



KAYCIE CLAPP/Golden Plains

Ryker Schmidtberger (left), Veronica Higerd, Grant Shaw, Layne Juenemann and Dylan Wark enjoyed a little "Disco Dancing" during the '70s party the kindergarten class at Golden Plains Elementary had for the 70th day of school in early December.

Seventy days of school means time for a party

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains Schools

Tie-dyed shirts, disco, Twister and Simon were all back in style during the Golden Plains Elementary kindergarten's celebration of the 70th day of school in early December.

Students came to school dressed in the style of the 1970's including tie died t-shirts and headbands. They made peace, love, and happiness signs for the hallways and extended those symbols to cupcakes they decorated and enjoyed as a special snack. They listened to the '70's music and enjoyed some disco dancing and watched an episode of "The Brady Bunch." They practiced some of the sayings from the decade. Ryker Schmidt-



KAYCIE CLAPP/Golden Plains
Kash Schiltz dressed in his tie-dyed T-shirt and headband, flashed a peace sign. The students enjoyed a variety of activities from the 1970s as they learned about the decade.

berger's favorite was "Peace Out Girl Scout." Games such as "Twister" and

"Simon" were invented in the 1970s and students enjoyed playing them. For their math lesson, they measured different sizes of peace signs estimating the number of inches. For language arts, the alphabetized terms from the '70s including afro, bell bottoms, platform shoes, peace, love, and groovy.

The students had also celebrated the 50th day of school with a 1950s party when they dressed in leather jackets, poodle skirts, rolled up blue jeans and white T-shirts, enjoying root beer floats, dancing the jitterbug, a bubble gum blowing contest, and the hula hoop.

They are planning to celebrate the 100th day of school with Western themed activities.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars met last Wednesday at the post.

President Anita Thiel conducted the meeting. She gave the legislative report on an item from the *Washington Weekly* about bills in legislation pertaining to veterans' issues.

An excerpt from Rep. Tim Huel-skamp's report was read about this meeting Kansas veterans on Honor flights to Washington, and the dishonorable reception they

received with the closing of the park at the memorial.

"Kansas veterans and all veterans across the country, indeed all Americans, deserve better than this," he said.

The hospital report was for fleece throws bought for lap robes.

For the kid's Christmas party that was to be Monday at the post, Veteran and Family Support reported 69 Santa boots made.

Thiel read a letter from Donna Dempewolf detailing her years of

membership since she joined at age 16 in 1947, and her mother's part in helping initiate the women's organization.

Donations were made of \$100 to Snowball Express, \$50 for women's needs at the Topeka Veterans' Administration hospital and \$56.25 (.75 per member) to the hospital general fund.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the post.

- Hazel Duffey

Winter wheat's more hardy when cold arrives gradually

Severe cold temperatures may cause concern about winter injury on this year's wheat.

It's normal for well-established wheat to look a little "ragged," or show some wear and tear from being under severely cold temperatures for several days. This can cause the leaves to be purple or they may be brownish or yellowish, but this is just cosmetic damage most of the time and not a source of concern.

If the temperatures through fall and winter gradually get colder it will help the wheat plants acquire winter hardiness. When the temperature remains warm into late fall and early winter, then quickly drops into the low teens, wheat is more susceptible to winter kill. This year temperatures fell gradually for the most part. Therefore, the wheat should be sufficiently hardened in most cases.

The biggest concern would be for the crown of the wheat if soil temperatures get too low. Also if the wheat was planted at the correct depth, about 1.5 to 2 inches deep, and in good contact with the soil, the crown should be protected from the effects of cold weather. The following situations would be most likely to cause concern:



Kurt Sexton

Knowledge for Life

- Wheat that is very small and poorly developed for this time of year - which would typically be the wheat planted very late.

- Where there is no snow cover - in western Kansas there hasn't been a lot of snow cover.

- Where the soils are dry.

- On ridge tops and north-facing slopes.

Typically, we don't start to worry too much about winter survival of wheat until temperatures at crown level get below 10 to 12 degrees F. Where there is snow cover, soil temperatures will not get that cold. Where there is no snow cover, soil temperatures will depend on how much moisture is in the ground, how cold it gets, and how long it has been cold.

Where the wheat does not have snow cover, it's a good idea to monitor soil temperatures 1.5 to 2 inches deep. If you are concerned about the possibility of winter

injury, wait until the weather warms up above freezing and dig up some plants from different fields. Put the plants in pots and bring them inside. After a week or so inside, the plants should start to green up. If plants do not green up after 10 days or so, you should take more samples before making any decisions.

If the plants are killed directly by cold temperatures, they will not green up next spring. If they have only been damaged, they will green up and then take a turn for the worse and eventually die. In this case there are enough nutrients in the crown of the plant to green up but winter injury causes vascular damage and the nutrients left cannot move throughout the plant. This slow death is possibly the most common cause of winter injury or death on wheat.

