

THE SCOOP:

Life outside of school for students
SEE PAGE 4-5

02/09/2018
Volume #25
Issue #4
Colby High School
1890 S. Franklin
Colby, KS 67701
www.colbyeagles.org

EAGLE TALON

Karmen Barraza

Students section sees changes

Senior creates Twitter account, promotes school spirit



Maia Cape
Fun Page Editor

School spirit is shown through different ways. Whether you show it as dressing up for spirit days or merely showing up for the games, the spirit is still shown there. But some students, such as Kaiser Lopez, sr., go the extra mile in spreading school spirit. Lopez created and solely runs a twitter page titled 'CHS Flock', the source for all basketball game themes and other winter sport shout outs. The twitter account was made last December, a few days before the start of basketball season and has already sent out tweets for home game dress up

themes. So far, the account seems to have nothing but good reviews.

"People are always asking me what the theme is and I feel like more people have been coming [to the account]," Lopez said.

Because of the accounts success, many fans have been dressing up to attend home games. Two active followers of the account, Jason Krannawitter, fr., and Bryson

Metcalf, so., enjoy how the account gets the student body more involved in the games.

"I think it helps the athletes out, just to know that they school has their backs," Metcalf said.

But it's not just beneficial for athletes. The rest of the crowd benefits as well.

"[The] student section makes it more fun for the people that are watching the game," Krannawitter said.

Plus, that's not the only thing Lopez has done to show spirit. On January 13, Lopez, Tommy Cline, jr., and Zach Hart, sr., all participated in an ESPN parody broadcasting show which they called ESPN 8, The Ocho.

The parody was set on the first day of the Orange and Black Classic. Lopez, Cline, and Hart had no real goal behind this.

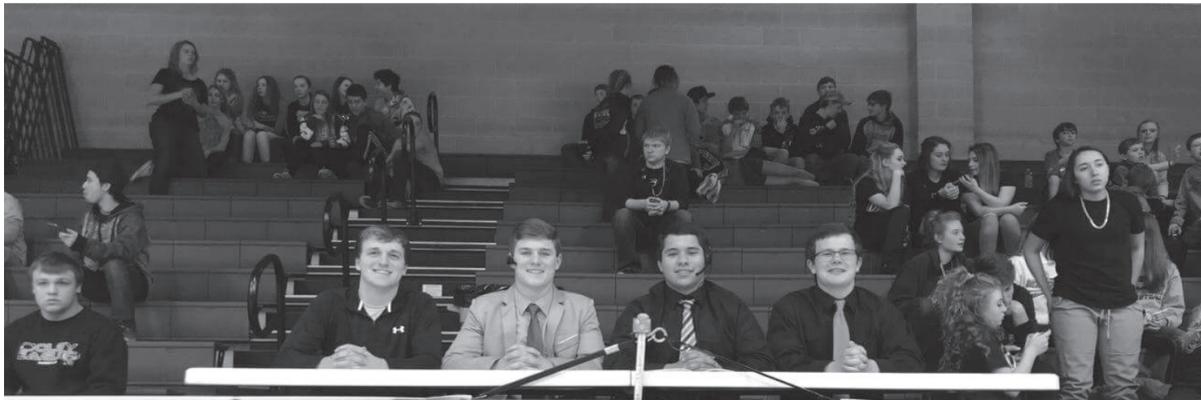
"We just thought it would be fun," Lopez said.

The boys commentated, gave stats, and evaluated players during the girls' varsity game and had interviews with alumni members, players, and coaches, and also posted the videos on Lopez's Snapchat.

"[My favorite part was] the interviews with the players, coaches and some students because it was fun to get their answers," Cline said.

There is no confirmation on ESPN 8 returning again, but Cline is interested in being a part of it next year if it does.

“
I think it helps the athletes out just to know to know that the school has their backs.
”



Courtesy Photo

CHS alumni, Rex Branum, along with seniors Zach Hart and Kaiser Lopez and junior Tommy Cline, pretend to be sports announcers at the Orange and Black Classic. This was put together by Lopez the day of the game.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Superintendent explains how snow days affect the school district, contact hours



Bailey Britton
Editor in Chief

A childhood dream of every student is a snow day. These magical days usually involve playing in the snow and drinking hot cocoa. However, snow days aren't as common as one might believe.

"Deciding to call off school for a winter weather event involves many considerations," Katina Brenn, superintendent, said.

This school year, CPS had one snow day January 22 and another February 6. The first was following a winter storm that shut down I-70 from

the Colorado border to Oakley. The storm was anticipated in advance and most people were able to prepare. School was called off on the evening of January 21 due to preparations.

"Typically the days leading up to an anticipated weather event are filled with checking weather reports, participating in winter warning conference calls with the National Weather Station, and reading weather briefings that are updated hourly," Brenn said.

It isn't always clear as to when school will be canceled for snow by only considering weather reports. Administration also has to take into consideration if the streets will be able to be cleared, and if buses will be able to run their routes. The city manager and the district transportation director are contacted for this information.

"If there are any questions about safe travel conditions,

both the director of transportation and myself drive the routes to make any final decisions," Brenn said.

Safety is the main priority for traveling during snowy conditions.

"These decisions are very difficult ones to make. As a superintendent, your primary responsibility is to keep your students and staff safe. I take that responsibility very seriously and I would rather err on the side of cautiousness when making this type of decision," Brenn said.

The district can decide if a snow day is needed based on these factors. The time at which a snow day is determined varies, but usually it is the evening before or the morning of the anticipated snow day. Isabel Dixon, so., prefers to know the evening before if there will be a snow day.

"I like to know in the evening so I know if I'm able to sleep in



Donna Henry

The scenic view from Donna Henry's backyard gave a glimpse into the powdery white world. Colby Public Schools had a snow day on Tuesday, February 6.

The next morning," Dixon said.

For Colby schools, there are no "snow days" added into the calendar. The district must meet the minimum required contact hours which is time that students

CHS FLOCK

Follow the flock and keep up to date
@CHSFlock1

Infographic displays some of the tweets from the CHS Flock twitter, as well as the Twitter page.

Maia Cape

and teachers must be together, not including passing periods or recess. The minimum hours for grades kindergarten through eleventh is 1,116 hours. The minimum for seniors is

1,086 hours. If too many days, or even hours, are missed due to snow, the district must add additional days to make up for the lost contact time. The contact time is monitored by the state, but snow days are determined by the district.

Colby Public Schools have about 10 and a half hours that students in grades K-11 can miss, and 2 and a half hours for seniors to be able to miss. However, the district can use the three parent-teacher conference days in the calendar to cover up to three days worth of contact hours. If the school goes over three snow days, the school board will begin to discuss the need for extra days to be added to the school calendar.

Returning to school has made it more difficult to find time to play in the snow and drink hot cocoa. However, since it's only mid February, there is a possibility to enjoy another snow day if weather factors align.



PEOPLE

The newspaper staff features a different person from each class on this page. For the Peeps, the staff asks various students or staff to relate a funny thing that happened to them.

