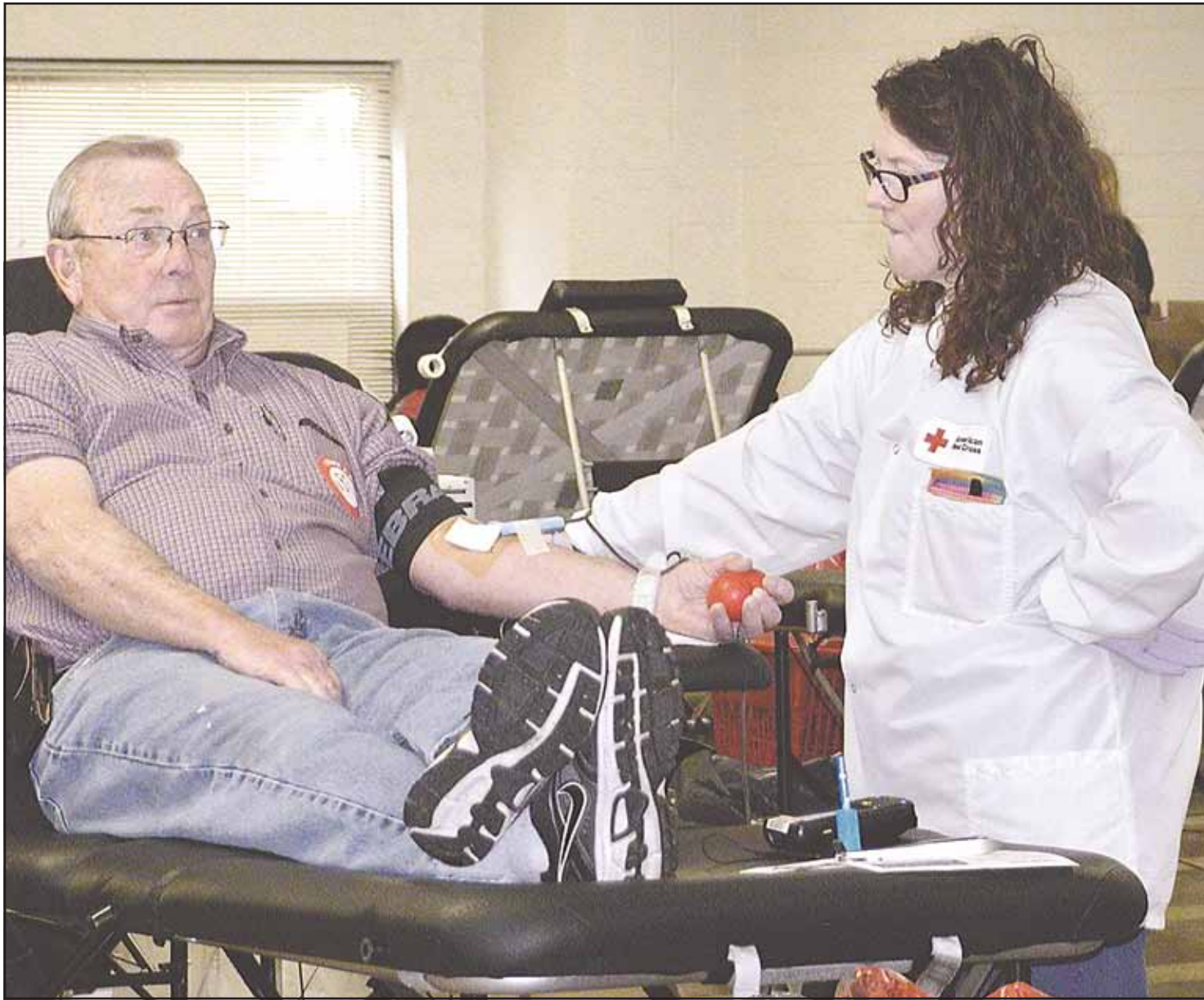




You'll leave some for me, right?



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Don Harrison looked apprehensive Tuesday as he sparred with nurse Mary Ware during the Red Cross blood drive Tuesday at the Community Building. Despite the cold there

was a good turnout, with just over 100 units expected from Tuesday and today.

Foundation to pay half million

Colby Community College will get just over a half a million dollars after meeting a fund raising benchmark at the end of this year. The college narrowly surpassed its goal of raising a quarter of a million dollars by the end of the year as part of college President Stephen Vacik's "campaign for change." The college learned from Nick Wells, the executive director of the foundation, that he had counted a total of \$257,180 that the college raised by the end of the year. Now the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation will kick in another quarter of a million dollars.

The college had almost three months to raise the money, starting at the foundation's annual meeting Oct. 11. That was when Wells said the foundation would match as much money as the school raised for the campaign, up to \$250,000.

A \$507,180 check will go to the college straight from the foundation. Wells said he wanted both the college donations and the matching foundation money to go through the foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) group.

This brings the total amount of money going to the college through the foundation to just over \$750,000. The foundation gave the college \$250,000 when it first offered to match the next quarter of a million dollars the college raised.

The college stood to gain as much as a million dollars in all, including another \$250,000 that was to be given from an account that the Pat Embree Trust has with the foundation. However, Wells said there are no definite plans to give the trust money to the college at this time.

Commissioners choose chair for '14

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press colby.society@nwks.com

Thomas County Commissioner Paul Steele was re-elected as the board's chairman in a round of appointments and new year's resolutions passed at the commission's meeting Monday.

Commissioner Byron Sowers nominated Steele for the position, seconded by Commissioner Mike Baughn. Steele joked that he had been training Baughn to take over the leadership role.

After the chairman's position was settled, the board passed several of their yearly resolutions.

One resolution authorized the county to use six local banks: Sunflower Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Peoples State Bank, Farmers Bank and Trust, Bankwest and Western State Bank.

Another established the year's accounting on a cash basis, in which bills are accounted for as they come in and are paid, rather than an accrual basis. Most accounting is done on a cash basis, which is simpler, said Steele, and the county has traditionally operated on a cash basis.

The commissioners also set reimbursement rates for legal fees in non-felony cases at \$75 per hour, the same rate that was established after an increase in 2013.

The Colby Free Press was once again made the

official county newspaper.

The commissioners re-appointed the same people to many county positions: Shelly Harms as Freedom of Information Act officer; Kasiah Rothchild as health department director; Autumn Arasmith as emergency management director and Local Emergency Protection Committee representative; Dr. Darren Matchell as coroner; Clair Schrock as head of the noxious weed department and road supervisor; Larry Jumper as household hazardous waste and landfill supervisor; Joe Hickert as emergency medical services and 911 director; Dr. John Dygert as the emergency medical services advisor and county health officer; and Scott Hilbrink as the radiological officer.

In other business, the commissioners

• Voted to ask structural engineering firm Walter P. Moore to prepare construction drawings and bid documents for a contractor to remove overhead hazards at the county courthouse.

A previous study indicated sections of the building's limestone chimneys were weak enough to fall, causing a safety hazard.

The engineering documents will cost \$1,000, with the overall cost estimate for removal at \$6,000 to \$8,000.

• Passed a resolution authorizing the county's building maintenance fund, which carries over from

See "CHAIR," Page 2

Spending bill progresses

By Andrew Taylor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Funding for implementing the new health care law and other sticking points remain, but negotiators reported significant progress Tuesday on a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September.

"We are looking at narrowing the differences, looking at ... how we can compromise without capitulation on both sides," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. After a meeting of the four principal negotiators - the top Democrats and Republicans on the House and Senate Appropriations

committees - Mikulski was cautiously optimistic of reaching agreement on the massive bill later this week in hopes of a vote next week.

"Our subcommittee chairmen have really done 90 percent of the work. We are now at 10 percent, but this last 10 percent, like in any negotiation, is the toughest," Mikulski said. A top aide accompanying Mikulski back to her office told reporters that the budgets for the Pentagon and the Commerce, Justice, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs and Transportation departments are "virtually wrapped up."

