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Balloon artist thrills at library

Suzanne Lively, the Balloon Lady, who calls herself an "air head," transformed 3-year-old Gracie Pfeifer (above) into a Rubber Duckie at the children's summer program Thursday at Pioneer Memorial Library. Sabrina Eicher (below left) was turned into "Happy Dog," and Alex Zimmerman (below right) was the Big

Green Frog who ate all the flies that were bothering the other animals in a tall tale Lively does for children's gatherings. She said she has been voted best children's entertainer for the Denver area. Her appearance was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Midwest Energy Community Grant Fund.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

County figures out right-of-way dispute

By Vera Sloan

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Controversy over right of way and the location of a pole line on County Road Z, about seven miles north of Colby, is nearing settlement as far as the Thomas County Commissioners are concerned.

A landowner who is farming close to the road claims the right of way is actually encroaching on his land, and that the poles are in the middle of where the road should rightfully be. Township officials claimed the crops were in the road right of way, which is an area, they would normally mow. The matter was brought to the commissioners this month by the Rovohl Township trustees, who asked the county to intervene on their part.

Todd Unruh and Chad Zimmerman, represented Midwest Energy, which owns the utility line, met with the commissioners Monday to report on the road issue. They brought the original staking sheet to the meeting, and it showed the area as a trail rather than

a road. The sheet showed that the power line was installed in an old fence line, where, the men said, there is evidence of posts and wire that are mostly covered by blow dirt.

"Land purchases are always subject to rights of way and easements," noted commission Chairman Ken Christiansen.

"Everyone bought their land where the line and road is today," said Commissioner Paul Steele, "and I don't think we can change anything. It was already in place."

Christiansen said he thought the only thing to discuss was where the north side of the right-of-way is. He said the road will stay where it is, but the township crew needs to know where its work limits are.

County Attorney Bruce Flipse said power poles don't establish easements, but where there's a road, there's an easement.

"The simple solution is that those poles have been

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County ham radio club to join field day Saturday

By Kevin Bottrell

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Thomas County's Trojans Ham Radio Club will join clubs from around North America for the annual Amateur Radio Field Day, a 24-hour demonstration and emergency drill starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Club program director Mike Albers said the local "hams," as the operators are known, will set up a mock emergency station at the Colby Airport terminal using its equipment, including portable towers and radio consoles. He said members also have digital communications equipment such as computers with Internet voice software.

Albers said everything will run off generators all through the night, simulating how they would

set up to provide communications in an emergency. The exercise stimulates the aftermath of a tornado or snowstorm, when regular power and communications lines often are down.

"We want to make sure everything runs for 24 hours," Albers said.

This year, he said, the club has fewer members available to man the station due to some moving away and the wheat harvest, which may begin over the weekend. The club may keep the station open all night or they may shut down late and start up again Sunday morning.

"Some clubs can go 24 hours," Albers said. "You put in whatever time you can."

Albers said the club is inviting everyone to come out and see how the equipment works.

Part of the fun, he said, is the

club will be able to talk to other ham radio clubs from as close as Goodland and as far away as Canada. According to the Amateur Radio Relay League, which sponsors the field day, more than 30,000 people in North America participated in the drill last year. The clubs will communicate using all of their technology. The Goodland club, the Sherman County Amateur Radio Enthusiasts, will set up its station at the Tourist Information Center at the rest area on I-70 west of Goodland.

Albers said ham radio operators are given radio and other communications frequencies to provide a way of getting information out. Operators are often trained weather spotters, and can inform authorities or the public of severe weather, fires or other emergencies when normal communications might be down.

Paper to drop Monday Advocate

As a cost-cutting move, the Colby Free Press will no longer include a copy of the Country Advocate in the Monday edition sold on newsstands, mailed to subscribers or delivered to homes.

Publisher Steve Haynes said that the Advocate still will be delivered to nonsubscribers at home and distributed through stores and newsstands in a 14-county area. In Colby, copies are available at Dillons, the Hi-Plains Co-op station and the Free

Press office. Customers will get the same inserts and flier in their paper as before.

"The Advocate was put back in the paper last year, when times were better, after an absence of a decade," said Publisher Steve Haynes. "In the middle of this difficult recession, though, it's something we can no longer afford. We hope to bring the Advocate back to the paper when the economy improves."