“At tennis, I almost broke my ankle by stepping on a tennis ball.”



Makenzie Dodson, Fr.



Ryanne Meyer
Sports Page Editor

William “Will” Bradley, fr., has much more to offer than the eye can see. At first, he is a bit shy around people he is unfamiliar with. However, this is only because there are too many creative and well thought out things in his head to be explored with a stranger. Bradley is both musically and artistically inclined, as he is in both band and Cosmic Crayon. His favorite class is art, and he’s usually in the art room

William Bradley, Fr.

three times a day. He also spends his free time drawing.

I want to follow something in art, like graphic design or character design. Creativeness is my drive,” Bradley said.

Recently, he finished an art project similar to surrealism. He created a skull, next to a small person, as if to make the skull look abnormally huge.

“[The skull] is one of my favorites that I’ve done so far. Most of my artwork is very fantasized,” Bradley said.

Another thing about Bradley is that his thought process is very detailed and to the longest extent. When questions are asked, even



Ryanne Meyer

William Bradley, fr., finishes a scene for one of his paintings. Bradley’s favorite class is art and he hopes to form a career around this passion some day.

rhetorical, Bradley thinks about it from every angle and compares it to his own experiences.

“I think that’s why I’m shy. You can’t really express

all of your creative thoughts and ideas to someone [you just met] because you don’t know if people will accept you right away or not. I just don’t like the awkward

silences in small talk,” Bradley said.

When Bradley isn’t drawing, he is usually hanging out with his freshman friends Eli Applebury, Tobin Gardner, Nathan Hurst and Travis Tubbs. They like to walk around town together, because they’re unable to drive. Around strangers, Bradley is quiet and he tries to act nice, but around his friends, he can act a little differently.

Bradley is one of the many examples of students that show that still waters run deep. While Bradley may seem reserved, he has more going on in his mind than some could imagine.



Laurel Myers
Fun Page Editor

As students get closer to senior year, many start to feel pressured by the question, “What am I going to do after school is over?” Trace Evans, so., has a fairly good idea of what he wants to do.

During Evans middle school years, he developed an interest in welding and carpentry through the woods class. He has wanted to participate in the woods classes at CHS but hasn’t

Trace Evans, So.



Stacia Oren

Trace Evans, so., prepares to squat during his strength training class. Evans enjoys strength training and other kinds of exercise.

found room in his schedule yet. If Evans does not go into welding, he still has other career ideas.

“I want to do something

basic,” Evans said. “Maybe a highway patrolman or a welder.”

Evans currently takes Law and Public Safety classes

with teacher, Rick Williams. That is a step toward one of his career goals as a highway patrolman.

Evans doesn’t have an after school job currently but works at Dillons on the weekends.

Though Evans is not participating in any sports this year, he has had a past of playing football. He played from 7th grade to freshman year. Once Evans began to feel that he was only playing because his parents expected him to play, he discovered that his passion had dried. Evans also wrestled his 7th grade year and decided not to participate in it since.

Despite the fact that Evans

no longer plays sports, he still maintains daily exercise and recreation. He is able to obtain daily exercise through teacher Ed Schmitt’s strength training class during 3rd hour. Evans enjoys strength training, and it is one of his favorite classes.

Spending time outdoors, breathing fresh air is another activity Evans enjoys.

Many wonder what it is they want to pursue in life. Evans isn’t clear on what it is he wants to do exactly, but he at least has an idea of where he wants to go.

“When I was little, Lynnsey Elling [sr.] picked me up, wrapped her arms around my chest, and carried me all the way to the bathroom and set me in the bathtub.”



Meghan Elling, So.

“During the Orange and Black, Thane Wildeman [so.] told me he thought he saw a hole in my shorts. I thought it was a joke until I was washing them and found a hole.”



Gage Winger, Jr.



Nataly Oliver
Feature Editor

Getting involved with the many activities and doing what you love is a great way to be a part of the school, along with showing school spirit. Sports are a common thing to be a part of at CHS. Abigail Wetter, jr., does different running sports that are offered at the high school.

“In the fall, I do cross country. and in the spring. I do track,” Wetter said.

She has been a part of track and cross country from the time she started high school.

“I like to be involved in my school and have started since the beginning with lots of dedication,” Wetter said.

Wetter enjoys running because of the many benefits it has to help her become the best she can be.

“It really helps me keep in shape, and I enjoy the competitiveness of running against others,” Wetter said.

There is nothing she enjoys more than being able to run against opponents around the district.

“I just really like running because it’s fun, and I feel like a lot of people don’t say

Abigail Wetter, Jr.



Paeton McCarty

Taking off from the starting line, Abigail Wetter, jr., races through the cross country course in Colby. Wetter is getting ready to begin track at the end of the month.

that often because of how much effort is put into being the fastest runner,” Wetter said.

She also shows a passion towards art and has been part of art classes since she was in grade school. Wetter will

most likely continue her art path for the rest of high school.

“I participate in Comic Crayon when there are events to attend. I have done things like pumpkin decorating, making Santas, and have not yet tried making valentine cards,” Wetter said.

“Jump”



to
“Involved”
page 7



Emma Dixon
Opinion Page Editor

While some people spend their summers at the pool, Natalie Hernandez spends two weeks in a camp in South Carolina. The camp is called Fuge where they focus on kids and their relationship with Christ.

“I spend one week as a student, and the next week as a ‘staffer,’ During the second week, I got to know the staff and most of the students at the camp,”

Natalie Hernandez, Sr.

Hernandez said.

Hernandez discovered the camp when she was still in Texas. When she was in 6th grade, her youth pastor told her about a camp in Glorieta, NM where one of the Fuge camps are located. Hernandez has been going to the camp ever since. Last summer was her fifth year attending the camp. Fuge has 23 locations all over the United States. Students stay for five to seven days in dorm rooms, depending on age and location. During her time as a ‘staffer’, or SLA [Student Leader Apprentice], Hernandez was in charge of 26 students who come



Courtesy Photo

Natalie Hernandez, sr., left front, poses with a group of her peers at a camp in South Carolina over the summer. Hernandez has spent two weeks out of her summer attending this camp for the past five years.

from all over the country to experience the camp.

One student even came from the Cayman Islands.

Children from all over the country are able to come to the camps. Each location varies on speaker and topics as well. A typical day at the Fuge camp would be some worship and games, and memorizing bible verses.

“I just felt so connected, and I buy so many of my kids bibles that were not connected to the Lord. The fact that I helped build a relationship between that child and the Lord was an amazing experience and I’m glad I got to experience that and bring it back with me.” Hernandez said.

“When Emma Dixon, [jr.] and I were little, we would warm our backs by the fireplace at our Grandma’s place. Once they were warm, we would roll around the living room for what felt like forever until we would get dizzy.”



Cadyn Dixon, Sr.