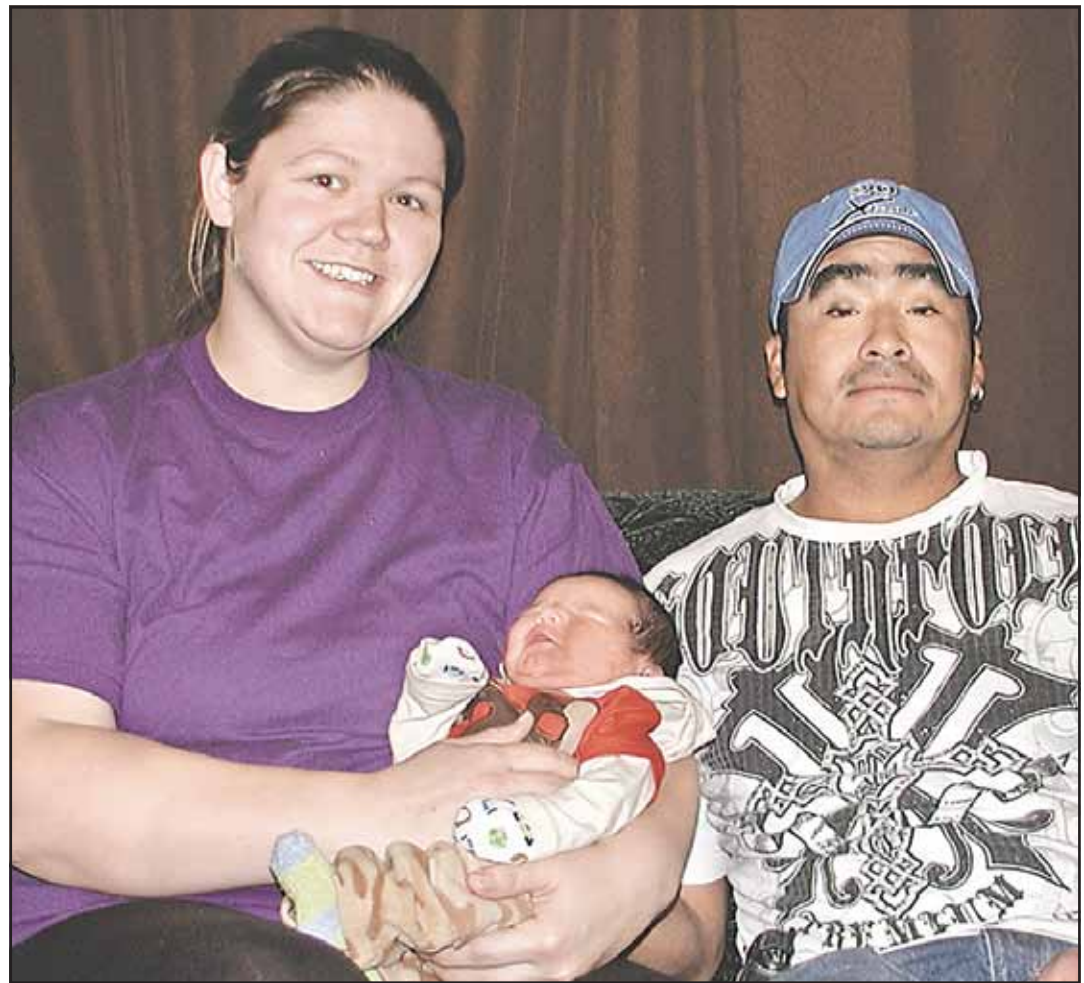
But the two sides remain at odds over funding to implement so-called Obamacare and a 2010 overhaul of financial regulations, and they're still sorting through more than 130 policy items

known as "riders" in Washington-speak, many of which are backed by conservatives seeking to derail Obama administration environmental and labor regulations.

Among the differences is giving the administration flexibility to certify that Egypt qualifies for U.S. military aid despite a law that bans such assistance after coups, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the foreign aid panel.

The most controversial riders are likely to be jettisoned to the dismay of conservatives, many of whom will vote against the bill anyway over its funding of Obamacare. The issue sparked a 16-day partial shutdown of the government at the hands of House conservatives that GOP leaders are

See "SPENDING," Page 2



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Stacey Babcock and Silvano Quintero (above) smiled as they showed off their New Year's Baby, Hunter Quintero-Dean, on Tuesday. Sister Elena (below left) looked pleased as punch when she held her brother a few days ago, while Aubree (below right) didn't seem sure what to think about this new member of the family.

First baby born Jan. 2

The first baby born at Citizens Medical Center this year, Hunter Allan Quintero-Dean, arrived Thursday, Jan. 2, 2014.

This new year's baby weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 21 1/2 inches.

Hunter is the son of Stacey Babcock and Silvano Quintero of Colby who met two years ago at a child's birthday party.

"I think it's pretty exciting that he is the New Year's baby," said Stacey, "but when he gets older I'm sure he won't like it as much being so close to Christmas!"

Stacey, originally from Colby, is a stay-at-home mom to Hunter and his sisters, Elena, age 7, and Aubree, age 3. Silvano, originally from Los Tigres, Vera Cruz, Mexico, has worked



for Roofmasters for 11 years. Hunter's grandparents are John and Lisa Kirby of Colby, Allan Babcock of Logan and Guadalupe Cedillo Alcala and

Modesto Quintero Cosco of Los Tigres.

Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light southwest after midnight.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. Light and variable wind becoming northwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 53.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 49.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 47.

Weather forecast table with columns for Day, High, Low, Precip, and Wind. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

Colby woman publishes novel on small town life

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press sdieter@nwkansan.com

When she was asked how she came up with the story for her first book, Judie Withers just shrugged and pointed to her head.

Withers said she wrote the first chapter of her book, "Burden of Guilt," about 10 years ago as an assignment for a writing class at Colby Community College.



Judie Withers

She said both she and her husband, Jim Withers, were born and raised in Colby, and operated a ranch near Sharon Springs for 47 years.

hands, she said, she started working on the book. It was published this winter.

Withers also has written several short stories and been published in a book of stories, "Folktales of the High Plains."

"It's not a love story," she said of her novel. "It's about the good-old-boy days in the late '40s when abuse was OK."

The book tells the story of Emma, a young woman who pursues the wrong men through much of her life and has to work hard to regain her self respect.

While the book is not yet available at stores here, she said, you can order it online at www.sprabooks.com/JudieWithers, www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.

Commissioners choose chair

From "CHAIR," Page 1

year to year. The previous resolution had expired in 2011 but the error was not discovered until Baughn questioned the carry-over authority at this meeting.

Transferred \$116,217 from the 2013 employee benefits fund to the 2013 general fund.

Steele said the transfer, typically not allowed after the fiscal year closes on Dec. 31, was to correct a mistake made when employee health costs were deducted from the general fund in 2013.

The transfer also pads the general fund budget which was more than \$100,000 under what

was expected at the end of the year.

Approved inventories from the emergency management and highway departments.

Held a five-minute closed-door session to discuss a personnel problem.

Spending bill progresses

From "SPENDING," Page 1

loath to repeat.

"I'm hopeful we'll work something out where neither side is very happy, but we'll work it out and Obamacare will continue to be implemented," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, responsible for a massive section of the measure funding the Labor and Health and Human Services departments.

Harkin predicted Democrats will carry the day in annual fights over abortion, which include a GOP-sought ban on federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

The goal is to finish writing the mammoth measure this week in anticipation of House and Senate votes before a Jan. 15 deadline to avert another government shutdown, but as a practical matter Congress still will likely have to pass a temporary funding measure to keep the government running after midnight next Wednesday.

The omnibus spending bill follows up on the budget pact negotiated by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray, D-Wash., as the anticlimax to a 16-day partial government shutdown in October.

and government shutdown fades.

The measure includes everything from fighting the spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes, ordering new F-35 fighter planes and funding health research to fighting wildfires, sending aid to Israel and Egypt and helping local governments build sewer systems.

Supporters of the military are grateful for relief from another \$20 billion round of automatic cuts in defense spending. The Pentagon's core budget will remain essentially flat at \$520 billion, with just a \$2 billion increase over the 2013 levels that caused furloughs, harmed readiness and slowed weapons procurement.

The negotiations promise to produce a foot-tall omnibus spending measure for the 2014 budget year that began in October that'll total about \$1.1 trillion after \$86 billion or so in war funding is tacked on to \$1.012 trillion for core agency operations.

That's \$25 billion above fiscal 2013, when automatic spending cuts slashed \$64 billion from a massive appropriations bill that passed in March. But it is \$45 billion higher than what would have been available had the budget talks fallen apart and forced a second full year of the mandatory cuts.

This appropriated spending in 2014 will be more than \$30 billion below what was originally contemplated for 2013 and \$46 billion below levels contemplated in the 2011 budget deal.

Briefly

The deadline for Briefly is noon the day before. Items submitted in the morning will be set up for the following day, space available. The deadline for Monday's paper is noon Friday.

'Vision Team' to meet here with public

Lend your opinion when the governor's "vision team" decides how to manage water in the future. The team will meet at 3 p.m. Thursday in the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College to get input from agricultural and domestic water users for a 50-year water management plan.

Legion offers biscuits and gravy breakfast

Come to the American Legion, 1850 W. Fourth, for a breakfast feed of biscuits and gravy, hash browns and scrambled eggs. From 7 to 10 a.m. Saturday you can get breakfast for a donation, which will go to new doors at the Legion and other projects.

Church offers class for women on divorce

A 10-week program of hope, healing and support for women experiencing divorce will be offered from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday evenings through March 10 at the Colby United Methodist Church. Women of all faiths are welcome.

Hospital offering classes on childbirth

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four-week series of childbirth education classes at 7 p.m. Thursdays beginning this week in the hospital conference room for expectant mothers due before April. The labor support partner who will be with the mother is encouraged to attend.

Commodities to be given out here Jan. 20

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center at Fike Park. Distribution is first come, first-served, but you may send a signed permission slip with another person.

Big Brothers offer soup, rolls at games

Support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County at the fifth annual "Soups and Cinnamon Roll Supper" from 4 p.m. to 8:30 Friday at the Community Building. The menu includes soup and rolls for \$6 during the high school basketball games.

Knights free-throw contest to be Sunday

The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold its annual free throw contest Sunday at the Colby Elementary School gym. Doors will open at noon and the contest begins at 1 p.m. It is open to boys and girls age 10 to 14 as Jan. 1, and proof of age, such as a copy of a birth certificate, is required.

Wellness Challenge to kick off next week

Blood will be drawn for lab tests the Thomas County Wellness Challenge from 6 to 9 a.m. Thursday to Saturday and Monday in the front lobby at Citizens Medical Center, 100 E. College Dr. The Challenge itself begins Monday. For information, call the county Health Department at (785) 460-4596.

Seniors plan potluck at Presbyterian Church

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have a partner in a nursing home at 6 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 14, at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided.

Fifth graders to sing during program Jan. 28

The Colby Grade School fifth graders will present a free musical production, "On the Radio," at 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the school auditorium. Everyone is invited. For information, call teacher Jennifer Otten at 460-5100.

LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Large table of TV listings for Thursday and Friday evenings, including channels like KAKE/ABC, KBSL/CBS, and various cable channels.



Table of TV listings for Friday Evening, January 10, 2014, with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, etc.) and program titles.

AmericanProfile advertisement table with columns for program names and descriptions, including 'American Pickers', 'Fugitive at 17', etc.

