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Students learn neckties and more in class

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Sure, students in Donna Henry's sophomore English class at Colby High still learn how to write a book review and punctuate a sentence, but Friday, they were all thumbs, learning how to tie a necktie.

Henry said most of the sophomores didn't know how to tie a tie. The entire class had to learn Friday, even the girls.

"Who knows," Henry said, "one of the girls may marry a boy some day who doesn't know how to tie a necktie."

She enlisted her husband Darrell as guest instructor for the tying lesson. After many attempts and some pretty strange-looking knots, all the kids got the hang of it, down to the "dimple" just under the knot.

"You can tighten it with the narrow part of the tie, under the part that shows," Darrell Henry told the class.

"I'm turning purple!" exclaimed Clayton Applehans, who did manage to get it right after several attempts.

The necktie session is part of something Mrs. Henry calls "life lessons," simple basic living skills many teens haven't mastered. It includes things like dating how-

to's, living optimistically, how to apply for a job and count back change, mental math and estimation, kindness, phone skills, accepting personal responsibility, how to say no to peer pressure, tolerance, the art of tipping and many more common lessons that are fast becoming a lost art with so many young people today.

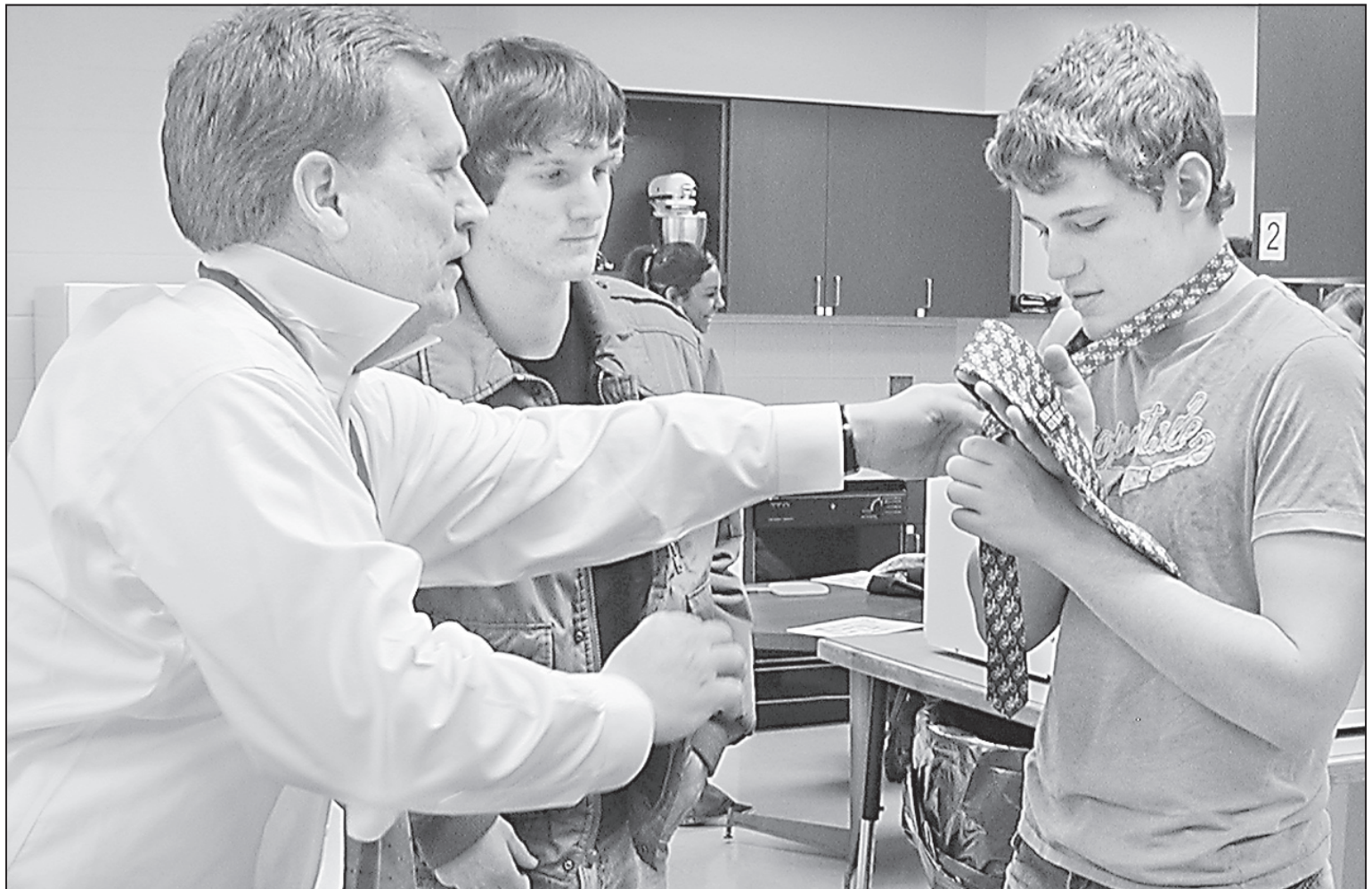
Henry said the sophomores look forward to the every-other-week lessons.

"I love this class," said Paige Ropchan. "She makes it so much fun."

"Yeah, this is a pretty good class," agreed Caleb Carter, "I sort of knew how to tie a neck tie, but this is what they call a Windsor knot, and it's a lot different. I like this sort of stuff."