OPINION



**EAGLE
TALON
STAFF
2017-18**

Editors-in-Chief
Bailey Britton
Katie Brighton

Copy Editor
Luke Hamilton

Page Editors

Front
Katie Brighton

People
Rayanna Schmidt

Opinion
Emma Dixon

Feature
Wendy Chavez
Nataly Oliver

Sports
Ryanne Meyer

Fun
Laurel Myers

Lifestyle
Maia Cape

Adviser
Donna Henry

Editorial Policy

The Eagle Talon is a newspaper of the students, by the students, and for the students, published to inform and entertain the school community of Colby High School, and to serve as an educational tool for journalism students.

The staff recognizes its responsibility to provide a forum for diverse views, to serve the interests and needs of the school community, and to report the news fairly, objectively and honestly.

Published stories should not be deemed an expression of school policy or the view of Colby Public School employees or board of education.

Letters to the editor are always encouraged. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the Talon. Letters that deal with school-related issues or public issues are given the highest priority.

All letters should be kept under 150 words and must be signed. Submit all letters to room 502.

Tide Pods should be forbidden fruit of 2018



Laurel Myers
Fun Page Editor

Increased viewings of social media challenges, many times causes a fascination for the behavior. From lighting alcohol-covered skin, dumping boiling water on unsuspecting victims, to purposely causing skin to burn, these dangerous dares are gaining viewer support. One recent example, “the Tide Pod Challenge,” consists of eating the toxic liquid laundry detergent packets.

According to the Washington post, this challenge ignited in 2015 when another well-known news blog created a “satirical Op-Ed” from an infant’s standpoint on the temptation of eating the scented packets.

In light of this, a college student, after researching the dangerous consequences, decided to broadcast himself consuming the capsules.

Not long after, that irrational decision resulted in a rushed ambulance and being strapped to a stretcher. Yet, that poor decision didn’t cease the growing curiosity of many viewers to attempt that harmful act. Nearly 250 teens, affected by the same challenge, were brought into poison control centers

soon after the video was published. Though about 75% of teens claimed the act to be unintentional, the other 25% purposely poisoned themselves. Some symptoms observed by medical specialists have been loss of blood pressure, seizures and loss of consciousness.

Shockingly, there have still been a number of reports in 2018 regarding participation in that same dare. Though there have been many efforts to prevent this reckless behavior, such as more filtering on social media, but none of the attempts seem to have much effect on the issue.

This form of self-harm shows just how influential a single post can have on an array of viewers. These irrational acts are almost identical to a herd of sheep plunging of a cliff because one sheep decided to try it. Teenagers need to see how damaging quick decisions can be and start thinking about how these decisions could affect them long-term. Students should not encourage or even view posts like these out of boredom. This dare should not be taken lightly when so many have damaged their health as a result.



Nataly Oliver
Feature Editor

TALON REVIEWS

What it’s like to ‘Walk’ with the ‘Dead’



Based on the comic book series written by Robert Kirkman, this gritty television drama, “The Walking Dead,” portrays life in the months following a zombie apocalypse. Led by police officer Rick Grimes, his family and a group of other survivors find themselves constantly on the move in search of a safe and secure home.

I absolutely love this show because of the surprises throughout the seasons of “The Walking Dead”. There are so many interesting plot twists and occurrences that make this show much more interesting than others. However, It strays off the comic books to a certain degree. One of my favorite things about the TV series is how the special effects take place in the most bizarre way. This show gets you to really think about things, and gives you an inside scoop of what it’s like to survive in a terrible situation such as an apocalypse. You can connect with the characters and show a lot of emotion towards them. It’s an adventure every day, and it will definitely keep you on your toes.

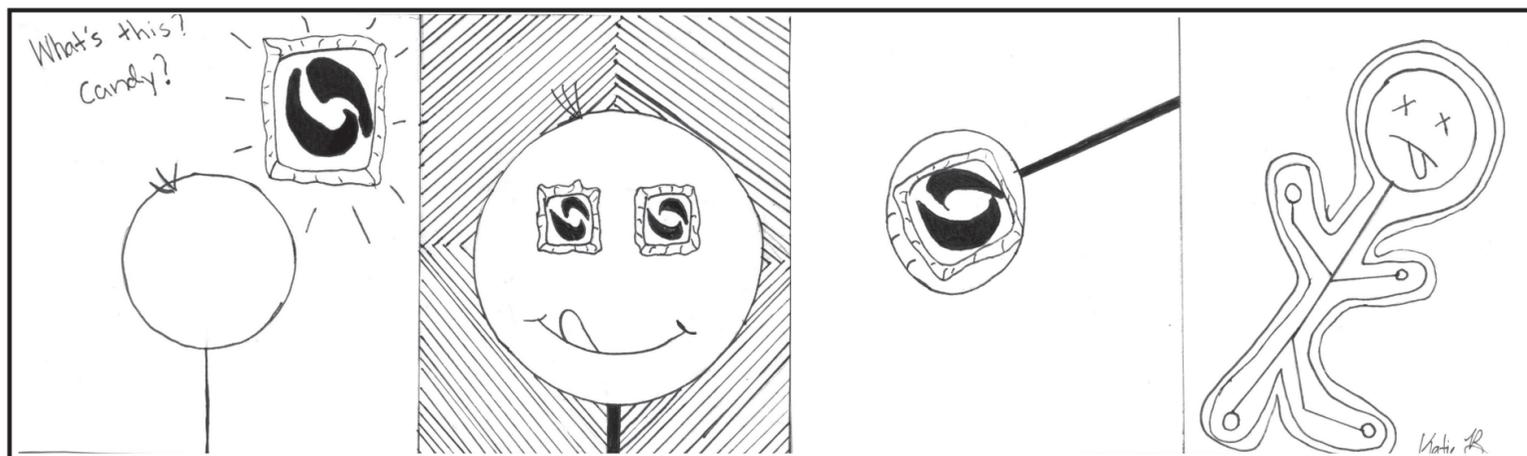
The pressure to stay alive every day sends many in the group to the deepest depths of human cruelty, and they discover that the overwhelming fear of the survivors can be more deadly than the zombies walking among them. This show contains a lot of action and gruesome entertainment. You won’t regret watching a show as interesting as this one.

Catching dreams with a journal



Writing a big story while trying to remember it can be a stressful task. But, what if it was a story about you? Or of something you have dreamed about before? Many people find it difficult to recall their dreams on waking. However, with a little bit of practice, it can become easier to remember the dreams you have. Dreams can be a chaotic mess when recalled in fragments and sometimes there doesn’t seem to be any sense or order to them. However, keeping a dream journal is a good way to look back at the type of things that occur in a dream that differs from reality.

Dream journals are not for everyone, but it is something I recommend. You can look back on all the dreams you have had, and think of how amazing dreams can portray themselves. You could have the craziest dream and want to remember it for the rest of your life. You may even figure out what some of your dreams mean. For me, if I dream about something, it seems to become a reality soon after. That doesn’t always happen often to other people, but it would at least be nice to remember them rather than live them. I enjoy writing my dreams down because it’s interesting to know what my mind is capable of and the kind of memories that are stored within it.



