



Patty Decker/Colby Free Press

Balloon launch — Molly Foote, 4, (right in left photo), Liv Tubbs, 3, (center) with her Mother, Jada tubbs, Andrew Foote, 6, (left) and Lana Johnson (back right) got ready to let go of their balloons at the Memory Walk held at Fike Park Saturday. Lana Johnson (above photo, left) talked to Mihelle Foote 9righ) at the Memory Walk, and Jody Metcalf (center) handed out balloons.

More than 50 attend Memory Walk event

By Patty Decker

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This year's Memory Walk on Saturday at Colby's Fike Park raised more than \$5,500 for the Alzheimer's Association.

With more than 50 people walking, organizers Jada Tubbs and Jody Metcalf said attendance tripled last year.

"The event was a huge success, and we appreciated all the walkers and sponsorships from the area," Tubbs said.

The walkers not only represented Colby, she said, but all

of northwest Kansas, including Oakley, Hoxie, Hill City, Oberlin, Quinter and Atwood.

"We even had a few people from outside Thomas County come forward and volunteer for next year's walk," Tubbs added.

In addition to the area organizers, representatives from the state office in Wichita were in Colby to help with registration.

Tubbs said plans for the next walk are already in the works.

"We are looking at scheduling the walk around the same time and same place," she said.

For those unfamiliar with Alzheimer's, representatives from

the association distributed information to participants Saturday and also left pamphlets at Prairie Senior Living Complex.

"What is so great about the money raised from the walk is that it actually goes for research in finding a cure," Tubbs said.

Anyone who suspects a family member might be suffering from Alzheimer's or simply wants to learn more about this sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S., Tubbs said, should call (316) 267-7333 or toll-free (800) 272-3900, or go to the website www.alz.org.

Colby may leave Northwest Kansas League

By Andy Heintz

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All good things must come to an end, and Athletic Director Larry Gabel told the Colby School Board on Monday that the district may leave the Northwest Kansas League in a few years and become part of a new league with larger Class 3A schools and small and medium 4A schools.

Gabel said he took no pleasure in breaking the news to the people at the meeting.

"It tears me up to break out of the NWKL," said Gabel, a long-time coach in the league.

If the new league becomes a reality it, he said, it might include Colby, Ulysses, Cimarron, Scott City, Lakin, Holcomb, Hugoton and Goodland.

"These schools have enrollments, attendance, and programs that are similar to ours," he said.

The school boards from the districts that would be in the new league will decide if they are going to create this new league on Jan. 22.

The reason Colby may be leaving the Northwest Kansas League is because of the enrollment decline in many of the leagues' schools. Today Colby and Goodland are the only Class 4A schools in the league, Gabel said. They are also the only schools that are able to put together softball, baseball and tennis programs. The Eagles dominated just about all sports last year, placing first in every sport but tennis and football.

Gabel discussed the possibility of the Colby High School basketball team playing a couple of its home games on the high

school court this year instead of the Community Building. Gabel said he thought this would be a good idea when the Eagles play teams from smaller schools.

The Colby School District is in its first year under Advanced District Accreditation Process, said This is a program that involves all schools in the district working together to assess what they are doing right and what they need to improve on.

The district will be paying the fees to the organization that puts together the district accreditation process, in return for this payment the district will receive

advice from experts working for the company regarding what strategies they believe the district should use to revitalize academic areas needing improvement.

The recreation department has asked the Colby School District to help pay for improved lighting at Young Memorial Park. The board didn't reach a decision at the meeting as to whether or not they would be willing to help pay for the improved lighting.

The board didn't take action on anything at the meeting.

Courthouse roofing contract awarded

By Andy Heintz

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The Thomas County Commissioners approved a contract to re-roof the courthouse and the law enforcement center on Monday.

The Commissioners agreed to hire Custom Energy Services of Oberland Park to put new roofs on the Thomas County Courthouse and the Law Enforcement Center.

Buddy Hahs and Ellen Edwards represented Custom Energy Services at the meeting.

After reviewing the contract, the commissioners called Hahs and Edwards to discuss the contingency cost, mark-up, how to handle unforeseen repairs and where the money for the project would come from.

Commissioner Paul Steele said the county had \$281,000 in the building maintenance fund,

68,000 in insurance payments, about \$30,000 from the 1-cent sales tax and \$61,000 in mortgage registration fees.

After the two had spoken, Commissioner Byron Sowers moved to support an agreement between Thomas County and CES to hire Roofmasters Inc. of Colby to do the work. Chairman Ken Christiansen seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The total project cost is estimated

to cost \$440,841.

It will cost \$186,695 to replace the courthouse roof, \$63,882 for gutter replacement, \$68,697 to replace the law enforcement center roof, \$21,000 for an energy study and for support for the completion of the roofing project, \$8,000 for construction management for eight weeks, \$6,385 for a bond and \$35,465 for a 10 percent contingency.

Analysis

Tough selling job ahead for state health agency

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — The state agency charged with developing health care policy is planting a new crop of recommendations, but the legislative soil it's plowing still seems less than promising for a bumper harvest.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority's proposals for legislators to consider next year include higher tobacco taxes and a statewide ban on smoking in public places. Those ideas failed this year, but

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Briefly

Dance team collecting cans

The Colby High School dance team plans an aluminum can drive Saturday at the Orscheln Farm and Home store on South Range to raise money for new uniforms. Bring your cans to the parking lot to help the students.

Scouts out selling popcorn

Colby Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are selling popcorn door-to-door until Oct. 26. This year's inventory includes microwave popcorn, popping kernels and a variety of tins filled with caramel, chocolate or cheese popcorn. Anyone who isn't contacted by a troop or pack member should call Gary Schuette, pack leader, at 460-0003.

Trail ride set for Oct. 5

The Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site, near Studley on U.S. 24 in Sheridan County, plans a free trail ride from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5. No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the trail, but wagons and hikers are welcome. Bring your own horse. The event is sponsored by the State Historical Society and the Friends of Cottonwood Ranch. For questions, call (785) 627-5866.

Pancake feed planned Saturday

Troop 141 will be having a Pancake Feed Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Colby Community Building to help raise money for the Thomas County American Red Cross. The money raised will be used to prepare for disasters in the seven Kansas Counties in their jurisdiction. These counties are Thomas, Cheyenne,

Gove, Logan, Wallace, Sheridan, and Rawlins.

School offers book fair

Sacred Heart Catholic School invites the public to its book fair during parent-teacher conferences from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, and from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2.

Landfill going to winter hours

The Thomas County Landfill and the county household hazardous waste collection site will begin fall and winter hours today, said Kristi Mann, assistant deputy county clerk. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Program should help parents

Smart Start Northwest Kansas will offer a program called "Nurturing Families" for parents and children beginning Tuesday. The program emphasizes the importance of people learning new parenting skills and all family members learning new and healthier ways to live together, the agency says. The free eight-week program will include a meal, a training session and family interaction time. Contact Smart Start at 465-9103 for information or to register.

Coffee with Coaches' returns

Back by popular demand, said Coach Chris Gardner, "Coffee with the Coaches," begins at 9 a.m. every Saturday during the Colby High football season at the Sports Shoppe, 400 N. Franklin Ave. For questions, call 460-5000.