Deaths

Lou Kersenbrock

Lou Kersenbrock, 74, Colby, died Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2013, at her home in Colby. Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby. Condolences may be sent to www.kersenbrockfuneralchapel.com.

Donald Spresser

Donald Spresser, 80, Selden, died Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2014, at Via Christi Hospital in Wichita. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2014, at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Leoville, with Father Mark Berland officiating and burial in the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Leoville.

Ada Mae (Mays) Hawkins

Ada Mae (Mays) Hawkins Schruben, 97, Atwood, mother of Richard Delbert (Kay) Hawkins of Colby, died Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, at the Rawlins County Medical Center in Atwood. She was born Oct. 7, 1916, on a farm near Wilsonville, Neb., in Furnace County, to Charles Owen and Mable Blanche (Sullivan) Mays. The family soon moved to a farm in Rawlins County, two miles south of Beardsley, where she attended grade school. She attended high school at McDonald and Atwood before graduating from Rexford High School in 1934.

On Oct. 22, 1934, in Goodland, she married Delbert Vernice Hawkins of the Middle Beaver Creek community in Rawlins County. They lived on the Hawkins family farm, raising wheat and registered polled Hereford cattle. The young couple helped to care for Ada's seven younger siblings who were left motherless in the fall of 1933 when her mother died in childbirth, and orphaned when her father died in 1939. They also had five children of their own.

An active partner in the farm-ranch operation, she also sold Avon for several years. In August 1962 they moved to Atwood, renting the farm to her brother, Dean Mays.

She was a member of the First Christian Church in Atwood, serving as deaconess for many years. She was a past Noble Grand member of the Rebekahs, as well as the Mayflower Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Debra L. (Carter) Brown

Debra L. (Carter) Brown, 56, Grainfield, died Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, at her home.

She was born Feb. 17, 1957, in Wichita, to Floyd Earl and Mary Edding (Ward) Carter.

A graduate of Campus High School in Haysville, she earned an associate degree in secretarial science.

On May 25, 1991, she married Gerry W. Brown in Colby. They co-owned B & B Oil Tools in Grainfield.

A kind-hearted person, she always looked forward to spring and summer when she kept a picture-perfect lawn.

Preceding her in death were her father; a son, Shawn Spencer; and her father-in-law, Gene Brown.

Survivors include her husband, of the home; her mother, of Atwood; a son, Chad D. (Melissa) Hanna, Grainfield; a step-son, Jarrod Brown, Boulder, Colo.; a step-daughter Heather (Gregory) Renas, Aurora, Colo.; two brothers, Danny Carter of Grainfield and David Carter of Atwood; a brother-in-law, Tommy Brown, Conroe, Texas; her mother-in-law, Lillie Brown, Attica; and four grandchildren.

Sylvia Marie Sattler

Sylvia Marie Sattler, 79, Bertrand, Neb., sister of Gerald (Darlene) Hutfles and Marge Mowry, all of Colby, died Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, at the Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdrege, Neb.

She was born Feb. 14, 1934, at Herndon, to Frank and Mary (Unger) Hutfles. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School and graduated from Herndon High School in 1952. In 1955 she graduated from Marymount School of Nursing in Salina.

As a registered nurse she was employed at various hospitals, including the Brewster Hospital in Holdrege for over 30 years. She then worked at the Bertrand Nursing Home as the director of nursing, retiring in 1995.

On Feb. 7, 1956, she married John Sattler. They lived in Holdrege and McDonald until settling in Bertrand for 42 years.

An active member of the All Saints Catholic Church in Holdrege, she was involved in various Bible studies. As a talented pianist and musician, she enjoyed sharing her music ministry in church and at home. She enjoyed playing cards, shopping, singing and making music, baking, scrap-booking, card-making and tending her flower beds. Preceding her in death were her

Short-circuit failure at resolutions by taking reasonable smaller steps

It's the beginning of a new year, the time when many of us make New Year's resolutions to get in shape, make more time for ourselves, save more money and so on.

Our intentions are good, it's the follow through we have a hard time with. So change it up this year. Don't look at your resolutions as an all-or-nothing proposition. Break them down to baby steps.

Think of things you can do today that will ultimately get you to your goal. For example, if you want to increase your exercise, choose not to park in a space close to the building but further out in the lot or down the street. Once you are doing that on a regular basis, make another small change to your routine. Small changes can lead to reaching your goal.

If you have a resolution that involves a healthier lifestyle - fitness, healthy eating and healthy weight and you aren't sure what baby steps to take toward your goal, let me suggest the Thomas County Wellness Challenge. This program encourages a healthy lifestyle and includes great information full of baby steps for you to try toward your goal. Call or email me at 460-4582 (diann@ksu.edu) for information. I can answer your questions and send you a complete booklet.

To register, go to the Thomas County Coalition website, www.thomascountycoalition.com, click on the Thomas County Wellness Challenge tab and fill out the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email. Payment of \$40 can be made payable to the Wellness Committee and sent to Pat Erickson, 1255 S. Range, Colby, Kan., 67701. The registration deadline is Monday.

Along with healthy lifestyle changes, another top resolution topic is finances - saving



Diann Gerstner

Knowledge for Life

more, paying down debt and improving your credit score for example. Again, create a plan to start changing the little stuff that will help you build the foundation and allow you to reach your goals. Here are some suggestions.

Put utilities on a level payment plan. In the winter, gas bills skyrocket. In the summer, electric bills go crazy. Setting up your bill for a level payment plan can enable you to budget for these costs. Call your utility provider and ask about it. The City of Colby and Midwest Energy both offer this type of plan. They will evaluate your usage for the past year and average it over 12 months. You will have the same payment every month and won't be surprised with a large bill.

Check insurance rates. Paying your auto or home insurance is routine. You get the bill, you pay it. Often, the rates increase and you don't even realize it. This is the perfect time to get out your policies, so you are comparing apples to apples, and call around for new quotes. Insurance companies want your business and you might be surprised at how much you could save by switching insurers. Most companies offer discounts for multiple policies - car, home, etc. If this applies, make sure you are getting that discount.

Update your tax profile. The tax code changes yearly and you could be paying too

much or too little. You can go to the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov and use their tax withholding calculator to get an estimated tax for this year. It will tell you, based on the information you provide, how to adjust your withholding. If you find that you need to make changes, ask your employer for a new W-4.

Check on your retirement plan. If you have a company-sponsored 401(k) plan, make sure you're enrolled and contributing enough to get the full company match. Consider increasing your deposit to this account by one percent; you will be surprised how little this would affect your paycheck, but it could make a significant difference when you retire. If you don't have a company 401(k) plan or want to save more for retirement, consider an Individual Retirement Account. Also, use this time to make sure you are happy with your investment choices and if necessary, make changes.

Track expenses. Make a commitment for the next two weeks to write down where you are spending your money. You might be surprised. If you find your spending is out of control, give yourself a cash allowance for eating out, entertainment and other extras you might be purchasing.

Your New Year's resolutions can be achieved. Start with something simple and then build on it. Don't give up. Whether you are trying to increase your fitness or build your savings, it is one step at a time, but you're not going to get there unless you start.

Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for the Thomas County Extension office.

Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

The Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club kicked off the the new year with its meeting Monday at the Thomas County 4-H building. Club President Brook Ziegelmeier called the meeting to order and Jory Koon led club members in the flag salute. Erin Freeman led the members singing "Wheels on the Bus."

Club Secretary Sarah Lamm called the roll and 22 club members answered with their favorite hobby. Sarah read the minutes from the December meeting and reports were heard from Reporter Cassie Wells, Treasurer Tucker Gerstner, Council Rep Sarah Lamm and Community Leader, Donna Lamm, who encouraged members to get their pizzas sold for the annual fund raiser. Tucker gave a parliamentary tip and Sarah read a thank you from the Prairie Senior Living Center for the Christmas caroling.

Brook turned the meeting over to Vice President Josh Koon for the program introductions. Taten Emigh and Erin Freeman gave project talks followed by a demonstration from Hunter Vaughn on how to shoot a basketball. Jory Koon told the club about his recent experience attending the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta.

Certificates of appreciation for Friends of 4-H were presented to Bill Shields for Crop Production Services and Lewis Hanes for Roofmasters. Josh announced that the program for the Monday, Feb. 3, meeting will be the annual parents meeting, at the Thomas County 4-H building.

Erin Freeman led the 4-H pledge and the meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were furnished by the Freemans.

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Solomon Valley Club

The Solomon Valley 4-H Club held its regular meeting on Dec. 9 at the 4-H building.

Danielle Schroeder led the club in singing, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."

Club leader Lori Wilson handed out 4-H calendars with pictures taken by 4-Hers around Kansas. Two Thomas County 4-Hers, Chelsy Schroeder and Rachel Juenemann, had pictures included. The calendars will be delivered by 4-H families to businesses around town who support the club.

The 23 club members present were introduced to Kinley Miller, who is considering joining the club.

Danielle Schroeder demonstrated how to make footprint reindeer; Kamri Miller gave a project talk on understanding a horse's body

language; and Caitlyn Comfort demonstrated how to finger knit.

After the meeting adjourned, the club enjoyed eating pizza, compliments of a Chamber of Commerce gift certificate, and playing Santa Bingo. The club also held a Genesis food collection instead of the gift exchange they have always held.

The next meeting is to be Monday, Jan. 13, when the parents will be conducting the meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Laura Schroeder, reporter

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.

Benedictine names dean's list

Benedictine College in Atchinson has announced its dean's list for the fall semester, including full time students carrying at least 12 hours with a grade average of 3.5

to 3.9.

Students named from our area include Luke Friess of Hoxie, Joni Weber of Oakley and William Allen of Brewster.

Colby Comets 4-H Club

The Colby Comets 4-H club met Dec. 15 at the Colby 4-H building with 18 members and 11 adults.

