

# Pegasus squares off in eastern sky

## Student News

### Colby Public Schools

**Activities: Tuesday:** lunch money due; varsity football, bi-districts; scholars bowl, Rawlins County. **Wednesday:** tech exploration day, Goodland; noon - Parent Teacher Organization meeting, grade school; 7 p.m. Booster Club. **Thursday:** 8 a.m. Future Farmers of America dairy judging, Fort Hays State University. **Friday:** ACT registration deadline for Dec. 10 test. **Saturday:** middle school Kansas Music Education Association honor band and choir/ high school honor jazz band, Hays; SAT test; varsity football, regionals; middle school wrestling, Hugoton.

**Menus: Monday:** breakfast: fruit whirls, grape juice; lunch: spooketti, goblin sticks, spooky carrots, gooey applesauce. **Tuesday:** breakfast sandwich, applesauce; lunch: chicken/noodles mashed potatoes peas, mandarin oranges. **Wednesday:** cinnamon pastries, apple juice; lunch: cheeseburger on school bun, French fries, green beans, mixed fruit. **Thursday:** French toast sticks, syrup, orange juice; lunch: meat lover's pizza, celery sticks, strawberries and bananas, tossed salad. **Friday:** scrambled eggs, toast, grape juice; lunch: chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, kiwi.

**Sacred Heart**  
**Activities: Monday:** Halloween costume parties. **Tuesday:** All Saints Day. **Thursday:** 7:30 a.m. staff meeting.

**Menus: Monday:** pigs in a blanket, peas, smiley fries, applesauce, cake. **Tuesday:** macaroni and cheese, smokies, peas, fresh carrots, whole wheat roll, apple wedges. **Wednesday:** tacos, lettuce, tomatoes, refried beans, pears. **Thursday:** chicken noodles, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, strawberries and bananas. **Friday:** ham sandwich, cucumbers, grapes, chocolate pudding.

**Heartland**  
**Activities: Monday:** start of second quarter; 4 p.m. junior high scholars bowl, Rexford; 5 p.m. treat street. **Tuesday:** 7 p.m. HOPE Meeting.

### Golden Plains

**Activities: Monday:** 4 p.m. middle school scholars' bowl. **Thursday:** middle school and high school fall music program. **Friday:** middle school basketball tournament, Brewster. **Saturday:** middle school basketball tournament, Brewster; middle school Kanas Music Education Association honor band.

**Menus: Rexford: Monday:** breakfast: grilled ham and cheese; lunch: chicken a la king. **Tuesday:** breakfast: breakfast burrito; lunch: chili dogs. **Wednesday:** breakfast: hash browns; lunch: bierocks. **Thursday:** breakfast: pancake, sausage; lunch: lasagna. **Friday:** breakfast: French toast; lunch: barbecue beef.

**Selden: Monday:** breakfast: burrito; lunch: corn dog pups. **Tuesday:** breakfast: toast; lunch: popcorn chicken. **Wednesday:** breakfast: biscuit, gravy; lunch: spaghetti. **Thursday:** breakfast: French toast; lunch: pizza pocket. **Friday:** breakfast: scrambled eggs; lunch: tacos.

### Brewster

**Activities: Monday:** 4 p.m. junior high scholars' bowl, Rexford. **Tuesday:** 4 p.m. high school scholars' bowl, Rawlins County; football playoffs. **Friday:** no school; 3 p.m. junior high pre-season basketball tournament. **Saturday:** 10 a.m. junior high pre-season basketball tournament; football playoffs.

**Colby Community College**  
**Activities: Monday:** cross country, Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference and Region VI Championships, Garden City. **Thursday:** rodeo, Alva, Okla. **Friday:** rodeo, Alva. **Saturday:** rodeo, Alva; Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Western team, Laramie, Wyo. **Sunday:** Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Western team, Laramie.

### Triplains

**Activities: Monday:** school in session; 4 p.m. junior high scholars' bowl, Rexford.  
Send us your calendar and menus. E-mail colby.society@nwkansas.com.

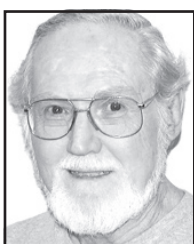
## College to offer free self-defense workshop

Colby Community College will hold a free self-defense workshop from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the college gym.

The workshop will be taught by Kenton Russell, a Fort Hays State University professor and instructor for the Defensive Tactics Club at Fort Hays. Russell is a certified law enforcement and military combatives instructor. He has studied martial arts for 28 years.

The workshop will include a presentation by Russell and his team of coaches. Participants will have the opportunity to work with presenters on techniques demonstrated, but are not required to participate in the physical session.

There is no charge to attend. For information contact Danielle Silsbee at 460-5510 or Melanie Fortin at 460-4677.



**Paul Derrick**  
● Stargazer



Diagram: Constellation Pegasus



Image: Bellerophon riding Pegasus the Winged Horse. Illustration by Mary Hamilton Frye in Hamilton Wright Mabie's Myths That Every Child Should Know (1914)

wouldn't allow it. He had Pegasus throw Bellerophon off whereupon he fell back to Earth. Pegasus, being partly divine, was permitted to enter the godly mountain where he spent his remaining days carrying Zeus' lightning bolts across the sky. For his faithful service, Zeus eventually placed Pegasus in the night sky where we see him to this day (night).