STUDENT SQUAWK: STUDENTS VOICE OPINIONS

What is your opinion about people taking on the Tide Pod Challenge?



“I think it’s stupid, and I would never try it because it will most definitely kill you. This challenge is probably the dumbest out of all of them.”
-Tobin Gardner, fr.



“I have done the Kylie Jenner Lip challenge and my lips were bruised for probably three weeks. I think that the Tide Pod challenge is the most ridiculous, and it’s just dumb.”
-Rathe Aschenbrenner, so.



“When I saw [the challenge], I thought ‘People are actually stupid enough to put laundry detergent in their mouth?’”
-Shaylynn Campbell, jr.



“The Tide Pod challenge probably isn’t very smart. It could be fun to try as long as you don’t suffocate and die. The only challenge I ever tried was the Ice Bucket challenge.”
-Landon Reilley, sr.



“The Tide Pod challenge is dangerous and crazy. I remember when I was younger, people used to drink bottles of hot sauce to see who could finish it first.”
-Cindy Reinert, culinary teacher



FEATURE

CHS hobbies show student individuality

Senior soars to great heights to let dreams take flight



Rayanna Schmidt
People Page Editor

Bixenman has been working towards obtaining his pilot's license since June. The process involves a lot of air time which helps the student to get needed flying experience.

"To get the actual pilots license, I have to have 40 hours of total flight time by myself and with an instructor completing various tasks, like having a certain amount of take-offs and landings during the night," Bixenman said.

Bixenman has grown up around planes as his father owns a crop dusting company.

"My brother, Jared, and my dad both have their pilot's license and that kind of made me want to have one also," Bixenman said.

Bixenman is hoping to also use his license

for prospective career opportunities when he gets older.

"Having my pilot's license would enable me to work with my dad, helping him spray fields, or I could also become a corporate pilot," Bixenman said.

While flying is a serious task, there is also some fun that comes with it.

"My favorite part about flying is doing barrel rolls while in the air. The farthest I have ever flown was Rapid City, South Dakota," Bixenman said.

Having a pilot's license is something that not many people, let alone students can say that they have.

"I'm really close to finally earning my license. I only have a few more hours left to complete so it's really close," Bixenman said.



Rayanna Schmidt

Julian Bixenman, sr., checks the oil in his plane as he get ready for take off. He has been learning to flying planes for eight months. His father's career as a crop spray pilot influenced Bixenman's desire to become a pilot.

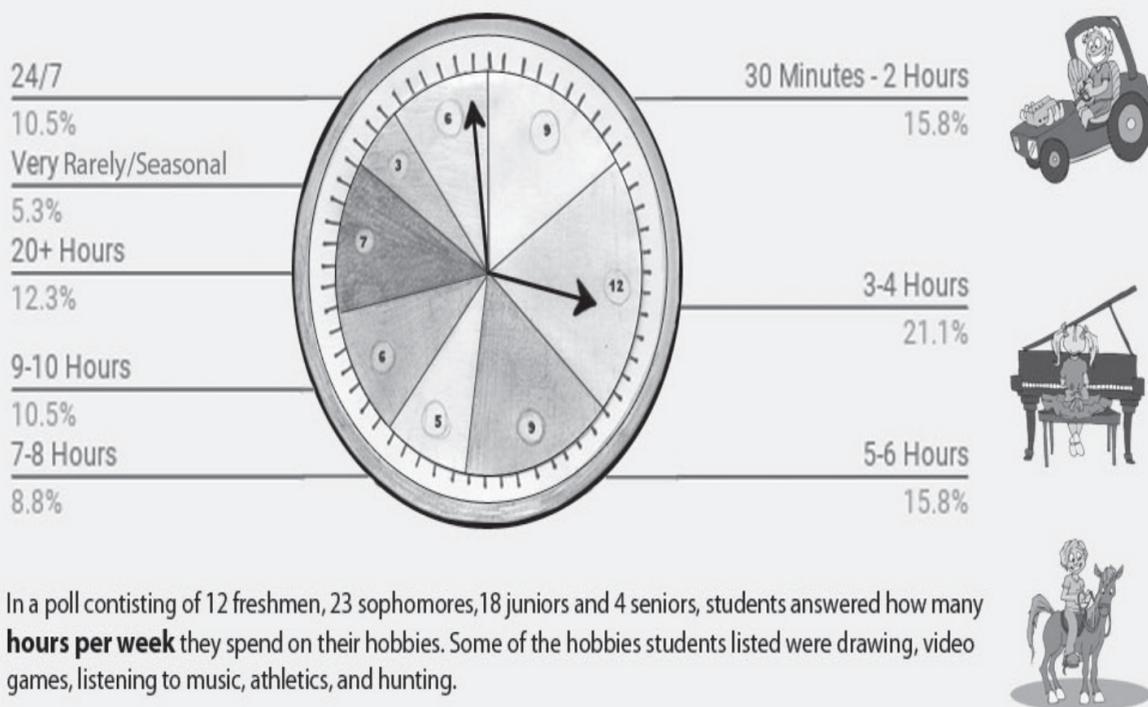
“

The farthest I have ever flown was Rapid City, South Dakota.

”

Reminder: Valentine's Day is next Wednesday. Don't forget to give that special someone a heart shaped pizza!

How long do you spend on your hobby?



Ryanne Meyer

BUTCH'S BODY-SHOP LLC
24-Hour Wrecker Service
785-443-2552
1110 Golden • P O Box 258 • Colby, KS 67701
James R. Cox
1-800-536-2883 Bus: 785-462-2883
Fax: 785-462-7787 Res: 785-462-7994

Walmart
Save money. Live better.
115 W. Willow
Colby, KS 67701
(785) 462-8634

VISION SOURCE
Jeff Morrison, OD Mark Walkmeyer, OD
Danielle McKee, OD Jordan Hagler, OD
www.eyesource.com Andrea Hagler, OD

WALLSMITH CUSTOM MACHINING, INC.
Industrial and Agricultural Supplies
TOM WALLSMITH
525 E. 4th Street Colby, KS 67701
Shop: 785.462.6759 Cell: 785.443.6095
wacuma@hotmail.com

McCarty Family Farms, LLC
455 N. Franklin Ave, Colby KS
(785) 460-0596

MCC AUTO REPAIR

Colby Health and Rehab
A MISSION HEALTH Managed Community
Rhonda Barton
Administrator
105 E. College Dr. Colby, KS 67701
Main: 785.462.6721 Cell: 785.405.0314 Fax: 785.460.6919
admin@colby-hr.com

Welcome Home Cafe
From Mom's & Grandma's Kitchen
2280 Southwind Avenue in Southwind Plaza
Colby, KS 67701

Mighty Mike's
Residential Roofing • Metal Roofing • Seamless Gutter
785-483-9226
Mike Weigel

LOVE
We LOVE irradicable products. From irradicable skin care to our hand sanitizers, we're here to help you live your best life. Contact me to discover more.
P. Emily Moore
Irradicable Public Consultant
www.irradicable.com

TACO JOHN'S
625 W. Willow Ave.
Colby, KS 67701
Phone: 785-460-8226

NSD NICOLE'S SCHOOL OF DANCE
Preserving The Love of Children One Step At A Time
785-324-0382
Remember: There will be no school on Feb. 16 or 19!!



