



12 pages

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## College plans athletics rally for next week

By Kevin Bottrell  
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In an effort to get the Colby community more involved with college activities, the Colby Community College Student Senate will be holding a “Trojan Tip-off” on Wednesday, Sept. 30 in the Community Building gym. The event, which will be open to the public, will serve as a pep rally for the start of basketball season and as an introduction for other sports and activities.

Jessica Swanek, student senate president, said the school had an on-campus pep rally for basketball last year, but this year the senate wanted to expand the event.

“We wanted to get the whole community involved,” she said.

Student Senate Vice President Neal Jeffrey said the idea came from some of the larger schools who have kick-off events for their basketball teams.

There will be introductions for the basketball team as well as the men’s and women’s golf, baseball, softball, volleyball, track, cross country, livestock judging, rodeo

and equestrian teams. Rich Epp, who does sports play-by-play for the college radio station, will be speaking at the event and introducing the team. The cheerleading squad and pep band will be performing.

Jeffrey said there will also be activities to get the audience involved.

“We’re going to some games,” he said. “We want to get the community psyched up and inform them about all the athletics.”

Some of the activities include musical chairs, relay races with the team coaches and prize drawings. Swanek said the student senate planned the event with input and approval from the college board, Epp, and community member Larry McDonald.

The women’s basketball team will have several scrimmages in October in Warrensburg, Mo. and Denton, Texas. Their first season game will be on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. in Colby against Lamar Community College. The first men’s game will also be on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m. in Colby against Laramie County Community College.

## Schools discuss dropout prevention

By Aubrey Spencer  
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A handful of area administrators and school personnel gathered on Wednesday at Colby Community College to discuss the issue of preventing dropouts in Kansas schools.

Kansas Drop-INS Coordinator, Jessica Noble, facilitated the meeting, which included representatives from the college, Colby Public Schools, the Northwest Kansas Educational Service

Center, and the Thomas County Learning Center. Drop-INS is an organization made up of more than 25 public and private agencies from around the state whose goal is to create a statewide action plan for dropout prevention.

Noble said there were two reasons for Wednesday’s meeting: to learn more about the Kansas Drop-INS initiative and to hear from people in our area what is working and not working.

Noble said that high school

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AUBREY SPENCER/Colby Free Press

Kurt Brown of the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and Terrel Harrison, superintendent of Colby Public Schools, participated in an ice-breaker activity on Wednesday during the Pre-Summit Conversation about dropout prevention at Colby Community College. Participants were asked to write something positive about each other on the notes posted on their backs.



LYLE SADDLER/Colby Baseball Association

Colby Community College baseball players (from left to right) Ryan Beecroft, Corey Ridenour, Chris McIntosh, Josh Jurado and Pat Palloto helped the Colby Baseball Association build a

new fence at the Young Memorial Field on Sunday. The fence will make the centerfield will be located 380 feet away instead of 345 feet.

## Group installs new fence at field

By Andy Heintz  
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The Colby Baseball Association, a group that runs and sponsors the Colby K-18 baseball team and the 12-year old boys traveling team, are currently working with the Colby Community College baseball team to put in a new fence at Young Memorial Field at the Colby Recreation Complex. Brad Kersenbrock, owner of the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, has also been helping build the new fence.

The fence will expand the size of the field in order to allow the Trojans’ baseball team to play some games out at the complex, said Colby farmer Lyle Saddler, head of the baseball association. The association has been actively working together to build the fence for the past two weeks. Trojan baseball players helped them last Sunday. The new fence will be 660 feet long.

Association member Jerry Arensdorf, owner of Arensdorf said center field will go from being 345 feet away to 380 feet away. Jeff Krzycki, owner of Taco Johns and American Legion baseball coach said the new fence will add 11,00 square feet to the field. Saddler said the fence was old and a lot of the original posts had broken off.

Saddler estimated that hiring someone to construct the fence would cost between \$15,000 and \$17,000, but since the fence was being built using volunteer labor it will only cost about a third of this amount.

Saddler said the baseball association has been working to keep the field looking nice for the last 12 years. He said over the years they had worked with

the city recreation department to redo dugouts, they put in grass at Young Memorial Field and they installed a sprinkler system at the complex.