Henry said she got the idea for her "life lessons" last summer when she talked to her brother, a businessman in Denver, plus many other people, to see what they thought kids actually need to know besides other than what schools teach. The answer she got, Henry said, was that young people need to know what other adults think of as everyday living skills: basic common courtesy, how to handle money, how to count change, how to accept personal

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It's not easy to tie a necktie when you're a novice, but Darrell Henry (left) helped Shane Ohlrogge, Andrew Elling (right) and the rest of Donna Henry's sophomore English class master the skill Friday during a unit on everyday skills that she calls "Life Lessons." He taught Elling how to "wrap it a second time before bringing it up and through" to make a perfect knot in his tie.

Rexford club disbands after 93 years

By Vera Sloan
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After 93 years of meetings, catching up on the latest news, doing charity work, but mostly socializing, the Rexford Social Hour Club has called it quits.

"It was 1917 when a group of 33 stay-at-home women, sure they were in need of some sort of socialization, decided they should get together twice a month to keep up with each other and learn about news of their small town," said Sondra Barnett, a long time Rexford resident.

They called themselves the Social Hour Club, meeting twice a month in different homes, bringing along their kids, their handiwork, even mending or knitting and an appetite for learning about what was going on in the neighborhood. Members came and went. Friendships grew.

The club experienced a few changes over the years, Barnett said, including types of activities, and sometime in the 1960s, the members decided they should pay a nickel a year in club dues. The amount was increased gradually to a quarter a year, and the money was used for worthy causes.

The club gave to the Polio Fund, Heart Fund, Golden Plains Community Outreach, Rexford Cemetery, Beamgard School for Retarded Children, the American Cancer society and many other causes.

As times got better, the members decided to draw names for mystery pals, and throughout the

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The organizers of the Rexford Social Hour Club posed for a group photo in 1917 (above). The club recently had its final meeting after 93 years. Nine members wrote the closing chapter on Dec. 9 (below). They were (seated, from left) Hulda Wark and Eilene Dible; (standing) Grace Cheney, Deborah Gamboa, Sondra Barnett, Marjorie Leh, Bernita Zoberst, Vesta Roth and Clea Moeder.



Foundation urges random kindness

It could be as simple as letting someone else have a parking space or as complicated as a clean-up party in the park, but the Thomas County Community Foundation hopes everyone will join in for Random Acts of Kindness Week this week.

The week, which ends Saturday, is a national program run by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, said Melinda Olson, executive director of the county foundation. The agency offers some suggestions, such as delivering cookies to city workers, giving blood, volunteering at the senior center or picking up trash on the street.

Public Relations Coordinator Christina Schmid said the county foundation wants to know about the good deeds people do this week. To report an act of kindness, call the foundation office at 460-9152. The group plans to recognize some of these acts at an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at the Thomas County Office Complex, she said. Schmid said she will have a table set up to hand out gift certificates and bowling passes at the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services play, "The Outrage," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Colby Community College.

Dance team sends 20 kids to Denver

Twenty dancers from Ashley's Dance Center in Colby will travel to Denver for a week-end of dancing next week.

The dancers will take instruction and participate in competition with the New York City Dance Alliance at the Crown Plaza Hotel, near Denver International Airport, on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 27 and 28.

Dance instructor Ashley Guy said they have been practicing since September to be ready for the event, where they will perform for seven professional dance teachers and choreographers.

"The students will get instruction from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and will be judged in

competition events that evening," Guy said. "They will take instruction again from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, so this is a great opportunity for these dancers to take instruction from professionals."

She said that at last year's event, two of the New York professionals were teachers from the television show, "So You Think You Can Dance."

Guy said she teaches tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop and zumba dancing, and has students ranging from age 3 to their mid 80s. She teaches instructors adult dance fitness classes.

Three of Guy's students, Audrey Puckett, Abbie Kummer and Anna

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Briefly

Youth soccer looking for players

Signups for the American Youth Soccer Organization's spring season are open until Friday, Feb. 26. 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.

Schools to explain budget cuts

The Colby School District will hold a community meeting on budget issues at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the Colby High School commons. District administrators will discuss past and future budget cuts. A list of the possible upcoming cuts is posted at www.colbyeagles.org. For information, call the district office at 460-5000.

Food bank sets Monday meeting

The annual meeting of Genesis-Thomas County

Food Bank will be at 7 p.m. tonight in the meeting room of the Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St. The public is invited. For information, call Wynn Duffey at the First Presbyterian Church, (785) 462-6342.

Rotary to serve soup Tuesday

The Colby Rotary Club will hold its annual soup supper from 5 to 7:30 Tuesday at the Community Building during basketball games with Goodland. The cost will be \$4 for adults and \$2 for children. For information, call Sara Bryan at (308) 530-8363.

Water district to hold meeting

The 35th annual meeting of the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Hoxie Elks Lodge, said Wayne Bossert, district manager. The agenda includes the 2009 audit, 2011 proposed operating bud-

get, an open discussion session and election of four board members, representing Sheridan, Graham, Logan and Gove counties. For information, stop by the office at 1175 S. Range, Colby, call (785) 462-3915 or e-mail wab@gmd4.org.

Foundation has grants for kids

The Thomas County Community Foundation is accepting applications until March 1 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.

Low-income tax help at library

The American Association of Retired Persons will offer a tax help seminar from 1:30 to 4 p.m. every

Thursday until April 15 at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The seminar is designed for low- and middle-income people with special emphasis on those 60 or older. For information, call Alvin Volk at (785) 460-2645.

Professor to speak here

Dr. Ron Green, a professor of religion at Dartmouth University, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College as part of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series. Sue Evans will give a review of Green's book, "Babies by Design," at noon Wednesday, March 3, at the Pioneer Memorial Library. For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528.