FEATURE

with their special talents

Siblings show there is no rivalry in singing together



Rayanna Schmidt
Photo Editor

For many families with multiple children, there is a sort of sibling rivalry where each child thinks he or she can do better than the next. However, when it comes to Madison Zimmerman, sr., and her sisters Cassandra (12), Melissa (12), and Allison (10), that statement is the complete opposite. The Zimmerman's are good alone, but even better together, especially when it comes to singing. Madison got off to an early start.

"I started singing back in grade school, so, [I've sung] basically ever since I've known how to read," Zimmerman said.



Courtesy Photo
Madison Zimmerman, sr., and her sisters sing at the Veteran's Day concert every year. Zimmerman has been singing since she could read.

Zimmerman is capable of singing alone and enjoys it, but she also likes to sing with her sisters by her side.

"I enjoy to sing solos, but I also like to sing with my sisters. We harmonize well together, and it's something

fun for us to do together," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman and her sisters found music to be something they loved to do and took the chance to let it into their lives.

"My mom was in band when she was younger, but, for the most part, neither of my parents are very musically inclined," Zimmerman said. "Along with singing I've also been playing the piano since kindergarten, and my sisters can play as well."

When Zimmerman was asked by National Honor Society sponsor, Hollie Timson, if she would be interested in singing for the NHS induction ceremony, she immediately took her up on the offer.

"Mrs. Timson asked if I would be interested in singing for the induction this year. I said, 'yes', and asked if my sisters could join me

as well," Zimmerman said.

Together, Zimmerman and her sisters performed a rendition of "Fly" by Maddie and Tae at the beginning of the ceremony.

Singing in front of others isn't anything new for these sisters. They engage in singing together many times throughout the year.

"My sisters and I perform for the Veteran's Day concert every year, as well as sing at church. We were going to do the Country Showdown this year also, but it got canceled," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman wishes to continue singing as she gets older and hopes her sisters will as well.

"As I get older, singing is something I hope to continue doing as a hobby. Even though I enjoy doing it, it's not something I would make a career out of," Zimmerman said.

Coffee lover gives bitter opinion



Bailey Britton
Editor in Chief

I am all about coffee. Saying I love coffee is an understatement: I live for coffee. There is nothing I like more than waking up in the morning and drinking a big cup of creamy coffee (preferably vanilla flavored). I always roll out of bed ready for that first cup.

I remember my first cup of coffee. I was visiting Washington D.C. with my family. My mom and grandma took us into a Starbucks. I had never been to one before, even though we have one right here in Colby. I believe I was 13. I wanted something off the menu, but I didn't know what. My mom got a Mocha, so I did too. It was heavenly.

I've outgrown my taste for chocolate flavored coffee. I now prefer vanilla. I don't drink coffee black: I think that would be depriving my taste buds of something wonderful. At home, I add vanilla creamer and a little milk. At Starbucks or at any coffee house, I order vanilla lattes, usually with an extra shot of espresso. As long as it's coffee, I'll drink it.

However, there is a type of coffee I do not like: decaf. Decaf is pointless. I need the caffeine. The more, the better. I was telling one of my friends about my hatred of decaf and she thought I was crazy.

"Bailey," she said, "what if you get a heart condition and can't have caffeine anymore? You'll have to drink decaf." I'll still drink it fully caffeinated. Coffee is pointless without the caffeine.

I'm sure that some people do enjoy decaf coffee. They may be sensitive to caffeine and unable to part with the amazing taste of coffee.

Socia-Lee: Sophomore gains views, followers one stream at a time



Katie Brighton
Editor in Chief

Youtube is an online collection of video content. Creators can upload content ranging from makeup tutorials, woodworking, food reviews, and videos of day to day life, also known as vlogs.

One type of video that is popular on Youtube is video game commentary. Video game commentator, Nathan Lee, so., has been building up his platform on the social media outlet, Youtube, for three years.

"I started three years ago, in September," Lee said.

Lee uses an array of equipment and software to create and produce his videos.

"I have to have a powerful enough computer to run the games I play while recording them because recording them [the videos] takes a lot of memory out of the computer. I also have a microphone to capture my voice," Lee said.

To edit his videos, Lee uses special software from Sony, an electronics company. In the summer, Lee spends approximately four to five hours each day working on his Youtube channel. Lee's inspiration to start a channel came from a close friend of his.

"I used to play games with someone from Canada. That's who inspired me the most," Lee said.

Together, the two would play games, such as "Minecraft," online.

Lee also started the channel as a hobby and something fun to do.

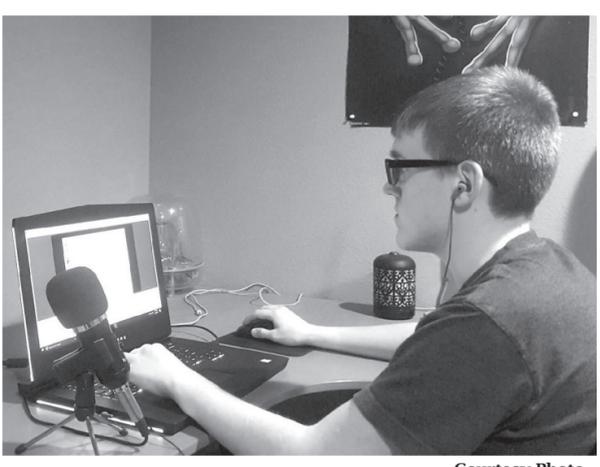
"It is something I do when

I am bored. It's leisure," Lee said.

On Lee's channel, he produces video game commentary. Viewers often use video game commentary as a source of entertainment or as a way to figure out a level on a game. Many of the creators' use humor in their videos to attract viewers.

"I record myself playing a video game while I'm talking. I usually play open world games like 'Minecraft'," Lee said.

Open world games give the player the opportunity to create their own virtual reality or world. Lately, Lee has been publishing live streams, or videos filmed and published in real time, on his channel, which is where he receives most of his feedback. Lee is up to around a 12,000 view count, or the number of people who have seen his videos.



Courtesy Photo
Nathan Lee, so., diligently works on editing a video for his Youtube channel, The5thRoman. Lee spends several hours a week filming and editing his videos.

"They [the reactions] are mostly good, but that's on live streams usually," Lee said.

Throughout his Youtube career, Lee's best reaction to his channel was when another video game commentating channel asked

Lee to join them. Though Lee does not plan to make a career out of his channel, he stills plans to continue making content.

"It's whatever I want it to be at that point. I don't plan it out," Lee said.

