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By: Roger McKenzie

Turkey Trot participants walk and run to support The Great American Smoke Out

A cool and windy morning greeted about 30 runners and walkers who participated Saturday morning in a 5K run and a one-mile Fun Run. The first ever Turkey Trot was organized by the Major and Woods County Tobacco Prevention Coalition to support The Great American Smoke Out.

Coalition Coordinator Yolanda Creswell sent the runners in the 5K off down Flynn Street at 8:30 a.m. in front of the courthouse in downtown Alva. The runners and walkers in the Fun Run started a little later. Creswell and her crew handed out tee-shirts to all and presented turkeys to the men's and women's winners in each race.

A number of cross country runners from Northwestern Oklahoma State University took part in the 5K run. They were not eligible to win the turkeys because of their obvious advantage in training and because of scholarship rules preventing it. As expected, cross country team members came in first in the 5K run. Luis Peña and Emily Guthrie finished the race in 17:46 and 23:24 respectively.

Winning turkeys for their efforts in the 5K run were Jason Bryant, the first eligible mens finisher, and Kaylen Corder for the women. Both are from Alva. Bryants time was 28:43. Corder crossed the finish line in a time of 23:45.

Winning turkeys in the Fun Run as the first male and female to complete the circuit were Beth Ruddle and Kendall Emerson, both of Collinville. They crossed the finish line together in a time of 11:09.

Creswell expressed thanks to the competitors after the race.

She hopes to be able to put on the event again next year.