Obama's divisive health care overhaul to cuts in Medicare.

The ad, titled "Nothing's Free," asserts that Obama raided \$716 billion from Medicare in order

to pay for his health care law. It's the first ad Romney's campaign has run focusing on health care since the Supreme Court upheld Obama's federal mandate in June. And it comes as the Republican ticket seeks to gain the upper hand on Medicare amid charges that Ryan's austere budget proposals would drastically change the popular federal benefit for seniors.

Romney has promised to roll back the Medicare spending cuts approved under Obama, while Ryan kept the cuts in his budget proposals. The campaign did not say where the health care ad would run.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Kansas hunter education coordinator Kent Barrett taught map-reading and orienteering Saturday morning during the Youth Outdoor Skills Day held on the Pat Jones property northeast of town. About 40 participants attended the 12th annual event.



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