Members caroled at both Colby nursing homes, singing Christmas songs and sharing the Christmas spirit with residents.

The group also held a short business meeting and Christmas party.

President Hayden Reinert called the meeting to order, and members answered roll call with what they wanted for Christmas.

The group sent a get-well-Soon gift to Grace Oard when she was in the children's hospital.

The club plans to help Holy Family Circle serve pies at both nursing homes and the retirement home on Sunday, Jan. 12.

The club's pizza fund raiser will

continue through Friday, Jan. 17, with each family selling at least three pizzas. Area 4-H clubs will be making pizzas on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Following the meeting, the group enjoyed a potluck meal and opened gifts, the most popular of which was silly string.

The club meets next at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at the 4-H building.

Courtney Tinkham

Markets

Table with market prices for wheat, corn, milo, and soybeans. Includes quote source: previous business day, Hi-Plains Co-op.

Thermafuse hair care products advertisement. Features '35% OFF all Thermafuse hair care products (while supplies last)' and 'Mane Appearance & Design' contact info.

Silent Auction for Bison Harvest. Details include when bidding begins (Jan 7), where (Oakley High School Lobby), and who (participants must be legal to harvest the bison).

2014 Thomas County Wellness Challenge. Includes dates (Jan 6th - May 11th), program details (BOD POD, educational materials, bloodwork, walk registration), and schedule of events.



Free Press Viewpoint

Principles matter in Affordable Care

It looks like the Supreme Court will at least consider the plight of Catholic hospitals and colleges, and other religious institutions around the country which the administration would force to pay for abortion drugs, contraceptives and sterilizations under the "Obamacare" health-insurance reform.

Backers of the Affordable Care Act see this as enforcing women's rights to control their own reproductive systems. Church-run institutions see it as the court ordering them to violate the principles they stand for.

Last week, a Supreme Court justice and at least one Circuit Court of Appeals issued injunctions preventing the government from enforcing the regulations. It could be some time before the court actually hears the case, however, and it's anybody's guess how the full court might rule.

It's also unclear whether a victory by religious nonprofits like hospitals and colleges might help private firms and individual employers like Hobby Lobby and thousands of others whose owners and managers hold similar beliefs.

As the law stands, churches and other religious congregations are exempt from the rule, but church-run institutions such as hospitals, schools and charities are not. Nor are private businesses that happen to be run by believers.

Here's our take on the situation: The backers of this law won a long battle for a dearly-held goal, and now they should be magnanimous to the losers. The government has no business forcing people to violate their religious beliefs anyway.

No one has to work at a church-sponsored hospital or college. Workers knew the policies when they took their jobs, and if they really want insurance that covers birth control, they could find a job at a secular institution.

The government has no real purpose in forcing these church-related institutions to comply with this limited part of the new law. Its interest should be served by overall compliance with the law's goals, unless those go beyond providing health-care coverage for all Americans.

In short, this is a fight the government should not be involved in. Liberals may be unhappy that many churches still cling to what some feel are outdated beliefs. But that does not make the beliefs any less sincere, or these groups' First Amendment rights any less real.

If our country still believes in the rights the Founding Fathers staked out for all Americans, then the courts should strike down this move to force everyone to conform to one set of beliefs.

It's not a matter of whether we'll have health-care "reform;" that's already the law. It is a matter of whether we intend to trample the rights of minorities left and right in the name of doing good.

Let's not. — Steve Haynes

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Basement slog starts new year

It was New Year's Eve, and I had friends coming for dinner.

So, I wasn't surprised to find that there was a small lake centered on the drain in the basement.

People coming over, dinner to make, sewer problems — sounded normal to me.

I asked Steve to call the drain guy, who said he couldn't get here until "tomorrow."

I scratched my head, wondering what plumber works on New Year's Day, but I couldn't do anything one way or the other, so I let it go.

Steve bailed the basement and asked if we should cancel our dinner plans.

I said no, we'd go forward. The toilets worked. The shower and bathtub worked. The sinks in both bathrooms worked. The only things we couldn't use were the kitchen sink, dishwasher, garbage disposal and washing machine. We'd improvise. We'd get by. We'd do it.

And we did.

I alternated between the tiny bathroom sink and the porch for washing my preparation bowls and dishes, washing, rinsing and drying each piece as I went. It was slower and clunki-



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

er than usual, but the day was beautiful and we got 'er done.

Oh, we had a few setbacks. Several times, the water would start rising and Steve would have to start bailing again.

Then there was the dishwasher.

I had carefully removed everything — it had been full — and hand washed and dried every piece of silverware and glassware, every plate, bowl and pan in the dishwasher so that they would be available. Then we went for a walk.

What I had forgotten was that I had set the dishwasher on a two-hour time delay in the morning before I had discovered the basement swimming pool. When I pulled all the dishes out of the dishwasher, I had left it open a crack. Somewhere along the line, however, it got closed and two hours later, as we merrily

walked the dog in the park, the empty dishwasher turned itself on, washed nothing and poured all that water down the drain into — you guessed it — the basement.

When we got home, the dishwasher was happily finishing its task and, with a grunt and a grumble, Steve got out the ol' bailing bucket.

Still things were in good order when our guests arrived and we all traded stories of plumbing problems past. The dishes were scraped, rinsed in the bathroom sink and stacked on the kitchen bar.

New Year's Day saw no drain guy, but the bar began to look like Dish Mountain.

On Thursday, the drain guy showed up, the problem was solved and Steve did three loads of dishes.

He said he was happy to do the dishes. It was a whole lot better than bailing, but he's keeping his bucket close at hand. Just in case.

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes@nwkans.com

Overspending not just American trait

The Chinese characters for moon, light and person combine to form a completely new word today that did not exist a decade ago. Together they take on the meaning of "monthly," "empty" and "person" and mean a new type of person in China who receives a monthly paycheck but has nothing left at the end of the month.

This is a new term because saving money has been the only way to survive for three thousand years. Today's grandparents and parents went hungry and sacrificed so that this new generation would not go without. And many in this young generation intend to make their parents happy — by not sacrificing at all.

This is not to paint all Chinese students with the same brush, for there are many still coming from the poor rural countryside who must save every penny.

This new Chinese affluence comes with Chinese characteristics. While save-for-your-descendants has been the major theme for ages, a little known counter philosophy has emerged from their classical history to give legitimacy to selfishness.

"If my son is less capable than me, there is no use saving money." (He will just squander it.)

"If my son is more capable than me, there is no use saving money either." (He will himself make far more than me.)

Conclusion: Might as well spend all of what you get.

Confucius would not be happy.

But Ayn Rand couldn't have said it better.

Fortunately, China's portion of spendthrift youth is small and they are not yet in the driver's seat in this economy. For the near future, China's economy will continue to rest on generations that average saving 40 cents of every dollar. That compares to the U.S. where many folks continue to spend more than they earn.

Saving is such a part of past culture here that there are several varieties. "Lin sze" refers to a harsh and miserly saving that lets the coins build up while your children go hungry. Older readers will remember the character Si-



John Richard Schrock

• Education Frontlines

las Marner. The new generation can visualize "Lord of the Rings" Gollum: "We wants it. We needs it. Must have precious." Neither of our cultures value that level of hoarding.

Then there is "jye jian" or conscientious and reasonable saving for a rainy day. That is the savings that China has been noted for, and it is a main driver of China's development. Like the Eskimos who supposedly have 20 words for variations in "snow" (they don't), you know that if there are more words in a language for something, the concept must be really common and complex.

China's banks are heavily regulated to maintain financial stability. Savings accounts earn a pitiful one percent. So many extended families combine resources to form family investment pools. This shadow banking system resembles loan sharking. It is unregulated, earns high interest rates, and a borrower who defaults could get their legs broke. It is generally illegal.

Much of this money ends up supporting the housing boom. All over China there are new high-rise apartments still going up. If the economy continued to grow at pre-2007 rates, there would be 10 million new middle class Chinese needing housing each year. Those rents are an excellent and continuous investment return. But with the global slowdown, China has been unable to bring as many into the middle class, and many new housing units stand empty. In contrast to the American housing bubble that was built on debt, the Chinese apartment bubble is built on excess savings. The housing that remains unoccupied merely reduces the investor's return — a fact completely lost on American reporters.

The other major investment is in the educa-

tion of their children. And that boom hasn't stopped.

With 190,000 Chinese students coming to the U.S. this last academic year, some will be month-empty-people who will be carefree, buy a car and wear brand-name clothes. And there will still be those whose family was poor and the student feels the burden of their sacrifice.

In either case, these students are still among our most studious. Without this supply of 190,000 Chinese students each year, the U.S. would need a new term for "student-empty-university."

John Richard Schrock, a professor of biology and department chair at a leading teacher's college, lives in Emporia. He emphasizes that his opinions are strictly his own.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774
roberts.senate.gov/public/

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 136-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov

State Rep. Ward Cassidy, (120th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 151-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7616 ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov

State Rep. Don Hineman, (118th District) State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Room 50-S, Topeka, Kan., 66612, (785) 296-7636 don.hineman@house.ks.gov

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We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters.

