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Student here approached by man in truck

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby Police Department is checking a report that a Colby Grade School student was asked Monday if he wanted a ride home by a man driving a white pickup parked near the school.

The department said the boy was leaving the school and began walking home.

He was near the administration building when a man sitting in a small white pickup with the driver's-side window down asked him if he wanted a ride home. The boy said "no" and continued walking to his house. He told police the man never got out of the truck and did not try to follow him. When the boy got home, he called his mother, and she called police.

Sgt. Ron Alexander said the boy did the right thing in this situation. He provided

some tips for when a child feels he or she is in danger.

"Immediately breaking off any contact if they're approached," Alexander said, "telling an adult, walking toward a group of people...."

He added that the child should contact a teacher, parent or other adult he trusts or, if the child has a cell phone, he or she could call 911.

And in the case of a child being grabbed,

Alexander said, the kid should do everything they can to break free, fight or call attention to the incident.

Alexander said the teachers are good about talking to their students about "stranger danger," but he had done a radio interview with Chad Jones at KXXX about child safety to help inform the public.

The pickup is believed to have a Colorado license plate on the front. The man

was described as white, with long, dark stringy hair and a dark mustache. The boy said he was wearing reflective sunglasses. Officers searched the area Monday but did not find the man or the truck.

There have been two other similar incidents recently, one in Akron, Colo., last week and one in St. Francis about two weeks ago. Alexander said the depart-

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Happy Halloween!



Halloween comes early for Colby kids

Kids were gearing up for Halloween around Colby as early as last week. Tricks and Treats, a night of pumpkin carving (above) at the Community Building on Thursday, was sponsored by the city Recreation Department. Puddle Duck Preschool students toured the neighborhood, stopping to accept treats from neighbors. Jacquie Bartlett (left) and teacher Amy Jennings (right) wore duck suits as they took a group around. Lue Duffy (below), dressed in a witch's costume, placed stickers on the arms of Levi Haines and Aniston Andrews. The American Youth Soccer Organization set up a haunted house (below right) in the commercial building on the Thomas County Fairgrounds, where visitors had to dodge the "living dead" rising from coffins, among other dangers.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Construction to begin on Senior Apartments

By Sam Dieter

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A ribbon cutting at 1 p.m. Tuesday saw the official start of construction for the Senior Apartments at Colby Estates, on Sewell Avenue in the area east of Dillons and south of the college campus.

The new set of apartments will be available to Colby seniors next year.

"I didn't choose Colby," said Wes Bainter, owner of Bainter Construction, of the project. "Colby chose me. We got a lot of

phone calls in Colby, asking about the project."

Bainter said that community groups, including the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Farmers and Merchants Bank approached him about the project.

"We're always looking for

new projects," said G.G. Launchbaugh, office manager for the firm. "There's a pretty good demand for apartments in Colby, and there's always a demand for senior apartments."

Dirt work has already started for the independent living units, Bainter said. The first phase of the apartments will be 10 units in

three buildings, which should be completed by late in the summer of 2013.

He said construction on the next phase of 12 units should take another six or seven months, and be done by the spring of 2014.

When the complex is done, it will include six buildings connected by a single hallway. The main

entrance will face south towards a private driveway built off Sewell. Apartments will each have two bedrooms, attached garages and be wheelchair- and scooter-accessible.

Bainter said that the apartments are geared toward seniors, but there is no age restriction.