Saddler said he and Krzycki put together the baseball association in 1995-1996. Before the association existed, Kiwanis funded the K-18 team. The association took over this task when Kiwanis lacked the money to pay for the team and had trouble finding coaches, said Krzycki. Today Kiwanis donates money to the association to help them sponsor the team. The rest of the money the association uses comes from selling advertisements to businesses. Saddler said the main members of the association are Arensdorf, Krzycki, Midwest Energy employee Wayne Sulzman and himself.

The baseball association isn’t the only group that has helped maintain the complex.

Arensdorf said the Colby Rotary Club has also helped upgrade conditions at improving the recreation complex. The Rotary has paid for a set of four covered bleachers and they planted five Oak trees at the complex, he said. Arensdorf said Rotary also paid the lion’s share of the costs for the press box at Young Memorial Field. The press box was first used this spring.

The city tree commission has also helped keep the complex looking nice. Arensdorf is head of the commission. He said over the years they have planted 17 trees at the complex.

“The city is putting in more trees in coordination with the tree commission and the Rotary Club,” said Arensdorf.

Arensdorf said the city has helped them tear out the concrete used to hold down the old fence



LYLE SADDLER/Colby Baseball Association

Ryan Beecroft, Brad Kersonbrock, owner of Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, and Corey Ridenour were hard at working putting up a post at Young Memorial Field on Sunday.

and the recreation department has extended their sprinklers so they can reach the new fence. Arensdorf said the baseball association will pay to put in grass in the parts of the field that didn’t exist before the fence was moved back. Saddler said Midwest Energy had also helped with the project by donating a pipe that

will be used in the process of building the fence.

“If you can find pictures of the old field and compare it to the field today, you would fall over,” said Krzycki.

He said the association wants to make sure there will always be a place where the public can play baseball.

## Briefly

### Parade set for Recovery Month

The Central Kansas Foundation and the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center plan a Recovery Month event, starting with a parade downtown at 1 p.m. Saturday, followed by a barbecue at Fike Park. There will be cash prizes for parade entries. For information or to enter the parade, call the center at 460-8177 or the foundation at 460-5885.

### Coaches offer coffee, talk

Join the Colby High School football staff for “Coffee with the Coaches” at 9 a.m. every Saturday after home and away football games at the Sports Shoppe, Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue. For information, call Eagles’ Coach Chris Gardener at 460-1390.

### Methodists plan dinner, auction

The Colby United Methodist Church will have its 2009 Mission Dinner and Auction at noon on Sunday

in the fellowship hall. The event will feature dinner and a silent auction, with a live auction following the meal. For information, call the church office at 460-2761 or Ronda Bachman at 460-3859.

### County van off on Tuesday

The Thomas County Transportation Van will not be running on Tuesday. Also, the van will be running from 12:30 to 4 p.m. instead of regular hours on Friday, Oct. 9. For information, call Shelly Harms at 460-4500.

### Hospital to break ground

Citizens Medical Center will hold a ground-breaking ceremony for phase one of the expansion to the main hospital building at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 2 at the hospital. The new expansion, on the northwest side of the hospital, will include a new heating and air conditioning system and an enlarged physical therapy area. For information, call Tama Unger at

460-1214.

### Foundation to meet Oct. 5

The Thomas County Community Foundation will hold their annual meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5 at the City Limits Convention Center. The speaker will be Michelle Cummings. For information, call Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

### EMT meeting Oct. 7

An information meeting for Emergency Medical Technician B classes will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at the Thomas County Ambulance Building. Classes begin Tuesday, Oct. 13. For information or to sign up, call Dawnelle Umberger at 460-4585 or 443-0176.

### College foundation dinner Oct. 12

The annual meeting and scholarship dinner of the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation

will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, in student union. The meeting and dinner are open to the public. Cost for the dinner is \$20 per person. Make reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 7. For information, or to make reservations, call Nick Wells at 460-4684.

### Sheriff can check vehicles

The Thomas County Sheriff’s Office is now checking vehicle identification numbers for cars, light trucks and motorcycles. The office is open 8 a.m., to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Sheriff Rod Taylor for information or to set up an appointment at 460-4570. The fee is \$10.



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