



Booster Club: Colby Eagle fans take a seat

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

A proposed new stadium at Dennen Field is closer to reality. The Colby School Board found out how construction plans are progressing at its meeting Monday. Board member Joel Powell, representing the Colby Booster Club which is spearheading the project, wanted to know if the board was still offering its consensus for the project. The board was in favor of the proposal last month. Board president Tracy Rogers said the board has given its consensus for the project, and the project doesn't need formal approval because the money was raised by the booster club and does not fit policy requiring a vote by the board. The booster club accepted a bid from CBS Constructors from Mc-

Cook, Neb., Sunday in the amount of \$98,000 to assist building the stadium. The cost for the entire stadium project, including the stands, concrete, press box and dismantling of the old stands is estimated at about \$175,000. With board consensus and a proposal accepted, plans for the stadium can be drawn. "This will take two to three weeks to draw up the blue prints," he said. The stadium is expected to be finished before the start of the 2007 season. The district is paying for the concrete, but the city of Colby has offered to provide the labor. At its September meeting, the board gave its consensus for the project and committed \$10,000-\$15,000 to help pay for concrete and a press box. The booster club raised \$75,000



LEFT: The current stadium at Dennen Field was built in 1960 and the Colby Booster Club is working on plans to replace seating.

over the past five years for the new stadium. Powell said they are close to making their goal of \$100,000. Money for the concrete also does not require approval because the amount under \$20,000. Anything

over \$20,000 must have board approval. Eagle fans will have the ability to have their own seat. Reserved seating is planned for the 1,033-seat stadium. Powell said



RIGHT: The Booster Club is using the Ulysses stadium as a model for what is proposed in Colby.

the reserved seats will be in a 30-foot section in front of the press box. The 12-inch wide benches will feature 20-inch seats with snap-on orange seat covers. The section will have approximately 280 reserved

seats. The rest of the benches in the stadium are 10-inches wide. Seats in the reserved section will

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Picture worth a 1,000 words



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Linda Kistler of Colby looked at a portrait of 1940s radio personality Olive Kackley Tuesday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Photos of Kackley, from Hill City, and many of the people she interviewed, such as Greer Garson, Bob Hope, Clarence

Darrow, Edward R. Murrow, Joan Crawford, Sinclair Lewis, and letters are on display at the museum. Kackley was also a friend of Nellie Kuska, whose more than 40,000 pieces were donated to the museum.

Make-A-Wish group needs help

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Want to help a child's fondest wish come true? The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas is looking for volunteers in northwest Kansas. Ashley Scheideman, director of program services in Wichita, said they need volunteers. "We're really in desperate need of wishgrants out in that area," she said. The foundation grants wishes to children 2 to 18 years old who have a life threatening illness or medical condition that might not allow the child to live past their 18th birthday. A wishgranter is someone at least 18 years old who will interact with a child and his or her family, and help determine the wish and making it a reality. The wishes, Scheideman said, are an opportunity for a child to get away from the doctor and illness and reconnect with family and be a kid again. She hopes to have a training session for volunteers in northwest Kansas in November. The date and location are flexible, as long as they can figure out where most of the volunteers are coming from and find an appropriate

place to meet. Currently there are six wish-granters in the area — one each in Goodland, Jennings, St. Francis and Sylvan Grove and two in Osborne. There are 155 volunteers across the state, most of who are in Wichita or Kansas City. Scheideman said there are 71 children across the state waiting to have their wishes granted. Since the foundation's inception in 1984, 814 wishes have been granted statewide. Of those, 19 have been in northwest Kansas. Volunteers only have to get recertified every three years and can grant at least one wish a year, or as many as they want. Scheideman said the most popular wish is children wanting to go to Disneyland or Disneyworld, but the sky is the limit when it comes to what a child can come up with. "It's usually up to the child's imagination what they wish," she said. "We try to do what the child wants. "The wishgranter is a fairy godmother who leaves the family with happy memories," she said. E-mail anick@kansas.wish.org or call 1-800-666-9474 or visit on the Web at www.wish.org with questions.

Incumbent wants second term; liquor by the drink on ballot

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

One county commission seat in Logan County is up for re-election and the incumbent wants it again. Republican candidate Carl Uhrich, 64, wants another shot at serving residents of District No. 1 for four years. "I am completing my first term as county commissioner and we are working on several projects that need to be completed,"

Uhrich said. Formerly owner and operator of a ready-mix concrete and excavating business, Uhrich said he raises cattle as a full-time job. He said if re-elected he will devote his time to not only ranching, but to "serving the people of Logan County."



C. Uhrich

Voters also have two special questions to decide when they go to the polls Nov. 7. Voters will be asked for a second time whether they want liquor by the drink in their county. In August, Commissioners Doug Mackley, Carl Uhrich and Nick Scott decided to put the question on the November general election ballot. That same question was on a 1992 ballot, but was defeated 963 to 738. In the 1980s, Kansas law changed to allow

liquor by the drink in clubs such as The Bluff and Country Club in Oakley to sell alcohol by the single drink. Liquor stores are still required to sell alcohol in its original packaging and require consumption off the premises of where it is sold. Not to be confused with the 2005 failed passage of alcohol sales on Sunday in both Oakley and throughout the county, voters will decide whether to make the county wet or keep it dry.

Besides Logan County, neighboring counties of Wallace, Gove and Sheridan are considered dry and do not allow liquor by the drink. Thomas County has allowed liquor by the drink since 1986. Another special question to be answered in parts of Logan County will be whether residents of Oakley Township want to support a tax levy that would generate about \$225,000 over five years for road improvement.

Western Kansas voters say their issues ignored

ELLIS (AP) — Like many residents of the panoramic plains, those gathered around the table at a convenience store on a recent morning for coffee and chat voice skepticism about politicians and government. Candidates spend more time in populous eastern Kansas, and many voters in western Kansas feel their rural-based issues are getting ignored. Even so, campaigns for governor and attorney general aren't being ignored in western Kansas, which is heavily Republican and typically has a higher-than-average voter turnout. "The problem is what they tell you now and what they do after they're in office. "I haven't seen where they follow up on too many things," re-

tired car dealer Ken Eberle said, watching the morning fog evaporate. Leading up to the Nov. 7 general election, Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has filled television screens and radio airwaves with commercials. Republican challenger Jim Barnett has been on the air, but to a much less degree. Western Kansas also has watched an acrimonious contest between Republican Attorney General Phill Kline and Democratic challenger Paul Morrison, the Johnson County district attorney. But here, voters worry about agriculture, attracting businesses, the price of fertilizer and fuel, wind energy and water rights.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Cute little monsters

Alizah Schielke, left, and Laurel Cates, right, showed off the monster masks they made during Family Night Storytime at Pioneer Memorial Library Tuesday. Instead of storytime on Halloween, the library will be holding an open house next Tuesday.