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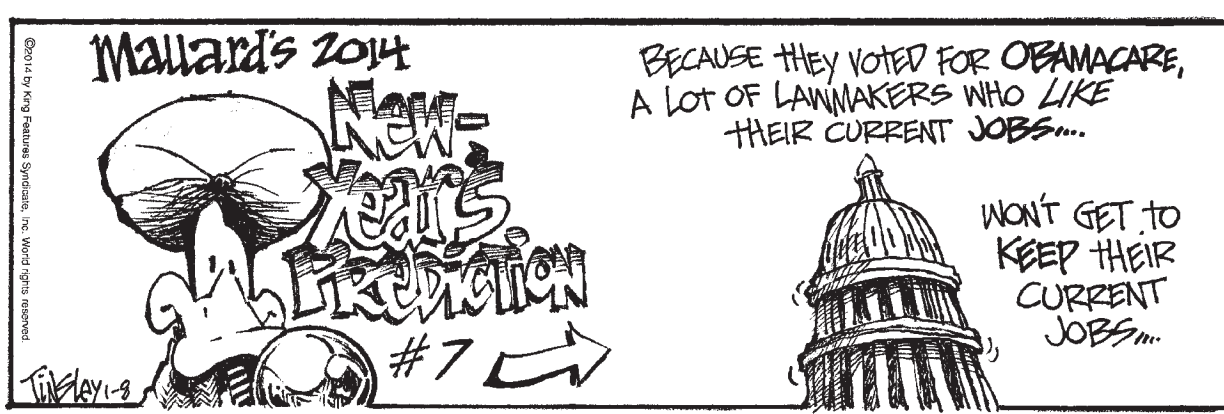
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Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



K-State holds ranch seminar at the fairgrounds this month

A meeting at noon Tuesday, Jan. 28, in the Thomas County 4-H Building is part of the new approach to K-State's 2014 Winter Ranch management Seminar series, a two-way exchange between Kansas' cattle producers and extension specialists.

The series has a history of being a successful stretch of meetings held throughout the state of Kansas, said Bob Weaber, beef breeding, genetics and cow-calf specialist for K-State Research and Extension. Unlike previous years where the program has had a Web-based delivery for part of the content, this year the specialists will deliver the series in a face-to-face "town hall" meeting format.

Weaber, along with other state, district and local extension staff, will take part in the series to help answer producers' questions about beef cattle issues surrounding animal health, nutrition, management, genetics and reproduction.

"Because of the wide range of topics and variety of climatic conditions over the past year in

Kansas, there are many different issues facing producers," Weaber said. "This is a great opportunity for us as state specialists to take our expertise out in the country and do a series of 'town hall' format meetings, where we don't have a specific agenda. We want to be responsive to the questions and needs of our producer clientele."

Weaber said ranchers should come to the meetings prepared with questions. Some of the hot topics he foresees discussing include drought management and recovery, winter feeding and cow management, preparation for calving season and, as the bull-buying season approaches in the spring, new trichomoniasis regulations (www.asi.k-state.edu/species/beef/research-and-extension/finaltrichrules.pdf), bull selection and genetics issues.

Although most of the questions will probably focus on winter issues, Weaber said, extension staff is open to questions regarding producers' plans next year for

breeding, calving and weaning.

"January is always a great time for producers, when the weather is bad and after they get chores done, to sit back, think and plan for the coming year, the calves that will be born in the spring and how they might manage those," he said. "Certainly think about business strategy opportunities moving forward in terms of expansion."

The Winter Ranch Management meeting at the 4-H building in Colby will begin with registration at noon, lunch at 12:30 p.m. and program from 1 to 3:15 p.m. Jan. 28. About four K-State specialists will be on hand to answer question covering everything from calving to feed lots, according Kurt Sexton, Thomas County Extension agent.

Make reservations by Friday, Jan. 24, at the Extension office, 250 S. Range, or call 460-4582. Registration fee of \$10 covers cost of materials and lunch.

Information about the seminar series is available at www.ksubceef.org.

Chatting over supper



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Michelle Ray, right, chatted with Melanie and Sandy Wilks Friday night in the basement of the community building while Kiwanis Club members refilled the pasta and tomato sauce at the club's spaghetti feed.

State helps to improve woodlands

Recent inventories of an estimated 289,577 acres of windbreaks in Kansas suggest that 44 percent are in fair to poor condition and need renovation, and state and federal agencies are ready to help landowners do just that.

"Windbreaks and woodlands provide a variety of benefits, both environmental and economical," said Robert Atchison, rural forestry coordinator for the Kansas Forest Service. "If properly cared for, they can provide soil conservation, increase crop yields, keep snow off our roads during the winter, help beef producers during calving season and reduce feed costs for livestock during cold or stormy weather."

Windbreaks also can help reduce home energy costs and provide habitat for wildlife. Along with environmental benefits, woodlands in Kansas have a significant product value, Atchison said.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program for Forestland Heath is a voluntary cost-share conservation program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to help landowners plan, install or implement conservation practices on eligible land.

Anyone engaged in livestock or crop production or forestry management may be eligible to apply. The program is designed to help address concerns such as old windbreaks with gaps or dead trees and shrubs, stream-bank erosion where tree planting can reduce soil loss and woodlands that are crowded and need thinning.

Landowners who qualify will enter into a contract with the ser-

vice based on the projects they want to accomplish. The length may be from one to 10 years, with most contracts running for two or three.

"If you don't manage your woodlands and windbreaks, you won't get the economical value as well as all of the environmental benefits out of it," Atchison said. "As a state forestry agency, we're trying to give landowners the tools to make it happen."

The program is both competitive and selective. Landowners submit applications that are ranked based on criteria developed by conservation service.

The deadline to apply for fiscal 2014 was Nov. 15, however, landowners should begin the process as soon as possible because:

- District foresters must meet with applicants at the proposed

project site to determine if the project qualifies. If it does, district forester will prepare a plan to implement the project at no cost to the applicant.

- District foresters provide one-on-one service through a variety of programs across large multi-county districts. Waiting to apply could mean landowners may not receive adequate services in time to apply.

Landowners should contact their conservation service county office, in the Department of Agriculture Service Center, and their district forester.

For information on the state Forest Service, to locate district foresters and for a brochure, go to www.kansasforests.org/programs/rural/services.shtml, or call the service at (785) 532-3300.

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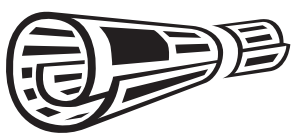
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Thomas County Jail

Booked into the Thomas County jail:

- Preston Emmanuel Sanders, 27, St. Paul, Minn., April 8, human trafficking (Labette County), failure to appear, Logan County Sheriff's Office, released Monday to other agency.
- Kyle Dean Zeigler, 20, Atwood, Dec. 20, probation violation, Thomas County Sheriff's Office/Court Services of Thomas County, released Dec. 31 on recognizance.
- Wayne Frederick Magley, 55, Oakley, Dec. 29, domestic battery, Oakley Police Department, released same day on recognizance.
- Taryn Sue Jaques, 24, Arvada, Colo., Dec. 29, failure to appear/driving without valid driver's license, Kansas Highway Patrol, released Dec. 30 on \$4,000 bond.
- Samantha Lee Reed, 20,

Selden, Dec. 29, driving with license suspended or revoked, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day on recognizance.

• Marty Ray Anderson 50, Colby, Dec. 30, possession of a controlled substance (two counts), possession of drug paraphernalia, Colby Police Department, released Dec. 31 on bond.

• Sergio Aaron Perez, 29, Colby, Dec. 30, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, Colby Police, released same day to responsible party.

• Justin Kembel Williams, 22, Colby, Dec. 30, driving with license suspended or revoked, Colby Police, released same day on recognizance.

• Teather D. Dautel, 21, Colby, Dec. 31, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, Thomas County Sheriff, released Thursday on bond.

• Alistar Celeste Lopez, 20, Colby Dec. 31, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, Thomas County Sheriff, released same day with charges pending.

• Christopher Andrew Shanahan, 28, Colby, last Wednesday, driving under the influence, speeding, Colby Police, released same day to responsible party.

• Zane G. Winger, 18, Garden City, last Wednesday, driving under the influence, Colby Police, released same day to responsible party.

• Zachary Patrick Daniels, 21 Champaigne, Ill., Friday, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, Colby police, released same day with charges pending.

• Mohammad Amid Ghane, 20, Champaigne, Ill., Friday, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, Colby Police, released same day with charges pending.

• Christopher Allen Hurd, 36, Levant, Friday, theft, Thomas County Sheriff, released Saturday on recognizance.

• Lauren Alyssa Ruvola, 21, Champaigne, Ill., Friday, possession of hallucinogenic drugs, possession of drug paraphernalia, Colby Police, released same day with charges pending.

• Connie Marie Schiltz, 49, Levant, Friday, criminal restraint, criminal trespass, Colby Police, released same day with charges pending.

Politician resigns, writes letter in Klingon language

INDIAN TRAIL, N.C. (AP) — Call it a politician boldly going where no one has gone before.

On Thursday, David Waddell used the Klingon language to write his letter of resignation from the Indian Trail Town Council in North Carolina.

Waddell says he opted to use Klingon, the language of a warrior race on the "Star Trek" TV shows and movies, as an inside

joke. Mayor Michael Alvarez is calling the letter unprofessional.

Waddell says he is resigning at the end of this month. His four-year term expires in December 2015.

Waddell says he also needs to devote time to mounting a write-in campaign on the Constitution Party's platform against U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan.