Talon Boosters

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| www.stelcom.com Local People, Services, Solutions... GO LOCAL! | 1880 S Range Ave Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-3945 | 1835 S. Range Ave, Colby KS (785) 462-7138 | 980 S Range Ave Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-8206 Proud Supporter of Colby High School | Therapeutic Massage & Wellness KRISTA HAMILTON 785.821.2651 990 S. RANGE COLBY, KS 67701 | Ford LINCOLN |
| Complete Hair & Skin Care KATINA VRBAS, OWNER 1175 S. Range Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-2657 | Donnie Werth - LeAnna Soehner Owners Fine Jewelry, Watches, Clocks, Giftware and Repair 452 N. Franklin Colby, KS 67701 donelanjewelry@hotmail.com (785) 462-2751 Toll Free: 1-800-696-2751 www.donelanjewelry.com | Michelle L. Morris | 1775 W. 4th Street Colby, Kansas 67701 (785) 460-1078 | Est. 1964 Leroy & Joan Ziegler Marla Crumrine Melissa Schneider 560 N. Franklin Colby, KS 67701 www.LeroysPrinting.com Phone: (785) 460-2211 Fax: (785) 460-7765 Toll Free: (800) 244-9447 Email: leroys@st-tel.net | Sherry McDonald, owner Authorized Retail Dealer Store 1937 S. Range Colby, KS 67701 785-460-7488 |
| COLBY AG CENTER 305 E HORTON (785)462-6132 colbyag@st-tel.net www.colbyag.com | HAINES-HAINES RV COLBY, KS. 785-460-0828 | Bethanie Williams, Owner/Instructor 230 E 4th - Colby, KS 785-443-1500 | 625 S. Country Club Colby, KS 67701 (785) 426-6731 | Randy & Linda Smith Owners 460 North Franklin Ave Colby, KS 67701 thepalacedrugstore@gmail.com 785-460-7507 Phone 785-460-2522 Fax GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY Get to know your neighbor. | |
| www.commercialsigncompany.com (785) 462-3361 | Tina Harris, P.T. Samantha Sabatka, P.T.A. Mande Hilbrink, P.T.A. 270 North Franklin Colby, KS 67701 Clinic (785) 462-8008 Fax (785) 460-8080 | | 1605 S. Range Ave. Colby, KS 67701 Phone 785.462.1300 Fax 785.462.1323 www.dillons.com | Health, Wellness, & Quality of Life www.NWKchiro.com | 1950 South Range Ave. Colby, Kansas 67701 Phone: 785.460.5816 Taste with tradition |
| Member FDIC 1185 S. Range Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-2000 (785) 462-3300 (Toll Free) | David Browne III 550 N Franklin Ave Colby (785) 462-3388 Auto Home Life Business College Retirement | 442 N. Franklin Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-2241 Colby Jewelers Since 1927 | Darvin J. Strutt, CIC 1675 W. 4th P.O. Box 649 Colby, KS 67701 Ph: 785-462-6779 Fax: 785-462-3628 Toll Free: 1-800-279-4806 Email: fmins@st-tel.net | 785-462-6642 www.roofmasters-rfg.com | COLBY DRESDEN GEM GRAINFIELD HALFORD HOXIE LEVANT PARK SELDEN Office: 785-462-3351 Toll-Free: 800-894-6467 Fax: 785-462-3811 sshanahan@st-tel.net |



SPORTS

Lack of refs leads to problem in northwest KS



Bailey Britton
Editor in Chief
Luke Hamilton
Copy Editor

Referees for high school sports often have a hard

time: not only do they have to make the hard calls, they often get criticized for those called. There is a growing movement to argue with officials both on the sidelines and on the court. This has always been a problem, but it now leads to many first time referees quitting after the first year.

In Northwest Kansas, there is a lack of refs. The average ages of refs is slowly becoming older. Younger people are not aware of the situation and are not becoming certified. That, or the harshness of the crowds gets to them.

“A lot of people don’t understand that you don’t watch the whole game: you only watch certain areas of the field or court and make decisions in that area,” referee Ryan Becker, who is also a Colby High School teacher, said.

Hiring referees is not up to the school itself. It is a combination of the athletic director and coaches’ efforts that makes this possible. There is a commissioner that handles the hiring of referees for varsity competitions. There is already a large number of registered refs they can rely on. For junior varsity competitions, it is up to Lance Krannawitter, communications and activity director, to find and hire referees.

“Colby people can’t work at Colby [varsity] games due to bias. JV officials do

not have to be registered as officials. They also can be from the town they are officiating in,” Krannawitter said.

He also works with Fort Hays State University to find referees. There is an officiating class at the university that sends referees if they are needed. Students from FHSU usually have an interest in some athletic career after they graduate.

Most of the time, refs are with the same ‘crew’, or group of refs who typically work together. They are often from the same town, which is helpful so they can carpool and also be confident in each others’ calls in a game. Occasionally, refs may work with someone from a different town.

“There is a declining number of referees in the area. I don’t have hard numbers but I do know that 10 years ago you could find a crew of football refs, which is five guys, in every town. Now, you might be lucky to find one guy in each town,” Krannawitter said.

Krannawitter says that this is due to many of the referees

retiring.

“I read a statistic that says many first year refs, about 80 percent, quit after their first year due to conflicts with parents, coaches, and attendees,” Krannawitter said.

The statistic he is referring to is from the Kansas City Star.

Krannawitter believes that there is some truth to this statement. He has noticed the decline in quality refs and referees in general. He has seen first hand refs being yelled at after games by coaches and parents. After games, athletic directors are required to escort referees to their locker rooms to ensure nothing too extreme happens. That doesn’t always stop the refs from being heckled.

The decline in referees could affect high school sports immensely in the future. The lack of referees

“Jump”

to page 7
“Refs”



Will they bring home the gold?



Rayanna Schmidt
Photo Editor

The Olympic Games are a time honored tradition that can be traced all the way back to 776 B.C. The first games were staged in ancient Greece and dedicated to the Olympian Gods. Races were held in hills with the start and finish line being at a lone tree known as the Greek God Zeus’ Olive Tree. These games allowed any Greek who wanted to participate an opportunity to raise their social status.

As time moved on, the games began to become more modern: stadiums were built and other countries were invited to participate. Currently the Olympic games occur every two years, alternating between summer games and winter games.

The 2018 Winter Games will begin tonight with the annual lighting of the Olympic Flame in PyeongChang, South Korea. The Olympic Flame is actually lit several months prior to the beginning of the games in Olympia, Greece. The torch then travels to various locations before venturing to the games location for the start of the games. The games will officially end on February 25.

At this year’s games, 90 nations will be competing for either a gold, silver, or bronze medal to take back home for their country. While the Summer Games have 42 events, the Winter Games only have 15 events.

Sporting events such as bobsledding, curling, figure skating and many others will be occurring in these games for the next 16 days. One American athlete from Reston, Virginia, named

want to hurt my ankle again before track,” Metcalf said.

Sometimes, an injury isn’t as long-term. Mackenzie Dodson, fr., injured her ankle during tennis practice.

“I was only out for a few days. I had the chiropractor pop it [her ankle] back into place,” Dodson said.

