

Egg collecting techniques



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

More than 150 children attended Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt, which is sponsored each year by the Colby Kiwanis Club. The event is divided into three age groups with the youngest group, 0 to 3 years old, starting and then followed by 4, 5 and 6 year olds and then 7, 8 and 9 year olds, said Rick Dickman, Kiwanis Club secretary. Every child had their own technique for gather-

ing eggs. At left: Ashlyn Harbaugh, 14 months, thought she had enough eggs in her basket so she headed back to her mom; Sabrina Eicher, 3, knelt down for one last egg; Braden Beims, 1, needed to look first to make sure it was really an Easter egg and Abby Jennings, 4, visited with the Easter Bunny while waiting for her age group to begin.

Family celebrates sextuplets' birthday

RAGO (AP) — Two years after being told it was likely their six babies would not be born alive or would suffer serious defects, Sonda and Eldon Headrick are watching their children's different personalities emerge.

With the help for more than 40 doctors and nurses, Sonda delivered the three boys and three girls were born April 6, 2002 at Via Christi Regional Medical Center-St. Joseph campus. She had undergone fertility treatments the previous summer.

Now, watching Ethan, Melissa, Grant, Sean, Jaycie and Danielle grow reminds their parents — and their older sister, Aubrianna — how fortunate they are.

Sonda rattles off the emerging personalities:

"Danielle loves giving kisses. She turns your head so she can kiss you.

"Sean gives kisses when asked. "Ethan loves to roughhouse with anyone.

"Jaycie tells on others when they do something wrong.

"Grant likes things neat: Hands clean, clothes clean and diapers

stacked in a pile. "Melissa likes to play alone and do her own thing."

All six walk - and run. They're saying many words, including "Mama," "Dada."

They have full sets of teeth, and aren't afraid to use them, Eldon says.

Recently, they endured their first haircuts.

And, they are still wearing diapers. A lot of diapers. Sonda calculates they have used 33,000 diapers in two years.

In a house of six toddlers, their big sister has not been forgotten. Aubrianna, who just turned 6, wears the title of big sister like a badge of honor. She sometimes enters a home or business before the rest of the family to announce that the Headrick sextuplets have arrived.

"She probably knows more about taking care of babies than most kids her age. She has a lot of responsibilities," Sonda says. "Sometimes it's hard for Eldon and I to realize that she's just a 6-year-old." The Headricks' double-wide mobile home in rural Kingman County was too small long ago.

Senate leaves without passing finance plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Senators failed to approve a plan to provide more money for public schools before the Legislature took its annual spring recess.

Having rejected four proposals to increase taxes to benefit school districts, the Senate on Friday spurned two more modest plans that relied on existing funds to boost aid for elementary and secondary education. The chamber then adjourned until April 28.

"We will get the job done," said Senate Majority Leader Lana O'leen, R-Manhattan. "They simply

haven't found the magic combination they can support yet."

A \$35 million proposal from the chamber's Republican leaders went down on a 21-16 vote. The measure depended partly on delaying a promised 3 percent raise for state workers.

Sen. Jim Barnett, R-Emporia, then offered a version that would have protected the pay raise but sent school districts an additional \$25 million, out of lottery proceeds and other sources. The vote was 25-15 against his proposal.

The House last week passed a

\$155 million school finance bill — which the Senate rejected Thursday night — and Senate leaders had hoped to get something through their chamber on the final day before the long break.

Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, said later he planned to hold informal discussions with House counterparts during the recess to begin work on a plan acceptable to both chambers.

Noting that the Senate had turned down proposals that counted on uncertain sources for increasing aid

to schools, Umbarger said it was time to look at "real money."

"I think there's going to be a statewide tax increase," said Umbarger, R-Thayer. Legislators have been under pressure to put additional state money into education since a judge ruled in December that Kansas spends too little on public schools and distributes the aid — about \$2.6 billion a year — unfairly.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who had proposed raising school funding by \$304 million over three years, was disappointed with the Senate, her spokeswoman said Friday evening.

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