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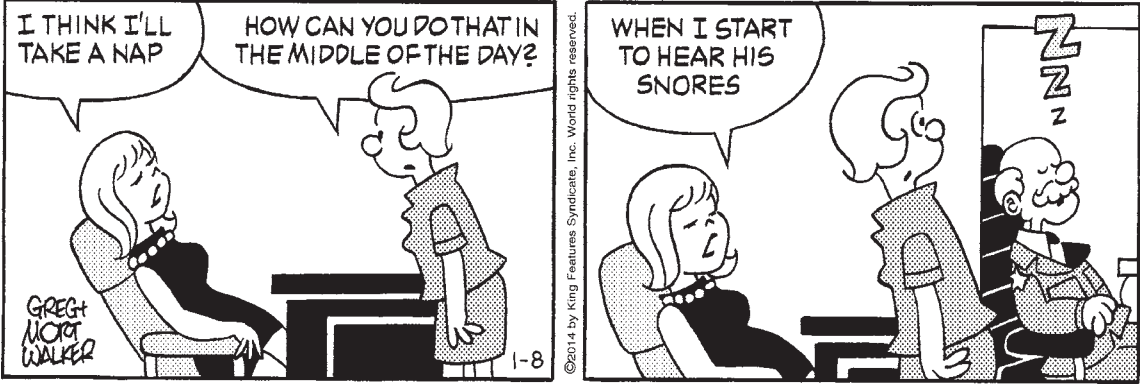
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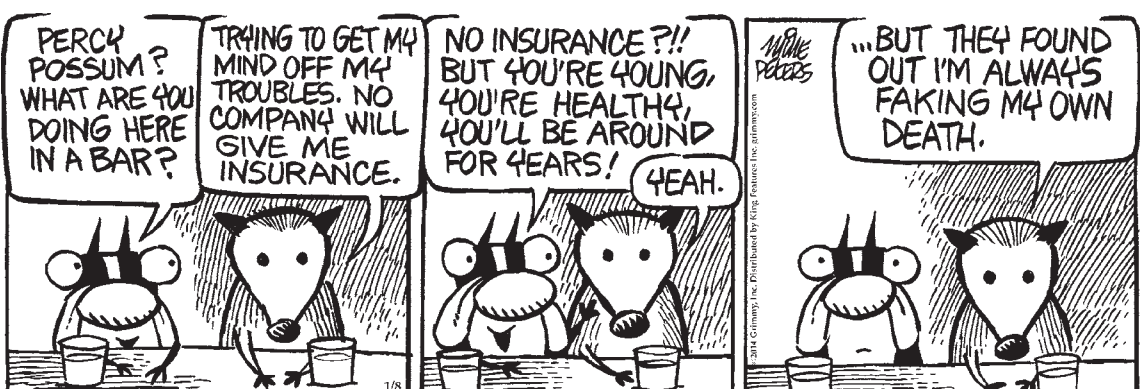
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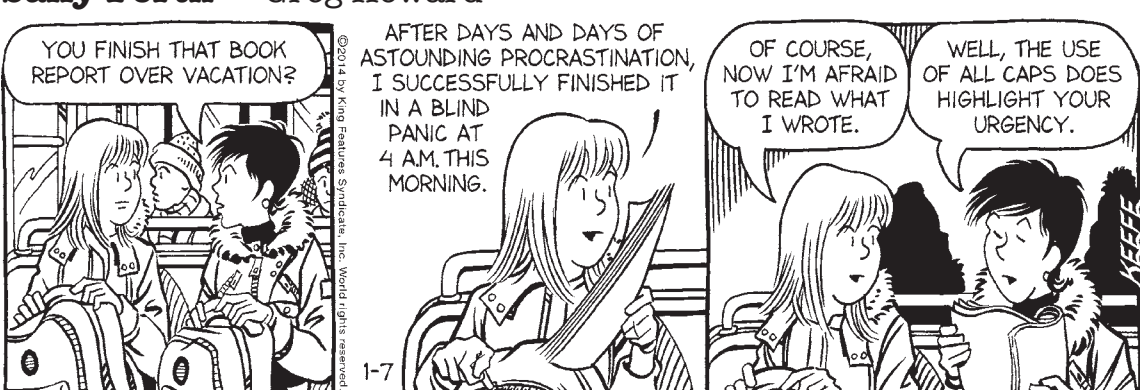
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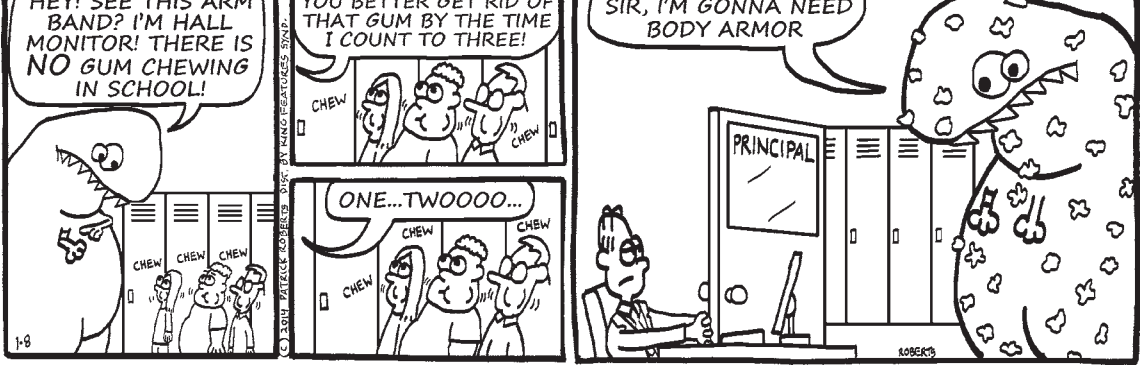
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



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Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Absorbent pads make trash stink

Dear Heloise: Why do the people who put chicken pieces in foam trays put in the little absorbent pads? They do indeed absorb stray fluids, but they start stinking within 24 hours at room temperature. This isn't good if it's two or three days until garbage pickup. — C.K., via email

I'm with you — they are yucky! But they do serve a purpose. The pad keeps the chicken (and meat) "looking good" by absorbing any liquid that may leak while it sits in the cold storage bin in the store. You are right that it can become smelly if it sits in the garbage can for too long. Try this classic Heloise hint: Wrap the liner in a plastic bag and put it in the freezer until garbage day! Many readers do this with any food that cannot go down the garbage disposal and that starts smelling if it sits in the garbage can until pickup day. Just remember to get it out of the freezer when garbage day arrives! — Heloise

INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS
Dear Heloise: I make many soups and stocks during the winter. A good hint for making individual-serving-size portions is to pour the soup or stock into the cups of a muffin tin before freezing. After the soup is frozen, it easily pops out. — Layla M. in Wisconsin

This is a great way to freeze soups, especially if you have limited freezer space, while being able to have just one cup! After freezing, repack the soups (in plastic freezer bags or containers) for a better fit in the freezer. Soup is my go-to meal for lunch or dinner, especially in the winter. I have a super (souper!) pamphlet, Heloise's Spectacular Soups, filled with favorite soup hints, plus recipes from friends and family members. To receive a copy, send \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (66 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Soups, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. When freezing soups, be aware that soups with noodles or rice may change texture when reheated. Try freezing stocks, and then, after heating, add your favorite noodles or rice before serving. — Heloise

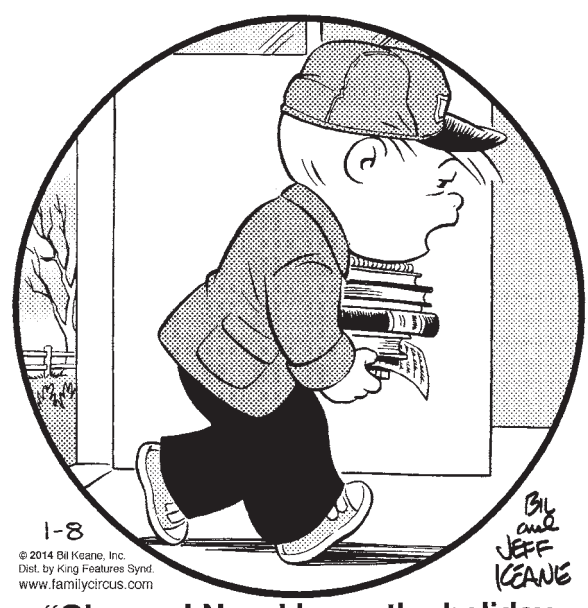
CLUMP-FREE SALT
Dear Heloise: I have a hint that I have used for years. I may be the only one around who uses popcorn (un-popped, of course!) as a great way to keep salt in a saltshaker from clumping. I have found that over time, the rice breaks into bits small enough to be shaken out. However, popcorn kernels never break up.

The popcorn seems to absorb moisture from humidity, and if there is clumping, it breaks apart the clumps when you shake out the salt. It takes only two or three kernels in a shaker, and they last practically forever. — Virginia M. in Texas

UPSIDE DOWN
Dear Heloise: If you store your "fruit on the bottom" yogurt upside down in the refrigerator, then give it several good shakes before you open it, it will be so much easier to mix. — Peggy C. in Texas

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



1-8
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

		9	7	8				
	2				1			
1	3					2		
4	8					6		
2			3			1		
	5				4	9		
		4	2	5	6	8	7	
						3	6	1
							5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/08

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

6	5	3	8	1	9	7	4	2
7	2	8	6	5	4	3	1	9
1	9	4	2	3	7	5	8	6
2	7	5	1	8	6	4	9	3
3	6	1	4	9	5	8	2	7
8	4	9	3	7	2	1	6	5
5	8	2	9	4	3	6	7	1
4	3	6	7	2	1	9	5	8
9	1	7	5	6	8	2	3	4

Cryptoquip

NXB TDJWZNBOWODPOMJJB
XMS M AMS TDZPX, ED XRE
VDOL AZSSRBE VBOB VMOYRYP
XRJ ND ENDW XM TLRYP

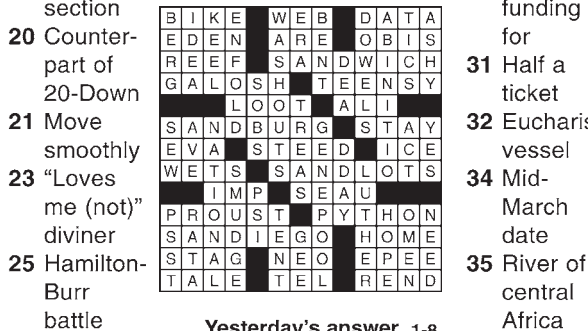
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A LIVE PERFORMING DUO THAT ACTED OUT SILENT SCENES THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES AS PARTNERS IN MIME.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 100 cts.
4 Stashed
7 TV chef
8 Turner and Del Rey
10 Like cumulus clouds
11 "Babes —"
13 Mis-souri's capital
16 Radical 1960s org.
17 Fix a shoelace
18 Pirouette pivot
19 Clothing store section
20 Counterpart of 20-Down
21 Move smoothly
23 "Loves me (not)" diviner
25 Hamilton-Burr battle