The injuries have set back

“Jump”

to page 7
“injuries”



Coach didn’t really mean when he said, ‘break a leg’



Bailey Britton
Editor in Chief

Injuries run rampant through high school sports. According to the US Center

for Disease Control, nearly 2 million injuries occur to high school athletes each year. In this winter sports season, two members of the girl’s basketball team, Jill Stephens, so., and Erin Krannawitter, sr., have been pulled out of games due to injury.

“During the game against

Holcomb, I dislocated my shoulder. The other girl pulled down on my arm; I twisted and it popped out,” Stephens said.

Krannawitter hurt her ankle in the first game of the Orange and Black Classic against Fountain Fort-Carson. She also hurt the same ankle in a game against Norton.

“I misread a pass and jumped. I came down on my foot wrong,” Krannawitter said.

Both girls sat out of the tournament. Krannawitter is now back to playing. Stephens, however, is still sitting out.

“My mom is a physical therapist. She’s been helping me do exercises to strengthen the ligaments and muscles. I’ll have to pass a test which is to have my arm pulled on and see if it stays in the socket,” Stephens said.

Stephens had the test done on Jan. 28, but did not pass. She had another test on Feb. 2. She now can practice with some limitations. The basketball team, however, is resilient and has adapted

to the injuries by putting in younger players for varsity games.

In the fall season, there were many injuries as well. Jake Reed and Carter Stanley, jr.s., and Bryson Metcalf, so., were all hurt in football games. Reed landed on his arm after a hard hit and ended up breaking it. Metcalf broke his ankle making a tackle and sat out for two and a half months. He recently began wrestling again. After breaking his ankle, he has more to think about while being active.

“I’m a bit more conservative now. I don’t



Jayln Mettlen
Bryson Metcalf, so., watches his teammates from the sidelines during the Colby vs Goodland football game. Colby defeated Goodland in the last home league game of the season; Metcalf was just one of the injuries during football.

What’s Happening?

- 2/14 Valentine’s Day
- 2/18-2/23 National FFA Week
- 2/21 GWAC Music Festival @ Ulysses
- 2/26 Start of Spring Sport Practices

“Jump”

to page 7
“Olympics”



Boys’ Basketball



Stacia Oren
The boys’ basketball team placed fifth in the Orange and Black Classic.

Girls’ Basketball



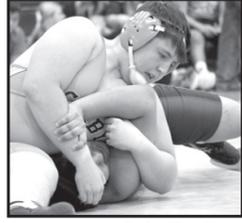
Jayln Mettlen
The Lady Eagles took seventh place at the Orange and Black Classic.

Cheerleading



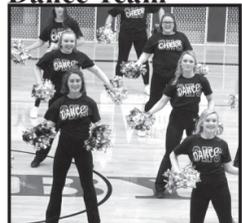
Bryce Brown
Natalie Hernandez, sr., has cheered for two years, and Maia Cape has cheered for one year.

Wrestling



Luke Hamilton
The wrestling team lost to Norton with a score of 40-36.

Dance Team



Jayln Mettlen

From left to right: Drew Starbuck, so. and Gage Winger, jr. watch as the ball goes up for a shot.

Natalie Hernandez, sr. and Maia Cape, jr. cheer at a pep rally.

The CHS Dance Team and Cheerleaders perform the Liberty Bowl dance together.

Brielle Bange, so. looks to her teammates for a safe pass.

Declan Ryan, fr. holds down his opponent from Norton.

Athlete of the Month



Jayln Mettlen
Jordan Schippers, jr., dribbles the ball at the Topside Tipoff in Goodland. The tournament was in Goodland from the December 7-9. The Eagles placed 4th.

This month’s athlete is from the CHS boys’ basketball team. “Our athlete of the month is Jordan Schippers due to his hard work, dedication, and leadership that he has shown for the team,” Brad Wildeman, head coach, said.

FUN



From *Involved* on page 2

Running for fun

Not only is she involved in activities in school, but she is involved with activities in the community as well. She practices on her leadership skills to improve herself.

"I am part of 4H and attend meetings and it helps build confidence in others. I also am part of the Thomas County Leadership as well," Wetter said.

Wetter has many things to be proud of and enjoys every minute she gets when she does something she loves.

From *Olympics* on page 6

Winter competition

Maame Biney, 17, made USA history by being the first ever black female to qualify for the Women's speedskiing team.

Several stations will be broadcasting footage from the Olympic Games as well as social media networks so make sure to tune in for this historic event.

From *Injuries* on page 6

Teams suffer

these athletes, but all have persevered. Some athletes still have a long way to go. Stanley, who re-injured his hip in January, will most likely be out the rest of basketball season.

"I won't know how long I am out until I see a specialist. I hope to be ready to go for golf because that is my favorite sport," Stanley said.

leads to younger and new refs being thrown into officiating games without the experience they need to make good calls. In addition to that, the crowds heckling may lead the new referees to quit.

However, there are several referees who enjoy their work. Becker and business teacher Lesley Wagoner officiate basketball and volleyball, respectively. They are both also former coaches for the sports they officiate.

"I coached volleyball for 25 years, so I know all the rules of volleyball and that is how I got in to officiating," Wagoner said.

As former coaches, they admit they had gotten heated at officials before. Becker and Wagoner both were asked to sit on the bench due to arguing with officials. Becoming an official has helped Becker have

From *Refs* on page 6

A different point of view

a better respect for the job.

"When I was a coach, I would question calls on a game by game basis, but I have gained a better appreciation for officials because that is what I do now," Becker said.

They view refing as a way to help athletes become the best they can.

"It also teaches. If a girl makes an illegal hit, you can tell her why and help her learn from it," Wagoner said.

"I just want kids to be able to play to the best of their abilities. I'm there to help them do that. If I have to call a foul on a kid five times for using his hands, then I hope next time I see him he has learned to not use his hands," Becker said.

Both only officiate junior varsity and middle school games as they are not certified, but they enjoy it. Wagoner likes the

teaching aspect the most and appreciates that the coaches also understand that the athletes are learning.

"At the JV and middle school level, the coaches are a little more controlled. They aren't as wound up as they are at the varsity level," Wagoner said.

As refs, they know they are at the center of controversy. Wagoner hopes that the crowd realizes that refs are doing their best and that the rules are always changing. A parent may not be up to date: the rules have changed since they have played. Becker tries to remain unbiased and focus on the athletes and believes it is their game, not his.

"If no one has anything to say, then I am doing my job. The athletes should be noticed, not me. They decide the outcome of the game, not a guy with a whistle," Becker said.

TALON TIDBITS

Local

Stephanie Thomas gave birth to her son, Edwin Yager Thomas, January 23. Edwin Yager entered into the world at 7 pounds and 13 ounces. #welcometoourworldE

State

According to the Washington Examiner, Gov. Sam Brownback resigned from his position as governor to accept a position for ambassador at large for religious freedom. Brownback released his letter of resignation January 31. Jeff Colyer has succeed Brownback into position of governor.

