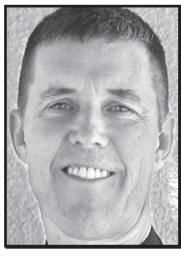


Your name makes a difference

"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham... as for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name" (Genesis 17:5, 15).



Robert Alexander

• **From the Pulpit**

The name Abram's parents gave him means "exalted father," but God renamed him Abraham, which means "father of many nations." God also renamed Sarai, giving her the name Sarah - both of which mean "princess" or "mistress."

The name change is a big deal not just because of who renamed them, but because of the promise he gave them. It's a big deal for the future parents of Isaac, which means laughter, and for billions of believers in the promised one.

From that moment on, whenever Abraham and Sarah heard their God-given names, they would be reminded of God's covenant promise to them. Whenever they would say or hear Isaac's name they would remember that they struggled with trusting God's promises and God came through for them again. Like us, because we struggle to trust in Him and His promises, they needed all the reminders they could hear.

Any time God names someone it's a big deal. Long before Mary gave birth to her first born son, God the Father gave him the name Jesus, which means "one who saves." The Son of God and the Son of Man would fulfill the covenant promise that was made to Abraham and Sarah by making disciples of billions of believers.

Your Christian names - your first and middle name(s) - are a big deal. Every time you hear them, even when you're in trouble with your parents and teachers, those times when they use your whole name, they are meant to always remind you of the covenant promise that God made with you at the baptismal font.

There the sign of the cross was made upon your heart and forehead, marking you as one of billions of people redeemed in Christ. That's a big deal. God chose you to be a part of Abraham and Sarah's family, making a promise to you that you'd always be a part of his family.

You could also think of it as God drafting you

to be on Team Jesus. The jersey you wear is the saving faith he created in you by the power of his word, something he clothed you with when he named you his child (Galatians 3:27). The team colors are white and red. The white is whiter than you'll ever see here on

earth because in Christ God forgives you of all your sins. Your Christian names on the back of your jersey are printed in red, the red of Christ's blood.

In his eyes, though, you daily fumble and drop the ball, you thoroughly mess up his game plan, failing to do his will, in Jesus you are totally forgiven (Colossians 1:13-14). Even what you might think are good plays are stained with sin. As Isaiah says, "all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment" (64:6). From the time God named you to Team Jesus, Team Satan - death, the sinful world and the captain - has set out to bloody and bruise you, hoping to get you to give up on yourself and on God and quit Team Jesus.

Death will sack you, but God will lift you up on his shoulders to celebrate forever the victory of Jesus in your own resurrection. All Team Satan can do is look on in shame, knowing it will never be able to rain on your victory parade. Once a champion in Christ always a champion.

Baptism is a big deal because your redemption in Christ is a big deal. Keep celebrating the victory won by Christ on the cross and in the empty tomb. Keep celebrating in the company of your teammates in team meetings at church and in homes. Keep hearing and reading the celebration speeches and the many promises that God gives you in his word.

Prayer: There is no better team to be on than the one you put me on, Lord. When someone calls my name, help me to remember again your covenant promise made to me in my baptism and all the promises you gave me. Amen.

The Rev. Bob Alexander is pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church at Fifth and Country Club in Colby. He may be reached at 462-3497.

Schools' scores excluded

By Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Kansas test score averages won't include the results of about 2,700 older students from three districts, including the state's fifth-largest, because of an alternative test that was used in place of the standard statewide exam.

The Kansas Board of Education voted Wednesday during its meeting in Topeka to separately report the scores from McPherson, Clifton-Clyde and Kansas City, Kan., because those districts gave an alternative exam to their eighth-grade and high school students.

"The feeling of the board is they were more skewed when they were added in than when they were pulled out," Kansas Department of Education spokeswoman Kathy Toelkes said in an interview. "The objective was to have as accurate a comparison to previous years in terms of looking for trends in progress in the state assessment."

But excluding the scores from Kansas City will inflate the statewide average because the 20,500-student district is the state's poorest and historically has scored below the statewide average. The exclusion also will affect statewide results for poor and minority

students.

State officials told the board that the district enrolls about 20 percent of the state's black students, and statewide data shows 88 percent of its students are so poor that they qualify for government-subsidized school meals.

The McPherson district in central Kansas has about 2,400 students, while the Clifton-Clyde district in north-central Kansas has about 300 students. Neither had the same potential as Kansas City to affect statewide results because they are so much smaller.

The test score issue arose after the three districts received a waiver from the federal No Child Left Behind education law that allowed them to use the ACT college entrance exam and another test designed for younger students called ACT EXPLORE.

McPherson received a similar waiver in 2011, but this year marks the first time that Kansas City and Clifton-Clyde didn't give their older students the state exam.

Initially, scores on the alternative exams were combined with statewide results. The problem is older students from the three districts were inadvertently counted twice, leading the state to report large drops in student performance and prompting concerns that state

funding woes were to blame.

Double-counting the three districts' scores was particularly problematic because Kansas City saw its scores drop dramatically with the new, more difficult test. State data show the district went from having 72.4 percent of its 11th graders at or above standard in reading in 2011 to just 17.9 percent in 2012.

When the state discovered the double-counting problem, it separated the scores of the three districts' older students from the statewide data. Those recalculated statewide totals showed a smaller drop in overall scores and less growth in the gap between students receiving government-subsidized meals and those who aren't.

The state said at the time that it would decide later whether to combine them.

Toelkes, the Education Department spokeswoman, noted that the ACT exam is designed to measure college and career readiness, while state assessments measure grade-level proficiency. She said the board raised concerns that combining the scores would artificially deflate statewide averages.

Corrections

The article "Campaign signs stolen from yards" on Page 1 of the Thursday, Oct. 18, Colby Free Press, said Democratic candidate Dave Rodriguez bought 100 yard signs for \$1,300, but he actually got 250 for that amount for his campaign for sheriff. This was a result of inaccurate information provided to the newspaper.

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maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$8.39
Corn (bushel)	\$7.65
Milo (hundredweight)	\$13.13
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.55

Daughters of the American Revolution

The John Athey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met Sept. 25 at the Land-Mark Inn in Oberlin for lunch, and owner Gary Anderson gave them a history of the building.

Regent Sharon Maurath opened the meeting, after which Chaplain Delphyn Biggs offered a prayer for Constitution Week.

Roll call was answered with a landmark you'd like to visit or ex-

plore online. Gladys Rowley gave the treasurer's report and Eva Lee Wheeler read the minutes. A get-well card was sent to Sharee Mydland.

Regent Marauth reported on the 114th Continental Congress. The chapter received its first "One" this year. Ms. Marauth and Gayle Bremerkamp attended the fall workshop. Mrs. Wheeler received a card and recognition for being a

member 30 years, so she is now a member of the Heritage Club. American Heritage was given by Kay Weber and Chaplain Biggs closed with prayer.

The next meeting will be at the Pioneer Memorial Library in Colby, with lunch at Mabel's.

PRESCOTT'S LAW: THE ADVENTURES OF A HIGH PLAINS SHERIFF

Keith Coplin's vivid collection of thirteen stories features Will Prescott, the sheriff of Clayton County, an elected position he has held for 32 years. Set on the high plains, these are stories of small town life, which is, for the most part, tranquil and easy going. But even in small towns there is plenty of human drama to go around.

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For more information, contact: Kim Weigel • sweigel@st-tel.net

Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 337-401-7207 (temp)

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby Community Building. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. James Bridges, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497. Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Beginning Sept. 2 - Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taft, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.



Brewster United Methodist Church

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