Model T Fords to roll through Colby on centennial road trip

By Tom Betz

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About 50 Model T Fords will straggle through downtown Colby late Saturday afternoon as the Ocean to Ocean Tour comes through town.

The vintage Fords will come right through town on Fourth Street, then follow U.S. 24 and Old U.S. 24 through Brewster, headed for an overnight stop in Goodland. Estimates are they will come through in small groups starting about 4 p.m., but some could be earlier, some

later.

The stop is part of the centennial re-enactment of the 1909 Ocean to Ocean Endurance Contest, which went from New York to Seattle with a stop in Goodland.

Ford had two cars in the original race, and they stopped in Goodland in 1909. Photos were taken on a muddy, unpaved Main Ave.

Another photo taken later the same day shows an Acme car owned by New York millionaire Robert J. Guggenheim, sponsor of the race, in front of the Centennial Hotel, now known as the Centennial Building.

A race account from 1909 said the week before arriving in Goodland and a few days afterward were rainy and the trails were wet and muddy, making progress slow.

Ford won the first race and the company re-enacted the trip in 1959, stopping in Goodland with a Model-T and the 50 millionth Ford built, a 1959 sedan used to celebrate the rerun of the race.

Saturday, the Model Ts will be coming from Abilene on their 14th day on the road. The cars are to leave about 5 a.m. The drivers and cars will overnight at the Holiday Inn Express south of I-70 on

K-27 in Goodland.

At 6:30 p.m., the antique cars will parade down Main Ave. with a police escort to attend a dinner at the Ennis-Handy House put on by the Sherman County Historical Society.

The Sherman County Brick Top Cruisers car club will hold a cruise night on Saturday, gathering at 4 p.m. at Chambers Park.

The local cars will join in the parade and dinner. Later, will cruise around town and be parked at Chambers, a block west of downtown.

The antique cars will overnight at the

Holiday Inn, and early Sunday morning the photo on Main will be re-enacted with a plaque being presented to commemorate the centennial of the cross-country race.

Sunday, the cars will continue west to Fort Collins, Colo., for a day of rest before moving west into Wyoming. The cars are to arrive in Seattle by July 13; the centennial rerun started June 14 in White Plains, N.Y.

The Model Ts will be on display overnight at the Holiday Inn. They will be guarded by the Goodland Police to allow the drivers to get a good night's sleep.

Briefly

See student art at museum

Through Tuesday, visitors to the Prairie Museum of Art and History can see artwork of Thomas County students in the Garvey Educational Room. Students from kindergarten through high school have work in the free exhibit. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For information, call the museum at 460-4590.

Food delivery this weekend

Prairie Land Food delivery will be from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School Gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For questions, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579 or State Farm at 462-7525.

Race club to meet Sunday

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold its second June races at 2 p.m. Sunday at the church. Kids and adults are welcome, and the church can provide

cars. For information, call the church at 462-2867.

Church to have video concert

The Colby Berean Church will hold a free Gaither Homecoming video concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church. Refreshments will be provided. For information, call the church at 460-1968.

Picnic in the Park Wednesday

Next week's entertainment at Picnic in the Park will be Scott Cameron. The series continues at noon every Wednesday through July 29 in Fike Park. For information, call the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401 or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau at 460-7643.

Nursing home plans dog show

The Colby Care Center will hold a doggie fashion show at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 11. Dress up your

dogs and bring them by, along with a \$5 donation for the Residents Activity Fund. Veterinarian Tammy Swarts will judge the entries and award prizes, and give some free advice for dog owners. For information, call Amanda Hillis at 462-6721.

College pool open weekdays

The Colby Community College indoor swimming pool is open to the public for lap swimming from 5 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost for general admission is \$3. Monthly and yearly passes are available. Call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 for information.

Camp set for Tuesdays

The Colby Wesleyan Church is offering "Tuesdays @ 10," a free summer day camp for children 4 to 12.

Kids can join in the food, fun, games and God's love from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday through July 28. This year's "Son Rock Camp" will include nature hikes and outdoor activities with lunch. To register, or for questions, call the church office at 462-8391.

Church holding Bible study

The Colby Wesleyan Church will offer a 12-week Beth Moore Bible study, "Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy," from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Aug. 19 at the Pioneer Memorial Library's community room. No homework is required and discussion will focus around the videos. For information, call the church at 462-8391.



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