

Colby groups plan big holiday for area teens

By JOHN VAN NOSTRAND
Colby Free Press

Colby's J&R Marketing has put together a "Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve" concert and party from 9 p.m. Dec. 31 through 7 a.m. Jan. 1 that organizers say may be the largest youth event ever in north-west Kansas.

"We want to provide a safe environment on the most dangerous night of the year," said organizer Rich Epp. "A Christian environment is important, too."

Tickets are \$25 for groups of 20 people, \$30 ahead of time and \$35 at the door.

New Year's Eve is historically a popular night for drunk driving accidents and fatalities, said Epp, who is organizing the event with his wife.

"It was Judy's idea," Rich said. "This summer she had the idea to provide middle school and high school students an alternative to New Year's Eve. We were just thinking of a concert, but then it grew into an all-night party. It became a monster."

Christian rap band Grits will kick off the night with a performance at the Colby Community Building. Following Grits will be the Christian rock band Pillar.

Pillar lead singer Rob Beckley graduated from Colby Community College in the 1990s and his wife Linda is from Goodland. The two met while attending Fort Hays State University.

Other bands from the area have been asked to play, he said, and there'll be a "battle of the bands."

But the Epps wanted more to the night than just music. Brian and Shannon Moore, associated with Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo., were asked to speak. Epp said the Moores visited Colby in November and suggested having other activities throughout the night.

After free pizza is served at 12:15 a.m., buses will take participants to Colby Bowl for bowling, the Colby Community College gym for dodge ball or the movie "Napoleon Dynamite," and Heartland Christian School for basketball. Buses have been provided by the college and the Oakley and Scott City school districts, Epp said.

Kids will then be bussed backed

'Lock in' to feature big bands

8 p.m. — Registration begins at Colby Community Building.
9 p.m. — Grits concert.
10 p.m. — Brian and Shannon More to speak.
11 p.m. — Pillar concert.
12:15 a.m. - 1 a.m. — pizza.
1 - 2:30 a.m. Battle of Bands at Community Building.

Bowling at Colby Bowl, dodge ball and movie at Colby Community College, basketball at Heartland Christian School.

3 - 3:30 a.m. — Battle of Bands final.

3:30-4:30 a.m. — Dodge ball, bowling, basketball, movie.

5 a.m. — Fear Factor.

6 a.m. — Closing ceremony, breakfast.

to the Community Building for the band contest.

At 5 a.m., organizers will have a "Fear Factor" contest, like the NBC television show. Epp said the contest will be "gross but appropriate."

A closing ceremony will be held at 6 a.m., followed by a light breakfast.

Epp said security will be enforced throughout the night.

"Everyone younger than 18 will register," he said. "When the concerts are over, you can leave. But after midnight you can only leave with an adult."

Participants will not be able to drive themselves to the activities throughout town, he added.

"We are concerned about the all-night idea," Epp said. "We expect drunks to be out there on the road."

Epp said at least 75 volunteers are needed throughout the night. The Moores will bring 30 Baptist Bible College students to help.

For tickets and information, call 785-443-1994 or 785-460-9751. Epp said group ticket rates are available.

of quality of program with the speakers, bands and activities for the teens for New Year's Eve.

He said he thinks it is a good idea for the teens to start off the year with a Christian emphasis, which will help them with decisions throughout the year.

Pastor Mason said he plans on taking the Teens for Christ van, but that probably won't hold all of the kids. He and his wife plan to go, but not stay all night since he has to preach Sunday morning.

Anyone who wants to go can call Pastor Mason at 475-2599.



IN THE VAULT, owner Patty Skubal has vintage clothes and accessories for sale. The store opened last week in the Business Enhancement Center downtown.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Woman stocks clothes Vault

After three years of selling vintage clothes on the Internet as Naturally Girly, Patty Skubal has opened a store front at the downtown Business Enhancement Center.

Mrs. Skubal named the store, which offers vintage clothes and accessories, the Vault. She said her sister has been in the vintage clothing business for 30 years and got her into it.

Mrs. Skubal said she would go to the New York shows with her sister and loved it. Most of the business for Naturally Girly is on the Internet, both the web page and eBay auctions, said Mrs. Skubal.

When she and her husband moved to Oberlin, the Economic Development Corporation gave her a chance to have a store front. Last week, the Vault opened.

Mrs. Skubal said she carries clothes from the 1920s to 1980s. She gets the clothing through estate sales and at thrift stores and garage sales. She said she pays particular attention to the condition of the items.

About 15 years ago, she said, her sister got into the movie business. Recently, said Mrs. Skubal, she started to work with the movies. She has sold clothes

for "Cinderella Man," "Walk the Line" and a new project that was just completed about the Vietnam War era.

With a variety of customers, she said, the stock of clothes probably will change quickly. Right now, she said, she isn't buying any clothes from people here, but at some point she might.

Donna Hazen, of Oberlin, helps out with the store, which is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday or by appointment at 475-2992.

Mrs. Skubal said she loves the clothes and the job. She and Mrs. Hazen get a laugh out of some of the clothes.

"We have so much of a variety," said Mrs. Skubal, "from casual to prom to wedding clothes."

She said she operates on the motto that "everything old is new again."

Before the clothing business, she said, she worked 20 years with the government. Her husband Tom recently got a job here with the Kansas Department of Transportation, and the couple moved here from Fort Collins, Colo. The website for the store is www.naturallygirly.com.

