



Colby High School student Rachel Jueneman placed a "sticker shock" tag on a bottle of liquor at Overtime Liquor this spring. The tag spells out the message that parental disapproval is the number one reason kids don't drink.

Prevention campaign focuses on parents

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When underage kids are caught drinking, one of the scarier consequences is often the angry parents. That's the idea behind the Thomas County Coalitions "It Sticks" campaign.

Sue Evans of the Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas, one of the coalition's member organizations, said they have been attaching stickers to liquor bottles at Colby liquor stores that remind customers that parental disapproval is the number one reason why kids choose not to drink.

"The liquor stores have also been a tremendous help in cooperating in efforts to prevent teen drinking," she said. "They have been more than willing to participate in the bottle stickers that tell that underage drinking is dangerous, and so are angry parents. They are doing their part to help get the word out that it's OK to say 'no way' to teen drinking."

The group is also pursuing an after-school program for Colby students that has stemmed from the busing program being dropped in the schools.

"Each year the Coalition and the Colby Public School has freshman orientation for high school kids with a meal for parents and students," Evans said. "They participate in a Jeopardy game with questions about drugs and alcohol, and it is a fun and informative time."

According to Evans, more kids are willing to say they do not use drugs or alcohol today than in they were in the past.

"It's those kinds of things that help students stay strong in a society that says it's not going to hurt you," she said. "The



Rows of liquor bottles sit on the shelves of a local liquor store with stickers that have peel off labels for parents to use. The message on the label says "at your age, drinking is dangerous (and so are really angry parents). With the cooperation of liquor store owners, Members of Students Against Drunk Driving, along with their sponsor, Melissa Augustine, placed the tags on liquor bottles at the end of school this year.

numbers are telling, and that is a good reason to stay on top of prevention."

Evans said their goal is to reach every Thomas County student, in public and private schools, seven times during the year with substance abuse prevention education.

"Research shows that the brain isn't fully developed until the age of 24, and kids are finally learning that alcohol and drug use destroys brain cell development," she said.

The coalition has been pursuing the Thomas County com-

missioners to allocate money from the county liquor tax for the coalition's programs. Evans, speaking to the commissioners, said that the tax money would be divided into two funds, with two-thirds of it in a pass-through fund for grants in the budget year, and one third of it in an endowment that would sustain coalition efforts in future years.

The coalition formed in 1996 from a group of law enforcement officers, parents and youth to address substance abuse in Thomas County. Membership has since grown to include health care pro-

viders, extension agents, court services, recreation department staff, community mental health, juvenile justice, Colby Community College staff, alcohol and drug counselors, domestic violence and sexual abuse staff, parents, Students Against Drunk Drivers members, school personnel, local businesses, media, prevention center staff and faith leaders, 42 youth and 67 adults in all.

Evans said the coalition's focus is on prevention instead of addiction treatment.

Statistics are available through the Communities that Care survey that students participate in each year. The survey asks kids questions that deal with their knowledge or lack of knowledge about alcohol and other drug use.

"Over the past five years, the hard work of the coalition has paid off, and we have seen increases in the numbers of students who do not engage in those kinds of risky behaviors," Evans said. "The increase in the 30 day non-use of alcohol, went from 61.3 percent who didn't use in 2003 to 81.2 percent who didn't use in 2008. Binge drinking went from 78.6 percent who didn't binge drink to 92.7 percent. And in non-use of marijuana, the figures went from 89.6 percent who did not use it in 2003, to 96.2 percent in 2008."

A state-wide survey shows the Thomas County Coalition survey of grades six, eight, 10 and 12 have as many as 80 percent of students in that group who participate in the knowledge questionnaire. Those figures are high enough to provide statistically reliable, valid data when considering the effectiveness of the program.

City makes pool, airport budget cuts

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The Colby City Council approved an additional amendment to the 2010 proposed budget that cut \$2,000 from the pool budget and \$3,800 from the airport budget at their meeting on Tuesday evening at city hall.

The pool budget had \$1,000 cut from utilities and \$1,000 cut from special services. Special services are big events that take place at the pool, said councilman Mark Beringer. The airport budget had \$2,500 cut from special services and 1,300 cut from the maintenance fund.

The council agreed to approve an amendment that would require an employee to use all paid leave

time before being allowed to take time off without pay.

Armstrong said the current sick policy allows an employee to take sick days with no pay and keep their paid leave to use at a later time.

"A few employees have been taking days off by calling in sick and saving their vacation time," said Armstrong.

In other news, the board:

- Approved Troy Koon completing his Eagle Scout project at 600 South Mission.

Armstrong said the project consists of repairs to the playground equipment, painting, and building a structure under the gazebo. Koon said he wanted to add a table around the gazebo. He said

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125th anniversary theme announced

The Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, and the Prairie Museum of Art and History have announced the winner of the 125th Anniversary Theme Contest. The winner is former county resident Mark Thomas, whose theme was: "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives On."

Mark is the son of Visitors Bureau Director Leilani Thomas, who said she didn't know her son had submitted a theme.

"I was shocked when I found out that Mark had submitted a theme

and won," she said. "I was just so proud that he had incorporated the 'Spirit of the Prairie,' which is the name of the statue that was erected in front of the courthouse during Thomas County's Centennial Year."

The competition was open to non-residents and former residents as well as those currently living in Thomas County.

Now that a theme has been chosen, the bureau, chamber and museum are holding a logo design

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The theme for Thomas County's 125 Anniversary celebration will be "The Spirit of the Prairie Lives On," inspired by the name of the centennial statue at the county courthouse, seen here being unveiled in 1985.

Briefly

Fair parade entries due Friday

The Thomas County Fair parade will start at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Eighth Street and Franklin Avenue and go through downtown, then turn west to the fairgrounds on Cedar Street. If you would like to have an entry, call or stop by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office at 350 S. Range, 460-3401, for an entry form. These must be returned by 5 p.m. Friday.

Step right up; help needed

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Thomas County Amusement Association need about 60 volunteers to man game booths at the carnival next week. Shifts will be from 6:45 to 9 p.m. and 9 to 11 p.m. Volunteers will be taking tickets and running the games. For information or to sign on, call Holly Stephens at 460-3401.

Family group plans concerts

The Rochester Family, a gospel vocal group, will give free concerts at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday at the Colby Independent Baptist Church, 730 E. Second St. For information, call the church at 460-0313.

Seminars focus on special needs

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas is offering a free seminar on "Special Needs Trusts," focusing on how to provide for a person with special needs, at 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 20, in room 106 at the Colby Community College Student Union. The speaker will be Randy Clinkscales, an elder law and special needs attorney from Hays. Seating is limited. For information, call Raenette Martin with Developmental Services at (785) 462-3400.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a three-year-old black Great Dane and three long-haired kittens, one black and white, one tiger striped and one pure black available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

College bus will haul vets

Colby Community College is making its bus available to veterans who're not able to walk in the Fair Parade on Tuesday. The bus will leave from the American Legion Hall at 1850 W. Fourth St. at 5 p.m. and return to the Legion when the parade is over. For questions, call the college information office at 460-7836.

Salvation Army has fans

The Thomas County Salvation Army representative has box fans available for anyone who needs them. Call Sue at 460-4842 if you need a fan.

Coach offers tennis camp

The Colby Eagle Net Slammers Tennis Camp will be from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday to Wednesday, Aug. 3-5, at Fike Park. Children 6 to 12 can sign up no later than Monday, July 27. The cost will be \$25, which includes a T-shirt. No late registrations. For information, call tennis coach Jennifer Rall at 462-0320.

