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# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Residents ask city for dog park here

By Sam Dieter

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It was the beginning of July when Emily Keen moved to Colby with her husband Chris, and one thing stood out to her.

"We just noticed an obscene amount of dogs that are chained to their back porch," she said, "and dogs that are cooped up inside."

Emily and Chris have since teamed up with fellow dog lovers Melissa and Andy

Lavitt to work on a plan to give dogs a space of their own in town. Their goal is a fenced off dog park, divided into sections for larger and smaller pets, complete with trash cans and bags for waste. Their biggest need right now is somewhere to put it.

"We're kind of where we need some land," she said. "That's where we need to start from."

That is why the Keens and Melissa Lavitt asked the City Council at its Sept. 4 meeting to consider fencing off part

of a city park for the town's dogs. They told the council they weren't asking for money.

"We're looking for land, that's what we're looking for," Chris Keen said that the meeting.

"That's not money?" council member Mark Beringer asked, leading some of his colleagues to laugh.

No decision was made at the meeting.

"I hate to keep saying let's put it off," Beringer said, "but we've got a new city manager that starts the 24th."

The three dog lovers told the council that they had a plan for how the park would be built.

Melissa Lavitt asked the council to consider setting aside two acres, preferably with benches and trees for human visitors.

"We've got enough support in this town from people that want to do it," Chris Keen said. "We're not asking for funding."

They have set up a Facebook page called "Friends of the Colby Dog Park"

to get support, which is one thing they say they have a lot of.

"I've had lots of people ask all the time, ask me about the progress," Emily Keen said. "I was just at the dentist the other day with my son, and the receptionist was asking about it."

Users, she said, might include local dog owners, Interstate travelers, hunters and 4-Hers with dogs.

A dog owner should be about 15 be-

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Carley Frazier caught her steer (above) at the team roping event after she and Jon Herl from Western Oklahoma State College made it to the last round of the rodeo Sunday at the fairgrounds. The first rodeo for the Central Plains region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association was from Friday to Sunday and included every thing from goat tying to bareback riding (right). Colby Community College held the rodeo, providing a chance for Robert Shoenfeld and his granddaughter Ryler Cart to sit in the sun Saturday afternoon (far right).

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## College team holds rodeo

By Sam Dieter

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After the dust settled Sunday afternoon, Alan Russell and his team still didn't get to go home.

"There really is no such thing as a home team advantage," he said, looking around the arena at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Instead, the 12 members of the Colby Community College rodeo team had a lot of extra work over the weekend. The college held the first of 10 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeos for the Central Plains region. Over 500 riders from 26 colleges in Kansas and Oklahoma, as well as one in Missouri, spent Friday and Saturday competing in everything from goat tying to bull riding.

The Colby team didn't have anyone in the finals this time, but their coach said that several of his kids have a shot.

"There's actually quite a few of them who already rodeo professionally," he said, adding that some are up-and-coming freshmen, "so a large percentage of them actually will rodeo professionally."

The next rodeo will be Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 4 to 6, at

Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. After four rodeos this fall, Russell said, there will be six more next spring, meaning the team does not have much of an off season.

Those in the top 10 for each event went again on Sunday, and the top three in each event will get a chance to go on to the regional finals this spring in Casper, Wyo.

"We're in the toughest region," Russell said. "A lot of the national champions at the college finals come out of this region."

Members of college team who competed this weekend include Kristi Breckler, Owen Dineen, Lindsey Estes, Alex Harris, Katera Harter, Lucas Phillips, Cody Rieker, Kelli Riggs, Morgan Shepard and Connor Stephens.

Russell noted that they went up against kids from both junior colleges and four-year universities, including Northwestern Technical College, Fort Hays State University, Fort Scott Community College in southeastern Kansas, Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University and Panhandle State University.

"It would be like our basketball team playing Kansas State," he said. "That's why it's so tough."



## College discusses scholarships

The Colby Community College trustees heard last Monday that the college was spending too much for scholarships and would have to tighten up on what it gives out, including, perhaps, the Thomas County Tuition Grants.

Dr. Stephen Vacik, college president, said the Scholarship Committee is trying to trim the dollar amount for future awards.

He asked trustees to consider suspending the grants, which provide full tuition for students from the county, noting that the college tax levy already is high. He said he felt they would still find the college to be a bargain.

Trustee Bill Shields asked what would happen to "transition students," such as freshmen who are already using the grants this year. Vacik said he would bring figures to the board next month. Because of repeated cuts in income, he said, the college is

being forced to survive by making cuts.

Treasurer Nick Wells mentioned that both Vacik and Dr. Keegan Nichols, vice president of student affairs and marketing, attended a recent Endowment board meeting. The foundation may change scholarships for sophomores, Wells said, and is losing money on international and out-of-state students.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the consent agenda after discussing payment of checks. Board members requested that Alan Waites, chief financial officer and vice president of business affairs, find a way to show which checks have or have not been paid from the previous month.
- Heard a report from Nichols, who said the Chartwells food-service contract will expire in July. She said John Gatz, college attorney, had helped her with the

bid procedures. A request for bids will be sent to various food services. She said some other companies will honor the college's meal plan, so Colby could save money with a different food service. Some of the specifications also need to be renegotiated, she said.

- Heard a report for Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, from Vacik due to Washburn's absence. Vacik mentioned a visit to the WaKeeney campus, saying he was pleased with the state of the facility there.

The state Higher Learning Commission will be visiting the Norton nursing site in October, he said, and after the Norton program is accredited, then the college should not have to do another site visit with the commission. He added that a new site for the Goodland program has

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## Apple supplier suspends China factory after brawl

By Joe McDonald

AP Business Writer

BEIJING — The company that makes Apple's iPhones suspended production at a factory in China today after a brawl by as many as 2,000 employees at a dormitory injured 40 people.

The fight, the cause of which is under investigation, erupted Sunday night at a privately managed dormitory near a Foxconn Technology Group factory in the northern city of Taiyuan, the company and Chinese police said. A police statement reported by the official Xinhua News Agency said 5,000 officers were dispatched to the scene.

The Taiwanese-owned company declined to say whether the factory is involved in iPhone production.

It said the facility, which employs 79,000 people, will suspend work today and reopen Tuesday.

Foxconn makes iPhones and iPads for Apple Inc. and also assembles products for Microsoft Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. It is one of China's biggest employers, with some 1.2 million workers in factories in Taiyuan, the southern city of Shenzhen, in Chengdu in the west and in Zhengzhou in central China.

The unrest happens at a critical time for Apple. The fight started days after the launch of the latest iPhone model in the U.S. and eight other countries. The phone quickly sold out in most stores in the U.S. and Apple has a three to four-week backlog of online orders as it ramps up production to meet demand.

Today, Apple said it sold 5 million units of the new iPhone 5 in the first three days, less than analysts had expected. Its stock fell 1.4 percent to \$690.50 in midday trading.

The fight in Taiyuan started at 11 p.m. on Sunday, "drawing a large crowd of spectators and triggering chaos," a police spokesman was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Order was restored after about four hours and several people were arrested, said the company, a unit of Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.

It said 40 people were taken to hospitals for treatment.

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