



COLBY FREE PRESS

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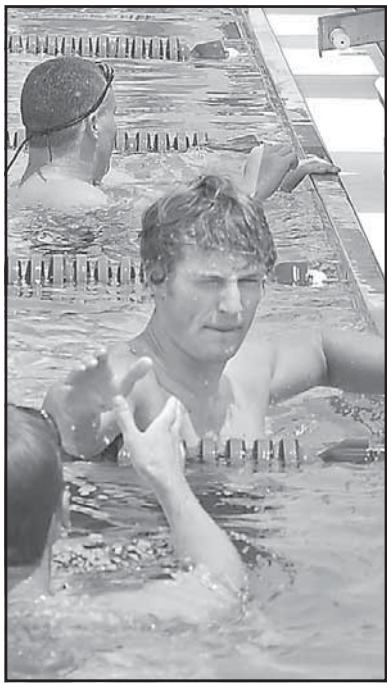


Saturday at the races



Splish, spash, swimmers were having a blast even if their race faces didn't always show it during Saturday's Colby Swim Club invitational at Aquatic Park. Younger swimmers like the two eight-and-under girls pictured above and right proved they were ready to dive right into the competition against seven other teams. Many parents and fans (below right) brought their own cameras to follow the 86 events involving swimmers from ages eight to 18. Almost every event featured more than one heat. Colby's Aaron Faber (below left) congratulated a rival swimmer after finishing their race. Faber won this heat and placed sixth or higher in three events overall. Colby swimmer Tayler Lemman (left) joined assistant coaches in shouting for her Sharks teammates. While the competition was often intense, there was also plenty of good sportsmanship.

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press



Gay rights supporters cheer

By Connie Cass

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supporters of same-sex marriage burst into cheers, wept openly and chanted "DOMA is Dead" outside the Supreme Court as word reached them that the justices had struck down the federal law defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Some in the crowd hugged and others

jumped up and down just after 10 a.m. EDT Wednesday when the decision was announced inside. Many were on their cell phones monitoring Twitter, news sites and blogs for the outcome. There were cheers as runners came down the steps with the ruling in hand and turned them over to reporters who quickly flipped through the pages.

Sarah Prager, 26, cried and shook, and hugged a stranger. Prager, who married her wife in Massachusetts in 2011, said she was in shock. "Oh that's so good. It's just really

good," she said.

"I didn't expect DOMA to be struck down," Prager said through tears. She referred to the Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996. Gay rights activists had argued that the law improperly denied same-sex spouses the federal benefits that heterosexual couples are granted, and the justices agreed.

Inside, the reaction was subdued.

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Kansas colleges form insurance group

TOPEKA (AP) — Three Kansas community colleges have created an insurance consortium after their insurance provider raised rates and said it wouldn't insure schools that allow concealed weapons on campus.

The Independence Community College board of trustees voted last week to join Coffeyville and Neosho community colleges in the consortium. EMC Insurance Company said last week that it would raise rates because

of the new gun law that comes into force next week, *The Topeka Capital-Journal* reported (bit.ly/19ve2xu).

After EMC told the colleges of the increased rates, Neosho Community College president Brian Inbody searched for other options and found insurance broker IMA would offer competitive rates. EMC then made a counteroffer, which included a reduced rate and a one-year exemption from its policy against guns, said

David Wallis, an incoming ICC trustee.

"I truly believe when the word gets out that there is an option, that this team will be joined by K-12, municipalities and universities across Kansas," he said.

The three colleges are purchasing one policy that will provide "a modest savings," in the first year, Independence president Daniel Barwick said. The savings is expected to grow as more groups join the consortium,

he said.

Wright Speciality is handling liability insurance for the consortium and has a neutral stance on concealed weapons on campus, Barwick said.

The new law, which takes effect July 1, requires local governments and universities to allow concealed handguns in public buildings unless they install adequate security.

Trustees sell land to builder

By Sam Dieter

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Colby Community College trustees voted Friday to sell 17 acres of land south of the main campus for a family housing development planned by a Hoxie developer.

The trustees agreed to sell the 16.9 acres to Colby Estates LLC, owned by Bainter Construction of Hoxie, for \$615,000 at a special meeting Friday. They first offered the land to the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation at the same price.

They had voted at their regular meeting June 12 to offer the land to the foundation. If the foundation didn't want it, trustees decided, they would sell it to Bainter, which made the \$615,000 offer in May.

Owner Wes Bainter said the land should accommodate 50 to 55 moderate-income family housing units between Fairview Estates and the college.

"All the towns in northwest

Kansas are extremely short of moderate-price family housing," he said after the meeting.

Part of that land extends to the Quilt Cabin, and Bainter said some of it could be used for a business of some kind. He said his company bought about 7.5 acres from the college in 2011, which stretches from Fairview to the Colby Aquatic Park. The company broke ground there last winter to start building Colby Estates, a senior housing development. About two acres of land to the east of that parcel could be used for family housing also, he said.

Board Member Dale Herschberger voted no both times. Member Cindy Black, who works at Homeland Realty and Auction, excused herself both times, and Nick Wells, head of the endowment foundation, excused himself from the first vote.

Wells said that he took the offer for the land to a meeting of the foundation executive board the next day, but it was turned down.

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Questions raised by weapons law

By Kevin Bottrell

The Goodland Star-News
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On July 1, people with concealed carry licenses will be able to take their weapons into some public buildings — unless the agency running the building gets an exemption under a new state law.

A law passed by the Legislature this year requires local governments and state agencies to allow people to carry concealed weapons in their buildings if those buildings do not have "adequate" security measures. Previously, cities and counties were allowed to make their own decisions about concealed carry.

But even under the new law, there are a few exemptions. Local governments and some state agencies can send in a letter to exempt themselves from the law until January. The issue of whether or not to request that exemption came before the Goodland and Sherman County commissions last week.

Both City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks and County Attorney Charles Moser recommended the exemption letter be sent, saying it is best to wait and see what the attorney general's office makes of the law before the city and county have to begin dealing with it.

"It gives us six more months to figure out what the requirements are going to be," Moser said. "The

attorney general's office is expected to send out their interpretation, hopefully by the end of the month."

One question that will have to be answered, said City Manager Doug Gerber, is whether or not municipal judges will still be allowed to ban guns in their courtrooms. The law allows district court judges to ban concealed guns, but does not mention municipal courts. Gerber said he expects a lot of cities to ask for the attorney general's opinion on this issue.

Gerber said there is also a provision about public employees being able to carry concealed weapons while on the job. He said he objected to that, as it might interrupt work flow. An employee carrying a weapon would have to spend time finding some way to safely store the gun before entering a building that prohibited concealed weapons, he said. The city commission instructed him to look at new language for the employee policies.

The law does allow governments and state agencies to continue to ban concealed guns in their buildings through 2017 as long as there is "adequate security" at those buildings or if they plan to install that security. Moser said this mostly means metal detectors at public entrances.

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Rollover accident injures one Monday

A Colby teen was taken to the hospital Monday night after her car flipped south of town.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that about 8:12 p.m. Andrea Dawn Barton, 17, was headed north, towards Colby, about 1 1/2 miles south of Interstate 70 on K-25. The report said her car drifted onto the right-hand shoulder and she lost control.

The 2006 Pontiac G6 flipped and landed upside down next to the road.

Barton, who was wearing a seat-belt, was taken to Citizen's Medical Center for treatment, then later released.



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