Kurt Sexton is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Colorado, Sexton works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.

Storage loss in round bales can be lowered

With the high price of hay in recent years, growers should do everything they can to protect their investment.

One thing producers should look at in particular is their method of storing large round bales, said Doo-Hong Min, K-State Research and Extension crops and soils specialist.

Large round bales are more susceptible to storage losses than small rectangular bales when stored outdoors, he said.

"Much of the dry matter loss with outdoor storage is associated with microbial respiration under optimal moisture, temperature and nutrient condition for microbes," said Min, who is a Kansas State University agronomist based at the K-State Southwest Extension office in Garden City.

Here are some suggestions for stockmen to minimize loss when large round bales are stored outside:

- Maintain good bale density. One of the most important ways to reduce round bale loss is to tighten the outer layer of bale. If the bale is not tight enough, microbes are going to use oxygen to break down the bale using moisture and nutrients. If you can depress the surface more than a half inch, a

round bale could experience significant loss when placed outside and unprotected. A minimum density of 10 pounds of hay per cubic foot is recommended.

- Cover the bales. Round bales stored outside and covered with plastic or canvas generally deteriorate less than unprotected bales. Weathering can reduce forage quality of round-bale hay, particularly digestibility. Plastic wrap, net wrap, reusable tarps or plastic twine can be used to prevent this loss.

- Select a good storage site. It should not be shaded and should have good air circulation to enhance drying. The site should be well-drained to reduce moisture absorption into the bottom of bales. A well-drained, 4- to 6-inch coarse rock base would help minimize bottom spoilage.

- Elevate the bales rather than placing them on the ground. Ground contact can account for more than half of the total loss. Elevate bales using racks, fence posts, discarded pallets, railroad ties, used tires or a layer of crushed rock about 4 to 6 inches deep to have good drainage.

- Orient rows of bales to promote good drying. Stack large round bales in rows end-to-end,

give three feet between rows, and orient the rows in a north-south direction. This will allow the area to dry faster by having good sunlight and air flow. Vegetation between rows should be mowed.

"Storage loss in eastern Kansas is much greater than in western Kansas," Min said. "Bales can be stored outside in western Kansas for a couple of years before much significant loss will occur, but storage loss can be significant in eastern Kansas after just one year of outside storage."

Rarely would indoor storage pay for itself in western Kansas, but storing high quality/high value forage in eastern Kansas might justify the expense of storing hay under cover, the agronomist said.

Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.53
Corn (bushel)	\$4.17
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.11
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.49

National Honor Society inducts students

Seventeen Colby High School Students were inducted into the Colby Chapter of the National Honor Society on Nov. 19.

The students were: Brooklyn Bange, Bridget Bickner, Aaron

Faber, Danielle Foster, Keegan Morgan, Isaac Nichols, Phoebe Pfeifer, Courtney Reilley, Morgan Sanguinetti, Hailey Schindler,

Eric Schuette, Kelly Sloan, Hannah Strange, Brooke Wark, Olivia Wetter, Jay Ziegelmeier and Yuyanuan "Susanna" Huang.

Students receive scholarships

Haley Kistler of Monument and Tasia Reuber of Atwood are two students from northwest Kansas benefitting from scholarships at Emporia State University.

Among the scholarship awards of \$2,728,615 at Emporia State

this year, Kistler has received the Frank A. and Bertha R. Beach Memorial Scholarship, the Valeta J. and Warren E. Ives Scholarship, and the McPherson Family Scholars Fund. Reuber was granted the Teacher Education Promise Scholarship.

For information about financial aid and scholarships at Emporia State University, go to www.emporia.edu/finaid.

We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com

Corrections

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

Feliz Navidad!
El Dos de Oros
Mexican Restaurant and Cantina

Full Bar
Daily Specials
Carryout Available
Gift Certificates Make Great Stocking Stuffers!

Sun. - Thurs. 11 am - 9:30 pm • Fri. & Sat. 11 am - 10 pm

1950 S. Range Ave. Colby
Inside Quality Inn
785-460-5816

Strutt Insurance Services & Essential Bliss Day Spa

Invite You to a Christmas Opening

At their New Location
1675 W. 4th Street
Colby

December 18, 19 & 20
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Colby Medical Services is pleased to announce that the clinic has expanded it's hours and is now open on Wednesdays!

Clinic Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday • 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Patient Appointments: Monday - Friday • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

PROUDLY SERVING AS A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC

Amanda Reid, PA

Carl Woofter, PA

Deanna Sulzman, APRN

John J Herscher, DO

Kyle Hodges, APRN

Colby Medical Services
1005 S. Range Ave. - Next to Vision Source • 785-462-3332

It is our mission to make those we encounter feel valued and those we serve feel well cared for and deeply cared about.

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby
Member FDIC

Christmas Open House

December 19th & 20th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2014 Calendars
Cookies, Hot Cider & More
Register for various drawings

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus will be at our Dillons location from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM both days.