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KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press



FFA members cook breakfast

FFA members (above, from left) Shane Ohlrogge, Keagan Strange, Seth Bredemeier and Kristian Mehl cooked pancakes and bacon for anyone who wanted it this morning at the FFA Appreciation Breakfast at Colby High School. The breakfast celebrated National FFA Week. Clayton Appelhans (left in left photo) and Dustin Burleigh decided to take their pancakes to go as they headed to the ag shop for class.

Students learn safe driving tips

By Vera Sloan
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If you buy safety belts or infant car seats at a garage sale, you may not be getting a bargain, since there's really no way to know if the equipment is defective or whether it will meet today's standards.

Freshmen boys and girls in Leslie Wagoner's health class at Colby High School learned that and a lot more Tuesday.

Never let small children share a seat belt, they learned. Every occupant of a car under the age of 18 must be clicked into a belt. They heard about child safety seats, rules on a child's height and weight and how to properly use booster seats.

The fact that it is illegal to oper-

ate a motorcycle without a special license validation surprised some of the students, and many admitted to doing that very thing.

The students learned there are three things to remember while operating a motorcycle: always wear a helmet, always wear some kind of eye protection and always wear long pants. They learned that they need to take a motorcycle driving test in order to get the motorcycle endorsement added to their regular driver's license.

"ATV's are not street legal," Mrs. Wagoner told the class, "so if you're going to take them through the car wash, it would be best to have them on a trailer."

Wagoner told the class that in Kentucky, students who have a failing grade may have their driver's license suspended for a year.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

A quiz covering safety while driving is lots more fun when you score right answers in a tic tac toe game. Leslie Wagoner's freshman health class at Colby High School is having seven lessons on rules of the road that cover all kinds of safety information furnished by the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office.

If they drop out of school, their license can be suspended until age 21.

"We will cover a lot of things about safety rules in the next six

days," Wagoner told the class. "They will learn about driving dangers, distracted, aggressive

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District gets budget help from citizens

By Kevin Bottrell
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Superintendent Terrell Harrison painted a bleak picture of the state's budget crisis Wednesday night, saying the Colby School District could lose hundreds of thousands of dollars if the state Legislature decides not to raise taxes.

More than 150 parents, teachers and citizens gathered at Colby High School Wednesday night to talk about the budget. Harrison gave an overview of the crisis up till now and then broke the audience into small groups to brainstorm ideas for cutting the district's budget if they need to next year. Harrison said district won't know if they need to make more cuts or not until May.

Although many were surprised by being asked to break into groups, the crowd worked diligently to find ways save money. Suggestions ran from sweeping changes to losing staff to one man who suggested the high school get rid of every other light bulb to

save energy.

Harrison said the schools lost \$600,000 to state budget cuts at the beginning of the school year. The board cut 11 teachers and support staff; reduced several programs, including home economics and the Thomas County Academy, to half time; eliminated busing for students living less than 2 1/2 miles from school; and cut purchases for things like textbook and computer upgrades.

The district also increased student fees and cut hours and supplies for custodial and maintenance services, she said.

In November, Harrison said, state revenue came in under projections again, and the governor ordered more cuts, which the Legislature approved at the beginning of the January session. Harrison said the district lost another \$291,000 in those cuts. These were particularly difficult, she said, because the school board approved the budget in July and they were locked into paying teachers and offering programs with less

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Colby driver killed in Topeka

A truck driver based in Colby was killed Sunday when his semi-trailer rig overturned on an icy stretch of Interstate 70 just west of Topeka and burned.

Stephen R. Rediske, 48, Kearney, Neb., was driving east on I-70 close to the K-4 interchange early Sunday morning when his truck left the road, overturned and caught fire, said Sgt. Jay Simecka of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office. Simecka said the crash was likely the result of the winter storm that moved through Kansas last weekend.

The Kansas Department of Transportation closed a section of the Interstate for eight hours while officers investigated the crash and workers cleaned up.

Simecka said Rediske's name was withheld until Wednesday during the investigation, until his next of kin in Montana could be notified.

A friend, Paul McCauley of Bozeman, Mont., said Rediske worked for a Kearney trucking company hauling mail and was based in Colby along with several other drivers.

Colby High players earn top honors at state piano event

Four Colby students scored high ratings at the State Piano Festival on Saturday at Wichita State University. Senior Barbara Bickner, sophomore Rachel Juenemann and freshman Alex Juenemann each scored I ratings and junior Amanda Barnum scored a II.

The students are ranked by a judge on a scale of I to III. A III is average, II above average and I exceptional. Student had to re-

ceived a I rating at the regional competition in Hays on Feb. 6 to qualify.

All four are students of Pat Ziegelmeier.

Barnum has been taking piano lessons for 12 years, from both Ziegelmeier and Shirley Malcom. This was her third year at the state competition. She played

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Briefly

Youth soccer looking for players

Signups for the American Youth Soccer Organization's spring season are open until Friday. The cost is \$40; kids must be around 6 to participate. The organization is also looking for parents to coach or referee. For information or to sign up, call Emily Griffin at 460-0647.

RC Club to hold Sunday races

The First Baptist Church RC Club will hold races from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome; the church can provide cars. For information, call Kent Higerd at 462-3440.

Sacred Heart carnival Sunday

Sacred Heart Catholic School's annual carnival will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, featuring food, games and a raffle drawing at 3. Sacred Heart

students are out selling raffle tickets, and the top sellers in each grade get prizes. For information, call the school at 460-2813.

Orchestra to play this week

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will hold a "Jeans and T-shirts" concert at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Frahm Theater at Colby Community College. The orchestra will perform a variety of music from "Symphony in G Minor" to selections from "Star Wars." Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children. For information, call Carol McGuire at (785) 672-2380.

Foundation has grants for kids

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications until Monday for the first-quarter cycle for Kids Can Do! grants. Teachers,

principals and club sponsors are encouraged to apply for the \$200 grants for student-run projects. For information, go to www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com or call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

'Brown Bag' series continues

The Thomas County Ministerial Association will sponsor the *Lenten Brown Bags and Bibles* program at noon each Wednesday throughout Lent with the theme, "The Prodigal Son." Speakers will be Jarrod Spencer, Church of Christ, on Wednesday; March 10, Steve Todd, College Drive Assembly of God; March 17, W.G. Romine, Redeeming Love Ministries; March 24, Larry Booth; March 31, Spencer. Come to the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church, 545 W. Fourth St. Bring your own lunch; beverage and dessert will be provided. Call 462-6342 for information.

District offers trees for planting

The Thomas County Conservation District is offering trees for sale to raise money to help pay for its annual meeting and for youth conservation education. Orders are due Friday, March 5. Varieties including eastern red cedar, cottonwood, burr oak and chokecherry. The trees will be delivered to the conservation office, 915 E. Walnut, on Saturday, March 27. For information, call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482.