DOWN
1 Re-moves, as a hat
2 Composer Carl
3 In tiers
4 Red River city
5 Foolish
6 Jeanne
7 Prompted
8 Rosters biblically
9 Hits
10 Sleep-wear, for short
12 Tale
14 Artist
15 Affirmative answer
19 Thou squared
20 Counterpart of 20-Across
21 Soviet labor camp
22 Seduce
23 Frisbee, e.g.
24 Soaks up
25 Beaver's construct
26 Fool
28 No liability
29 Temperamental
30 Provide funding for
31 Half a ticket
32 Eucharist vessel
34 Mid-March date
35 River of central Africa



Yesterday's answer 1-8

	1	2	3		4	5	6			
	7				8			9		
10					11				12	
13				14					15	
16				17					18	
		19							20	
	21	22			23	24				
25					26					
27				28	29			30	31	32
33			34					35		
	36							37		
		38						39		
								40		
								41		

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ K Q
♥ 8 3
♠ 6 5 4 2
♣ A 7 5 3 2
EAST
♦ 9 6 3
♥ Q J 10 6 2
♠ K
♣ J 10 8 4
SOUTH
♦ A J 10 4
♥ K 7
♠ A 9 3
♣ K Q 9 6
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

Tiny Strokes Fell Great Oaks

Assume you're declarer in three notrump and West leads the queen of diamonds. East plays the king, which you can't afford to duck, so you take the king with the ace. It's easy to go wrong at this point. Suppose you play the king of clubs at trick two, which seems the normal thing to do. If you did that, you'd go down regardless of how you continued. East's J-10-8-4 of clubs would stop you from making the contract.

Unlucky, you might say to yourself. However, if you gave the matter more serious thought, you'd realize that you should have made three notrump. All you had to do was to lead the six of clubs to the ace at trick two, and you would have made four club tricks instead of three to wrap up the contract. (You can't make five club tricks against best defense because the spades and clubs will become blocked.)

The reason leading the six to the ace is the right play is because it enables you to score four tricks in the suit without losing the lead if East started with all four clubs, while the same is not true no matter how you initiate the suit if West started with four clubs.

You could argue that the chance of East being dealt all four missing clubs is too remote to be considered. But if that's the way you play the game, there will be many occasions where you do not do as well as you should have.

The indisputable fact is that it can't cost you the contract to play the six of clubs to the ace first, but it might cost you the contract to play the king first. Since there's a possibility — however small — that the king play might do you in, while no harm can come from the six play, you should lead the six at trick two.

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K-State great will meet Colby fans at breakfast

Colby fans can soon get a better look at Collin Klein than many opponents who tried to catch him during his Kansas State University football career.

That's because on Saturday, Jan. 25, this all-time great Wildcat will be the guest speaker for Colby's Fellowship of Christian Athletes breakfast.

The free breakfast is set to begin at 8 a.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, juice, fruit are being planned for the menu along with biscuits and gravy.

Colby High Activities Director Larry Gabel said reservations should be made as soon as possible to help plan how much food should be ordered.

Klein is scheduled to speak at 9 a.m. and will also sign autographs. It's a great opportunity to meet

the 2012 Big 12 Player Of The Year who rushed for as many touchdowns (27) during one season as any player in major college football history.

Klein captured All-American honors while also winning the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm award. His efforts earned other top college football nation honor including the Manning Award, Davey O'Brien Award, Maxwell Award and — as most good K-State fans recall — the 2012 Heisman Trophy.

He finished second in that voting behind only Heisman winner Johnny Manziel from Texas A&M University.

Klein became Kansas State's first three-year team captain with those final two years leading to Fiesta and Cotton Bowl appearances.

The Wildcats carried an unde-

feated record and No. 1 national ranking deep into 2012 as Klein led clutch victories over Oklahoma, Texas, Oklahoma State and the University of Miami (Fla.) among others.

Yet Colby's Fellowship of Christian Athletes knows there is far more great about Klein than football wins and record-setting statistics.

Their promotional flyer states "Collin, one of the Wildcats' best competitors to ever put on the purple, is more than just a football player."

"It's the game of life that Collin excels at most — the game of glorifying his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Collin's stats can be stacked up amongst the best to play his position in college football, but his heart to serve and love those around him shines so much brighter."



RONALD MARTINEZ/Getty Images

Former Kansas State quarterback and Heisman Trophy runner-up Collin Klein broke away from several Texas Christian Horned Frogs during one of the Big 12 champion Wildcats' wins in 2012.

Wildcats top Frogs

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Thomas Gipson knew he didn't play very well last season when he traveled home for Kansas State's game at TCU, and he admits he was a little anxious for Tuesday night's game, too.

But with 24 family members cheering him on, Gipson had 19 points and eight rebounds, and No. 25 Kansas State ran its winning streak to 10 games with a 65-47 victory over TCU.

The Wildcats (12-3, 2-0 Big 12), who made their way into the Top 25 for the first time this season on Monday, played their first true road game of the season. But it didn't seem to faze them. Kansas State had its highest shooting percentage of the season both overall (52.5 percent) and from 3-point range (46.7 percent).

"When we were patient, we were able to exploit them and get it to Thomas (Gipson) and then Marcus Foster in the second half," K-State coach Bruce Weber said.

Buzzer shot spoils great Trojans rally

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press
rheadley@nwkansas.com

An extraordinary 10-point Colby Community College comeback in the final two minutes couldn't match not-your-average Joe Tuesday night.

Actually, Trinidad (Colo.) State's Joe Smith was rather average (six for 13 shooting) until his running buzzer beater over two defenders swished through the net for a 76-73 victory.

Yet even as Smith drained this 30-foot ESPN dah-dah-dah highlight shot, Colby coach Rusty Grafel knew one basket did not decide his team's first basketball game of 2014.

"Yeah, the shot beat us, but there were about 15 to 20 possessions we fumbled away that set it up," he said about the second consecutive home loss following six straight wins in Colby's Community Building. "We just have to get tougher. That's the main issue with this team. We have to get tougher in every aspect of the game."

The Trojans (9-8 record overall) started and finished fast in their final game before Jayhawk West Conference play begins.

They shot ahead 19-11 during the game's first nine minutes, including one memorable five-point play. Sophomore Jeremiah Ingram finished a driving layup, missed the free throw, but then got that ball back when teammate Joey Meyer grabbed an offensive rebound.

Meyer quickly found Ingram, who drained a top-of-the-key three to complete this five-point flurry.

However, the Trojans only needed eight more points in those

final eight-plus minutes before halftime.

They still pulled ahead on several occasions as Kyle Summers' trifecta broke a 31-31 tie. Gage Deis' great move around his post defender put Colby ahead 38-37.

Yet suddenly, Trinidad's Kevin DeCristino found the nets were ticklish. He went from no points on this night to nine by swishing threes from the left corner, right corner and left wing.

"We didn't do as well scrambling out to shooters as we should have," Grafel observed. "We left some shooters out there open."

Those open opportunities helped Trinidad take a 10-point lead at 67-57 with only 1:59 remaining.

That's when Trojan toughness made a great appearance.

Colby started its rally thanks to two Branden Williams' baskets. Williams earlier delivered a soaring slam dunk which ignited the home crowd.

After a Williams steal and layup, teammate Anthony Barley buried his one three-pointer to bring Colby within 69-66.

Ingram's final triple of a 22-point night made it even closer at 72-71 — but this leading scorer was not done.

With only 11 seconds remaining, Ingram started one more full-court fast break. He neared the free-throw line and then spotted Meyer for a perfectly-timed assist.

Meyer's ensuing basket forced a 73-73 deadlock at the 4.7-second mark.

"Obviously, Jeremiah's a capable guy to have the ball in his hands at the end," Grafel said. "He draws a lot of attention and Joey was trailing him. It was an exciting play and a really good comeback."



PAT SCHIEFEN/Goodland Star-Tribune

Colby High junior Austin Russ, right, pursued a Goodland Cowboy downcourt during Tuesday night's varsity contest in Goodland.

Cowboys rumble past Colby teams

Colby High senior Cameron Brown's season-high 29 points were not quite enough against a team of Goodland Cowboy sharpshooters Tuesday evening.

The Cowboys fired ahead 20-12 through one quarter.

Brown helped Colby close within 22-20, but Goodland tallied another 20 points before halftime and never looked back during a 71-55 boys' varsity victory.

"We don't have that lockdown defense yet," coach Kevin Brown said about his Eagles. "I thought we played pretty well for three quarters, but we're still not getting enough stops. We're giving up too many second shots."

The Goodland boys (3-4 record) featured three players netting 15 points or more.

Brown and senior classmate Luke Cox (11 points) teamed to score 40 for Colby. Senior Marc Bremerkamp's six points led the other Eagles who combined for just 15 total.

"Cameron and Luke didn't take a lot of shots to get their points. They hit a good percentage. We have to get more kids to score, that's for sure," coach Brown said. "As the game went on, I felt we rotated the ball and got better shots."

A seven-for-17 effort at the foul line also hurt Colby's chances to get win No. 1 this season. The Eagles (0-7) return home to play 3A Top 10-rated Holcomb Friday

evening. Meanwhile, the Colby varsity girls (3-4 record) try to even their record again after a 44-33 loss at Goodland Tuesday night.

