



# Benefit to kick off Homecoming week

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Its time to break out the orange and black as Colby High School's Homecoming week gets under way.

Students were busy decorating businesses around town this weekend, and the first activity will be Tuesday with the "Dig Pink" night at the varsity and junior varsity volleyball games. The teams are raising money to help Colby resident Nancy Barlow, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. The games begin at 4

## Organizations to set up at game

Several organizations are planning activities at the Colby High School Homecoming game Friday.

Modern Woodmen of America will have a hamburger feed from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the concession stand and Dennen Field. Proceeds will go to the

booster club to help with the new locker room project. Modern Woodmen will match the money made at the feed.

The Take Charge Challenge committee will have a booth set up to get some last minute points for Colby before the contest ends.

while freshman, sophomore and junior jerseys will be sold in a silent auction at the high school throughout the week.

The students also got permission to sell off some vintage Colby High School jerseys. The jerseys come from several different sports. Principal Larry Gabel said many are in good condition. Money raised will go back to those sports' activity funds.

The Homecoming parade will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday. It will begin at Fike Park, go down Franklin to Third Street and then continue west to Dennen Field. There will be a pep rally immediately fol-

lowing the parade.

The Homecoming football game against Ulysses will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the royalty coronation after the game. The Homecoming dance will be from 8 to 11 p.m. at the high school.

The students are also having dress-up days this week. Today was "Operation Flashback," a retro-themed dress-up day. Tuesday the students will dress in pink to go with the volleyball fund raiser. Wednesday is spy day, Thursday is mismatch day and Friday is spirit day, where the students will dress in their finest orange and black gear.

# State declines to investigate Sherman sheriff

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Despite allegations of abusive conduct against Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts the Kansas Attorney General's office will not conduct an investigation.

Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby received a letter on Sept. 16 saying the Attorney General's office has decided not to take any further action to investigate the sheriff.

The letter from Lee J. Davidson, assistant attorney general in the criminal litigation division, said the information sent to Topeka had been forwarded by Attorney General Derek Schmidt, to Deputy Attorney General Vic Braden and then to Davidson.

"After thoroughly reviewing the materials you submitted, we are declining to take further action," the letter said. "Even if the allegations are substantiated through further investigation, it is our opinion that the allegations at this point do not rise to the level of criminal conduct."

The letter indicates the issue is not one the Attorney General was willing to expend resources to in-

vestigate.

"I am sorry we are unable to help you in this matter, but our resources do not allow us to offer assistance at this time when criminal liability is not at issue," Davidson wrote.

Selby had sent evidence to the Attorney General asking for an investigation "of a pattern of continuing, abusive conduct of Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts, which may provide the basis for civil actions of hostile work environment and/or conduct supporting criminal charges."

Selby said she had been told the Attorney General had accepted the material and was considering doing an investigation before she received the letter on Friday.

She said that the Attorney General's office is just one of the agencies she sent the material to and she has not heard any decisions from the others.

Sheriff Butts said Wednesday he had not seen the letter, but he was glad to hear the decision of the Attorney General.

"It is a relief," he said. "I can get back to business and put that behind me and do what the citizens of Sherman County elected me to do."

# Kansas likely to seek education law waiver

TOPEKA - A Kansas education official says it's likely that the state will seriously consider seeking a waiver to the No Child Left Behind education law.

President Barack Obama announced Friday that states will be given more ways to comply with the law, including applying for a waiver to some sections. The State Board of Education would decide whether to ask for the waiver.

Kathy Toelkes, a spokeswoman for the state education department, says previous discussion about the law by board members suggests they will consider a waiver request.

The U.S. Department of Education rejected a waiver sought earlier this year by Kansas. The Lawrence Journal-World reports (http://bit.ly/oYrh5) that in August, the state board discussed applying again and most board members seemed to agree with the idea.

There are questions about whether letting states bypass unpopular proficiency standards will help the nation's schoolchildren. And, even as states clamor to use the new waiver option, some lawmakers say Obama is inserting politics in what had been a bipartisan approach to education.

At the White House, the president said he was acting only because Congress wouldn't. He decried the state of U.S. education and called the "No Child" law

- a signature legacy of President George W. Bush's presidency - an admirable but flawed effort that ended up hurting students instead of helping them.

Obama's announcement could fundamentally affect the education of tens of millions of children. It will allow states to scrap a key requirement that all children show they are proficient in reading and math by 2014 - if those states meet conditions such as imposing their own standards to prepare students for college and careers and setting evaluation standards for teachers and principals.

Kids will still have to take yearly tests in math and reading, although the administration says the emphasis will be more on measuring growth over time.

The impact on school kids could vary greatly depending on how states choose to reward or punish individual schools. Under No Child Left Behind, children who attend schools deemed failures after a set period of time are eligible for extra tutoring and school choice. Under the president's plan, it's up to states granted waivers to decide if they will use those same remedies.

A majority of states are expected to apply for waivers, which would be given to those that qualify early next year.

State officials have long complained that if they had more flexibility, they could implement positive changes. Now, they will have to step up and prove it.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

# Colby picks up 11,720 points in energy race

A group of Colby citizens (above) decided which materials in their bag could be recycled during a Learning Tree activity at the Take Charge Challenge pancake breakfast Saturday. The Colby Fire Department (left) cooked the pancakes and sausage. The City of Colby got 11,720 points toward the Challenge. City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said 1,018 people attended the breakfast - the city got 10 points for each person there for 10,180 points - and 152 completed the Learning Tree activities at the breakfast, which earned the city another 10 points each. This week the Take Charge Challenge committee will have booths at the high school and college volleyball games Tuesday and Wednesday and at the high school Homecoming game on Friday at Dennen Field.