### Astro Milestones

Nov. 9 is the birthday of Carl Sagan (1934-1996), American astronomer, author, and co-founder of The Planetary Society. Nov. 20 is the birthday of Edwin Hubble (1889-1953), American astronomer for whom the Hubble Space Telescope is named.

Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco, Texas. His website ([www.stargazerpaul.com](http://www.stargazerpaul.com)) contains an archive of past Stargazer columns and other basic stargazing information. Contact him at [paulderickwaco@aol.com](mailto:paulderickwaco@aol.com) or (254) 723-6346 or write 918 N. 30th St., Waco, Texas, 76707.

## Constellation of the Month: Pegasus the Flying Horse

The constellation Pegasus the Winged (Flying) Horse is now high in the east in the evening sky. While it's difficult to visualize a horse, with or without wings, the well-known Square of Pegasus is distinctive and easily recognized. Four reasonably bright stars form an almost perfect square large enough that your fist, held at arm's length, will easily fit inside. (Your fist spans some 10 degrees while the square's sides extend nearly 15 degrees.)

Jupiter, the brightest object in the east, is now well placed to assist in identifying the great square. Around 8 p.m., Jupiter is 30 degrees (three fist-widths) above the eastern horizon, and Pegasus is another three fists above Jupiter.

Although called the Square of Pegasus, only three of the stars are in Pegasus. The square's brightest star, Alpheratz (lower left), is the brightest star in the constellation Andromeda the Princess. The stars extending upward from the square (see diagram) represent Pegasus' neck and head. Other than the great square, Pegasus has little to offer without the assistance of binoculars or a telescope.

### Pegasus in Greek Mythology

With its ability to fly, Pegasus the Winged Horse had a prominent role in the rescue of Princess Andromeda by Perseus the Hero. Chained to a remote island, the beautiful princess was to be devoured by Cetus the Sea Monster as punishment for her mother's vanity. To save her, Perseus needed quick transportation, faster than any boat could take him, as well as a means for subduing the sea monster.

To his good fortune, Athena, goddess of virginity, provided both. A beautiful woman named Medusa had been seduced by Poseidon, god of the seas, in Athena's temple. For desecrating her temple, Athena turned Medusa into a Gorgon, a dreadful creature with venomous snakes in place of her hair, and banished her to a cave. She was so hideous that all who gazed upon her were petrified with fear and turned to stone. Athena told Perseus to find Medusa, cut off her head, and show it to the sea monster who would turn to stone and sink into the sea.

That solved the monster problem, but what about transportation? Well, Athena thought of everything. When Perseus severed Me-

dusa's head, she being pregnant from her affair with Poseidon, out of her blood arose the fully grown winged horse. Perseus then rode Pegasus over the sea where, using Medusa's head, he dealt with the sea monster, and proceeded to the island where he rescued Andromeda, his wife-to-be.

Pegasus, although a horse, was the offspring of Medusa, a mortal woman, and Poseidon, a god, thus he was partly mortal and partly divine. Following his service to Perseus, he was captured by another mythical hero, the mortal Bellerophon, and went on to other adventures, including the slaying of the people-eating Chimera, a creature with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a snake. (My those Greeks had morbid imaginations!)

As seems so often with the powerful, Bellerophon's successes went to his head, and he foolishly decided to have Pegasus fly him to Mount Olympus, home of the gods. But since he wasn't a god, Zeus, the king of the gods,

## Kansas State studies snake's ability to clone itself

By Jan Biles

The Topeka Capital-Journal

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas State University assistant professor of biology Eva Horne is keeping her eye on a copperhead snake that's been living in her house the past several months.

The copperhead, collected from the Konza Prairie in 1998 and initially housed in a laboratory setting, gave birth to two offspring in 2001, after being isolated in captivity for nearly three years. Known as parthenogenesis, the female snake reproduced without her eggs being fertilized by the sperm of a male copperhead.

In short, the female copperhead

cloned herself.

Parthenogenesis occurs naturally in some animal species, such as aphids and some reptiles. But Horne, who had never before witnessed the process, wondered if the copperhead could reproduce on its own in captivity, could the species also clone itself in its natural habitat.

"We have no idea if this occurs in the wild," she said.

Horne, who is assistant director of the Konza Prairie Biological Station, reported the copperhead's cloning to K-State biology professor Susan Brown, and two years ago an investigation of the genetic markers of the snakes began.

By that time, only one of the

offspring was still alive. However, tissue samples from the yet-year-old deceased baby had been collected for future research.

Horne and Brown joined forces with Tony Grace, K-State post-doctoral research associate, to study the molecular markers of the mother and the babies to determine the similarity of their genes and if the offspring were the exact clones of their mother.

Last year, Sternberg Museum at Fort Hays State University sent samples of copperhead tissue from its collection to K-State to aid in the investigation.

"We used those tissues to isolate DNA to develop (and test) molecular markers," Grace said, ex-

plaining those markers were used to test the mother and the babies in a K-State laboratory.

"We found the mom and her two babies were identical, so the babies were clones of the mother. That led us to conclude (the female copperhead) was the parent and (the reproduction) was not the result of sperm storage," Brown said.

Female copperheads can store sperm in their bodies for up to six months.

"So this snake can mate with a male or follow the parthenogenesis route," Horne added.

The next step, Horne said, is to collect pregnant female copperheads from the wild.

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