State fines restaurant here

The Frontier Restaurant has been fined by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for two food-safety violations for employees touching food with bare hands and not making sure their hands are clean.

An order released by the department last week listed owner Joyce Carlton with a \$1,000 penalty for the violations.

The first violation was at the beginning of September and the second was 19 days later. Both were for employees needing to clean their hands right before they prepare food and also cleaning equipment right before using it on food. The other violation was that employees should

not, except when washing the food, touch it with their bare hands.

Sharon Watson, communications director with the department, said restaurants are inspected each year, although sometimes a facility is inspected more if the state receives complaints.

The inspections are unannounced. If a violation is found like the one at the Frontier, she said, the inspector will spend time educating the staff on how to fix the problem. The inspector will then return to see if the violations have been fixed.

In the case of the Frontier, said Ms. Watson, the restaurant was fined because the violations weren't fixed by the return inspection.

Fines range between \$250 to \$500. Less severe violations, she said, for instance if there is a container in the back store room without a label, are \$250. More severe violations, for instance, a food temperature violation, are \$500.

Each of the Frontier's was \$500, said, for a total of \$1,000.

Mrs. Carlton said that the violations were for someone picking up a dinner roll and putting it on a customer's plate with their hands instead of using tongs. The other violation, she said, was for someone picking up dirty dishes off the table and taking them to the back and then taking a customer a menu without washing their hands in between.

Firemen fight minor blaze at ranch

Volunteer firemen were called out around 8:20 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, to Sappa Valley Youth Ranch for a grease fire on the kitchen stove.

Although it sounded like it could be a big fire at first, by 8:40 a.m. at least one truck had already headed

back to town. Firemen said grease had ignited on the stove and it took just a few seconds to put it out.

Chief Bill Cathcart said when the firemen got to the ranch, there were hardly any flames. Either the grease burned out or the hood knocked the

flames down.

The kitchen, he said, is usable and the stove has been checked out. There was some smoke and heat damage to a wall close to the stove.

Oberlin teens plan trip for New Year's

Oberlin Teens for Christ plan to team up with other area groups to purchase a block of tickets to a "Rappin' and Rockin' New Year's Eve" concert in Colby.

Pastor Doug Mason, who runs the teen group here, said his goal is to get at least 20 kids who want to and can go so they can buy the discounted tickets at \$25 per person.

He said he isn't sure how many kids they have right now, since they all want to go. They will probably end up with about 10 kids from the teens group, said Pastor Mason, but the trip is open to anyone who wants to go.

He said they might work with the Bird City Teens for Christ group, where there are about six kids.

Pastor Mason said that any teen who wants to go to the event should let him know. The New Year's Eve celebration is for kids from junior high through college age.

The two bands are huge, he said, and Pillar is known on the national scene. Locally, said Pastor Mason, he would be unable to get this kind

Theater to reopen New Year's

Sunflower Cinema will be closed for the Christmas weekend, but will be open for New Year's.

Jennifer Auxier, who is on the theater board, said they decided to close for Christmas so people can spend time with their families, but stay open the following weekend.

The theater will show "The Chronicles of Narnia" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1. Ms. Auxier said they wanted to provide a place and something for people to do for New Year's Eve.

Tickets for the show for all ages will be \$3.

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THE OBERLIN HERALD

and the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce welcome Furniture Alley to the business community

The Chamber Board welcomed Pat Chard and Marilou Long, who operate Furniture Alley at 121 S. Rodehaver. They accept donated furniture and proceeds from items sold are used for various area projects.

Stock up for meals this week

Most stores to close early for holidays

Most Oberlin stores and businesses plan to be open until 4 p.m. on Saturday, Christmas Eve, but nearly every one, save the convenience stores, will be closed on Sunday and Monday for the holiday.

With all the town's restaurants shut down, you may need to cook dinner at home. Shop early, because Raye's Grocery will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The grocery will be closed on Christmas Day, but open regular hours on Monday.

The Oberlin Herald will go to press a day late this week and next for Christmas and New Year's. The office will be closed all day Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2. Deadlines for The Country Advocate will be noon Friday, as usual. Other ad deadlines will be noon on Tuesday.

Mail will be delivered in town on Saturday and there will be regular hours for window service at the post office on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The post office will be closed on Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, and there will be no mail service those days.

Federal, state, city and county offices, as well as all financial institutions in Oberlin, will be closed on both Mondays.

Crossroads Express and Ampride will be open regular hours on Christmas Eve, Sunday and Monday as well as New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Monday, Jan. 2.

D & M Sinclair will close at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, be closed on Christmas Day and open Dec. 26. The will close at 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve, be closed New Year's day and open Jan. 2.

A&W Root Beer will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve, be closed Christmas Day and open Dec. 26. They will close at 8 p.m. New Year's Eve, be closed New Year's Day and open Jan. 2.

The Frontier Restaurant will be closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday for Christmas. Keeno's Roadhouse will close at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve and be closed Christmas Day. Pizza Hut will close at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, closed Christmas Day and open on Monday, Dec. 26.

The LandMark Inn's Teller Room will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday for lunch and the Oberlin Mercantile Co. will be open until 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Both will be closed Christmas Day.

The Oberlin Library will close at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve and reopen next Wednesday. The library will close at 1 p.m. on New Year's Eve and reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

There will be no cattle sale at Oberlin Livestock Auction on Monday, but there will be a sale on Monday, Jan. 2.