These Eagles suffered an early setback when senior team leader Haileigh Shull suffered a third-quarter ankle injury. She'd scored the first four second-half points as Colby only trailed 20-19.

The Cowgirls (6 and 1 record) promptly took advantage of this absence with 15 unanswered points to lead 35-19 through three periods. They outscored Colby 20-4 during those game-deciding eight minutes.

Sophomore Brenly Terrell did reach double figures for the Eagles (11 points).

Shull added six before her injury while sophomore Lara Stephens tossed in five points.

Other Eagles hitting shots were Brielle McKee (four points), Shaile Giebler (three), Brooklyn Bange (two) and Hannah Strange (two) according to unofficial statistics.

The Colby girls also challenge Holcomb at 6:30 p.m. on Friday.

KEVIN BOTTRELL
Goodland Star-Tribune

Colby High sophomore Lara Stephens, right, looked around this Goodland defender to spot an open teammate during Tuesday night's varsity contest at Goodland.



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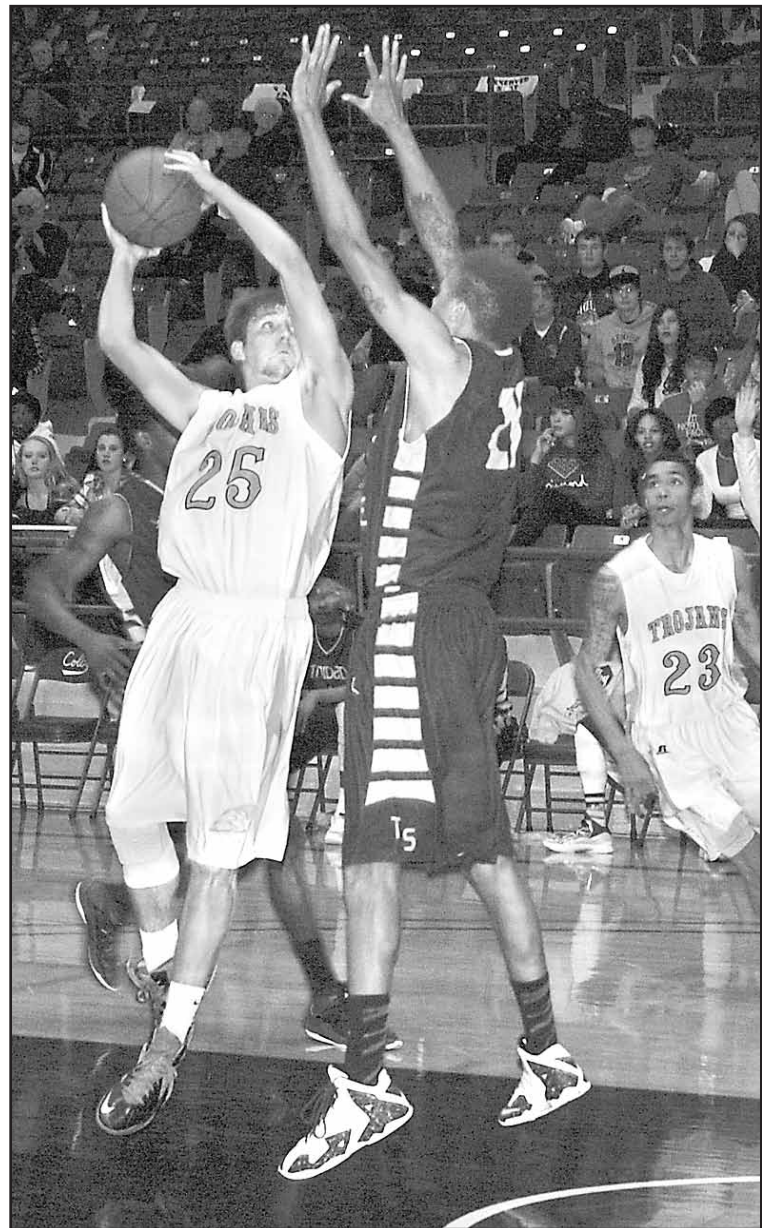
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R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College's Joey Meyer powered past this Trinidad (Colo.) State defender during first-half action Tuesday night at the Colby Community Center. Colby teammate Gage Deis (23) moved into position for a potential putback or pass.

However, the Trinidad Trojans had just enough time for Smith to deliver his winning shot despite a good double team.

Trinidad (7-8 overall) avenged its 90-80 home loss against Colby on Nov. 19.

Colby moves on to its Jayhawk Conference opener at national top 25-ranked Hutchinson Community College Saturday night.

"Hutch is where they play the national (junior college) tournament, so it's a chance for our guys to get a taste of the next level as

far as gyms," Grafel concluded. "It won't be an easy one, but definitely winnable if our guys go out and execute."

Colby (73) — Jeremiah Ingram 22 points, Branden Williams 14, Terry Starks 13, Gage Deis 10, Joey Meyer 8, Kyle Summers 3, Anthony Barley 3. Three-point goals: Ingram 2, Starks, Summers, Williams, Barley. Rebound leaders: Deis 6. Assists: Starks 2. Steals: Starks 5, Williams 3.

Trinidad (76) — Richard McCalop's 23 points topped Trinidad.

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LYN CHENEY

Golden Plains Middle School B team players Dylan Spresser (0), Joseph Yanez (13) and Nolan Ritter surround a Western Plains Bobcat during their first game of the new year on Monday.

Bulldog boys battle at Bazine

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School boys basketball team lost two games to the Western Plains Bobcats on their first day back from winter break.

They traveled in the bitter cold to Bazine on Monday to play two quarters of B team. Both teams ended the first quarter of play with one point.

Once they warmed up, both teams had no trouble finding the basket as Caleb Korte put in four baskets for the Bulldogs and Nolan Ritter made one to go along with his first quarter free throw.

The home town team put in five free throws along with four bas-

kets for the 15-11 win over the Bulldogs.

"We did a good job getting the ball down the court," Ritter said. "We just had a lot of fouls and need to work on our passing."

The boys will play a second game this week as they travel to Cheylin on Thursday.

A game

The Golden Plains A team boys basketball team struggled against the Western Plains Bobcats in Bazine on Monday. Following a long, cold bus ride, the boys thought they were ready to play, but the Bobcats jumped to an early 15-4 lead by the end of the first quarter with Devin Carter putting in all four points for the visiting Bulldogs.

"We had to make adjustments since we were missing one of our players," eighth-grader Clayton Bange said.

Things did not improve for the Bulldogs as their defense allowed the Bobcats to post up 11 for a 26-6 lead at half time. As the Bulldogs couldn't find the basket in the third, the Bobcats extended their lead to 37-6 going into the fourth.

In the final six minutes, Jeron Schutte found the basket and put in eight points along with two from Jacob Ritter. The Bobcats only made two in the fourth, but their earlier lead carried them to the 39-16 win.

The boys also play again at Cheylin on Thursday.

Titans take No. 1 seed into league tournament

Pairings are set for next week's Western Kansas Liberty League basketball tournaments and the undefeated Triplains-Brewster girls have earned a No. 1 seed.

Final rounds will be played at sites in Colby.

The entire schedule for both girls and boys' contests:

Girls

Monday, 5 p.m. — No. 8 Healy vs. No. 9 Palco at Wheatland; No. 7 Northern Valley vs. No. 10 Western Plains at Grinnell.

Tuesday — All games at Grinnell. No. 1 Triplains-Brewster vs. Healy-Palco winner, 3 p.m.; No. 3 Golden Plains vs. No. 6 Cheylin, 4:30 p.m.; No. 2 Weskan vs. Northern Valley-Western Plains winner, 6 p.m.; No. 4 Logan vs. No. 5 Wheatland-Grinnell, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17 — Consolation semifinals at Colby High School, 4:30 and 6 p.m.; Championship semifinals at the Colby Community Building, 4:30 and 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18 — Ninth-place game, 10:30 a.m. at Colby High School; Seventh place, noon at Colby High School; Fifth place, 1:30 p.m. at Colby High School; Third place, 3 p.m. at the Colby Community Building; Championship, 6 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

Boys

Monday — No. 8 Cheylin vs. No. 9 Palco, 6:30 p.m. at Grinnell; No. 7 Golden Plains vs. No. 10 Healy, 6:30 p.m. at Wheatland.

Tuesday — All games at Wheatland. No. 4 Western Plains vs. No. 5 Logan, 3 p.m.; No. 3 Northern Valley vs. No. 6 Wheatland-Grinnell, 4:30 p.m.; No. 2 Triplains-



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Coleton Rogge watched the final seconds expire after his steal sealed a 37-35 Triplains-Brewster win over Logan earlier this season. The Titans and Golden Plains Bulldogs will both compete in next week's Western Kansas Liberty League tournament with final rounds to be played at Colby.

Brewster vs. Golden Plains-Healy winner, 6 p.m.; No. 1 Weskan vs. Cheylin-Palco winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17 — Consolation semifinals at Colby High School, 3 and 7:30 p.m.; Championship semifinals at the Colby Community Building, 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18 — Ninth-

place game, 10:30 a.m. at the Colby Community Building; Seventh place, noon at the Colby Community Building; Fifth place, 1:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building; Third place, 4:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building; Championship, 8 p.m. at the Colby Community Building.

Eagle C boys defeat Goodland

Colby High's C boys scored a 38-35 victory over the Goodland Cowboys to highlight other basketball action between these area

rivals Tuesday evening.

The Eagles couldn't make it two wins as Goodland's junior varsity boys prevailed 62-43.

Colby's junior varsity girls and C team girls both lost by an identical score of 38-34. The C contest went into overtime.

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