Country

Sources from Fox News report that a Kentucky school, Marshall County High, experienced a fatal school shooting January 23. When a reporter arrived to the scene, she soon quickly realized that her son was the attacker. Two were killed, 16 injured in the shooting.

World

The XXIII Winter Olympics games begin February 9 and end February 25. Legendary Olympians, Shaun White, snowboarding, and Nathan Chen, figure skating, are returning for this year's Olympic Games.

Boy/Girl Dance

Feb. 9 @ Community Building during half-time of the varsity boys' game



Find the Differences

Find the eight differences between the photos below. The first three who find the differences correctly and show Mrs. Henry win a prize!



Sandy Kroeker

DID YOU SEE A FUNNY TWEET? SHARE IT WITH THE EAGLE TALON STAFF; IT JUST MIGHT MAKE NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE!



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! @THE_EAGLE_TALON

NEED SERVICE HOURS?

Volunteer at Prairie Senior Living Complex
1625 S. Franklin, Colby

Contact Emily at (785)460-1422
or edietz@cmciiks.com



COLBY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CHALLENGE. GROW. CONNECT.
www.colbycc.edu (888)634-9350 1255 South Range Colby KS 67701

keesa photography
640 H. Franklin Ave.
Colby, KS
(785) 462-5059
keesa@photography.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Darryl G Henry
Financial Advisor
485 N. Court
Colby, KS 67701
785-462-8605

MURFIN
DRILLING COMPANY, INC.
675 E. College Drive • P.O. Box 661 • Colby, KS 67701
MARTIN RUDA
Trucking Superintendent
Bus: (785) 462-7541
Call: (785) 443-2425
Home: (785) 462-6594
Fax: (785) 462-7519

Gambino's
Pizza
You're Gonna Love It!
1100 W. 4th Colby, KS
(785) 462-9907
Family Dining | Carryout | Delivery

Someplace Special
We Deliver Smiles!
185 W 4th St
Colby, KS 67701 785-462-7136

CENTRAL
POWER SYSTEMS & SERVICES
1920 Thielen Ave, Colby, KS
(785) 462-8211

MC
AUTO-OUTLET
855 Davis Avenue
Colby, KS 67701

Farmers
Bank & Trust
Atwood/Brewster/Oberlin
Member FDIC



HIGHLIGHTS

Look out for this month's Featured Eagle! The Featured Eagle is a spot for students to submit their own work. Enter a photograph to Mrs. Henry for a chance to be The Featured Eagle.

Clubs

Take a BIRD'S EYE VIEW into the busy lives of CHS students



Jayln Mettlen

Katie Brighton, sr., draws on Valentine's cards for a Cosmic Crayon meeting. Cosmic Crayon plans to sell Valentine cards today, Monday and Tuesday for \$2 a piece or three for \$5.

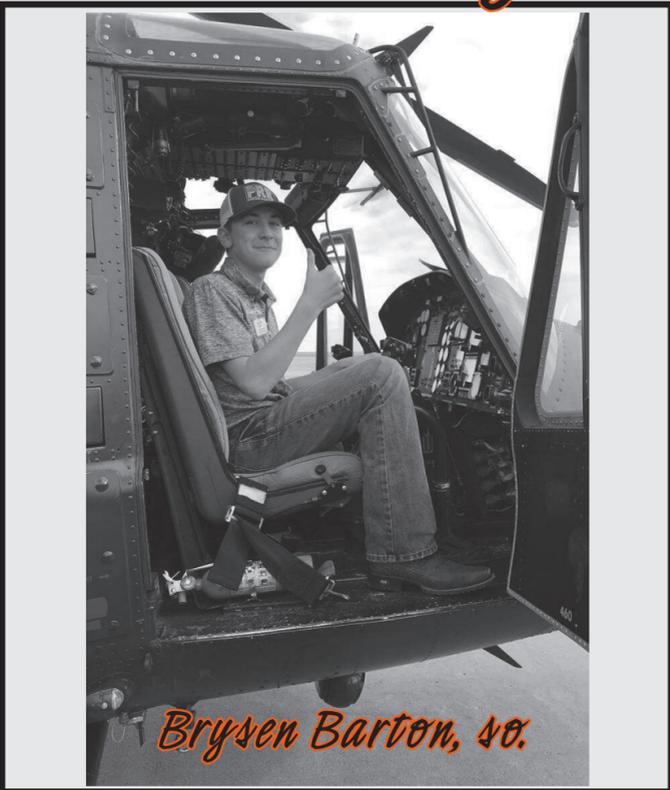
Beyond School



Rayanna Schmitt

Isabel Dixon, so., comforts Laurel Myers, so., as she donates blood for the first time. Myers was just one of the many donors that day and helped the Red Cross collect 24 pints of blood.

Featured Eagle

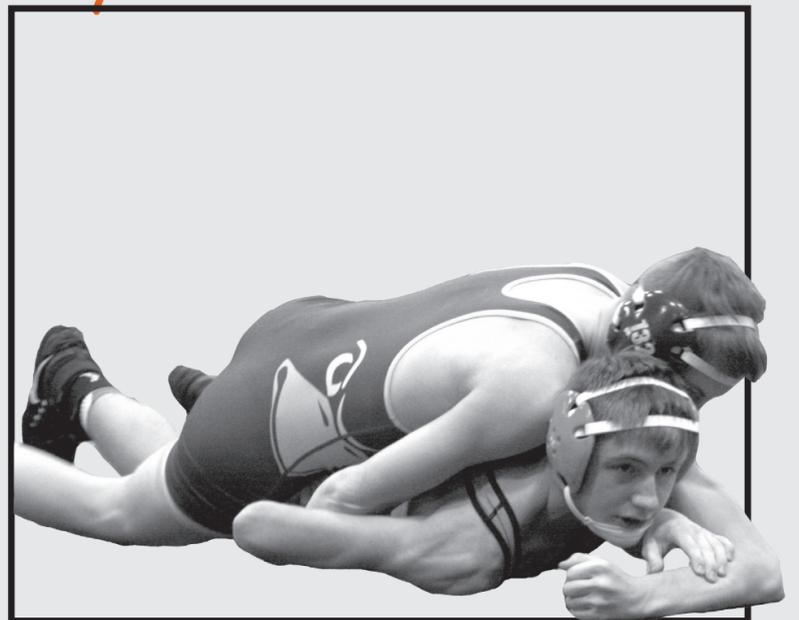


Brysen Barton, so.

Courtesy Photo

Brysen Barton, so., sits in a helicopter at the Thomas County airport. Barton is a member of Thomas County Leadership, and at their most recent meeting, Barton and other students got to witness Canadian fliers land and take off from the airport.

Sports



Luke Hamilton

Bryson Metcalf, so., looks to coaches for help against his Norton opponent. At the Norton dual, Metcalf was pinned and the team lost to the Norton Bluejays, 40-36.

Academics



Karmen Barraza

Maia Cape, jr., gets a sour surprise in a Spanish I blind taste. Cape, along with other students, tasted a variety of different items so the students could describe the items using adjectives in Spanish.