



Bowlers hit '300' for charity



Orvella Romine talked to participants of the Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids' Sake" fund raiser last week. Co-owner Charles Schwanke was behind the counter at the Colby Bowl

and Fun Center. The event raised more than \$19,000, she said today. Participants received T-shirts, and prizes were given out throughout the night.

CHRISTINA BERINGER/Colby Free Press

Pioneer women focus of talks

In honor of Women's History Month, the Prairie Museum of Art and History's "Food for Thought" program this week will focus on a few of those hardy women who came here to make a new life on the High Plains.

The session starts at noon Thursday. Cindy Duffey, Erin Eicher Matthews, Gary Adrian, Carol Thiel and Judie Withers will share stories, information and photos about women in

their families who were among the earliest settlers in Thomas County.

Among these are Melissa Alger Wallace, a teacher who decided to come west from Missouri to homestead in 1885; Emily Thiel Stover who immigrated to this country from Germany with her family; Sylvia Giles Eicher who arrived in Rawlins County in 1885 from Ohio; and women of the Duffey and Moos families.

A light lunch will be served. In view of the crowds that have been attending the last few museum lunches, extra tables and chairs have been purchased and plenty of food will be on hand.

The museum is at 1905 S. Franklin Ave. For information, call Ann Miner at (785) 460-4590 or e-mail museumed@st-tel.net.

Deputy can show parents safe ways to install seats

By Kayla Cornett

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Lance Goodman, a Thomas County sheriff's deputy, has completed a course on installing child restraint systems and now is one of two certified child passenger safety technicians in the county.

Goodman said the course teaches officers how to install an appropriate child restraint system based on a child's age, weight and height. He took the course from March 6 to 9 at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson.

"It was a very good class," Goodman said. "It was four days for eight hours a day."

Trooper Tod Hileman of the Kansas Highway Patrol, who is now an instructor on installing the restraint systems, is the other officer here certified to check and install child seats.

Goodman said he has an 18-month-old daughter

and had installed a car seat before, but the course taught him even more about safety restraints. He said some seats are convertible, so there are many different ways to put them in a vehicle.

"I learned how to put the child safety restraints in safely and correctly," he said.

Anyone interested in having a car seat inspected or installed should call the sheriff's office to make an appointment at (785) 460-4570 or stop by the Law Enforcement Center at 225 N. Court Ave., just south of the courthouse.

Kansas law requires children under the age of 8 to be in an approved restraint, not just on the seat of a car or truck, he said. Babies and toddlers should be in an approved child seat, and kids 4 to 7 need to be in a booster seat. The Highway Patrol website offers "4 Steps for Kids" to make it easier to understand the law.

Babies up to their first birthday should always ride

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No budget, no pay for Senate?

By Andrew Taylor

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It might be dismissed as an election year gimmick by the big shots who run Capitol Hill, but frustration over Congress' failure to pass a budget since 2009 has given surprising momentum to a bill that would cut off lawmakers' pay if they can't — or won't — pass a budget blueprint.

The "no budget, no pay" idea is still a long shot, but it's actually getting an official hearing today from the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee as part of a package of congressional reform proposals

from a centrist group called No Labels.

The idea is simple. If Congress doesn't pass a budget and all 12 of the accompanying spending bills setting annual agency budgets on time, every lawmaker's paycheck would get cut off. No exceptions.

"Congress has missed so many budget and appropriations deadlines over the years that no one takes these deadlines seriously," Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., said. "We often fund programs on a short-term basis, sometimes month-to-month or even week-to-week. Political standoffs have even led to complete government shutdowns. This is inexcusable. We no longer have 'one nation, under God, indivisible,' but 'one nation, yet again, interrupted.'" No Labels is a 500,000-member

group started a little more than a year ago by both Democrats and Republicans in hopes of easing the partisanship and gridlock that has engulfed Washington, which it says is a place overtaken by political games and pettiness.

"The parties have organized themselves into warring clans that value defeating the other side over even the most basic acts of governing, like passing a budget on time," a statement on the group's website says.

The last time Congress passed a budget was 1,050 days ago, way back in 2009. That's not the end of the world since the annual congressional budget resolution is a nonbinding measure that mostly sets goals for follow-up legisla-

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Area band set to play at dance here

The Colby band "The Mama's Boys" will play for a St. Patrick's Day dance and concert at 9 p.m. Saturday at the City Limits Convention Center in a fund raiser for the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival.

Before the dance, a beer and wine tasting will be offered at the convention center. Light snacks and door prizes will be offered throughout the night.

Tickets for the entire evening are \$25 per person, or \$15 in advance for the tasting and \$15 in advance or at the door for the dance. They're available at City Limits or the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave.

The band features Jordan Sharp on guitar, Rusty Helin on guitar and drum box, Brandon McLemore on guitar, Brock Wagoner on drum box and keyboard and Blake McLemore on bass guitar. All five share lead singing duties and join in three- and four-part harmonies.

Brandon McLemore said the band — all five grew up together in Colby — has been playing off and on for about five years.

"We've only done around 10 gigs together," he said. "Blake and I have four other bands we play with. But we love getting to play country and acoustic rock, even some hard rock. And there'll be just a little tiny bit of hip hop, too."

Organizer Susan McLemore said the group plays '80s and '90s country, rock and even some rap, and does some well-known songs by Randy Travis, Diamond Rio, John Michael Montgomery, Third Eye Blind, the Goo Goo Dolls and many other bands.

"They really are good," she said. "I know, I'm a mama, but... they keep adding things and getting better."

"We've had fund raisers before. We try to do different things. We try to do spring and fall, and we did New Year's Eve."

Organizing and planning the festival has become a year-around thing, she said, and the committee has to raise money to help pay for some of the name bands it attracts. Brandon McLemore said the bands this summer will cost about \$23,000, so the organizers need to make some serious money.

"Thanks to our sponsors, we're able to keep our ticket prices relatively low," Susan McLemore said, noting that a weekend pass is just \$35 in advance or \$40 at the gate. Teens 12 to 16 get in for \$10 for three days, and children under 12 are free.

Dates for this year's festival are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 20 to 22. Bands will include 2011 Grammy nominees Dailey & Vincent, Cody Shuler and Pine Mountain Railroad, Driven, Triple L,

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VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Steve and Marilyn Friesen helped a volunteer stock shelves at the Genesis-Thomas County food bank last week. The agency says it needs donations to buy food since demand has been heavy. That made a \$2,500 check from the Monsanto Corp. especially welcome.

Firm gives food bank \$2,500

By Vera Sloan

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Genesis-Thomas County food bank received a \$2,500 donation on Friday from the Monsanto Corp., a major supplier of agricultural seed and chemicals, and an area farm couple who won the company's contest.

Monsanto makes community rewards available through the firm's farm customers. Steve and Marilyn Friesen of Colby won the right to choose a charity in this year's contest.

"It was as simple as filling out the application online," said Marilyn Friesen. "There were 88 counties in Kansas to win this kind of a prize.

Winners get to choose a non-profit organization such as a 4-H group, FFA, school, or any (approved charity) to receive the ... award."

She said the choice was easy for the Friesen family, who are involved in Genesis. They helped organize collection of food for filling and distributing Christmas baskets for several years, and Steve is a former member of the Genesis board.

"The only requirements to filling out the Monsanto application," Marilyn Friesen said, "is to use Monsanto products, and be a farmer of at least 250 acres."

Genesis President Wynn- Duffey said donated food items can't begin to keep up with the amounts

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