



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
A group of around 45 farmers and community leaders (above) ate and chatted at the annual banquet for the Thomas County Conservation District. Marilyn Friesen (right) stood beside the sign she and her husband received for this year's Kansas Bankers Award for soil conservation. Tammi and Darvin Strutt (far right) won the windbreak award for the Austrian pine trees they planted around their home. Steven Friesen (below) talked about soil microbiology as he accepted the conservation award.



Soil loss plan sought

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Sheriff Rod Taylor wants a clearer plan to deal with emergency soil erosion, he told the county commissioners at their Monday meeting.

He thanked Commissioner Mike Baughn for bringing the county's soil erosion authority to public attention by highlighting the provisions of Kansas law that allow the county to order soil erosion control on private land.

Taylor asked the commissioners to consider a resolution giving emergency authority to county law enforcement officers. Such emergency options would allow officers to contact landowners quicker when blowing soil causes emergencies.

Baughn said he wasn't sure the commissioners had the legal ability to pass such a resolution since the statute does not clearly allow it. Instead, the law requires the commissioners to convene a meeting to consider the situation before a landowner can be ordered to work his land to reduce blowing, Baughn said.

Commissioner Paul Steele suggested Taylor work with County Attorney Kevin Berens to develop a resolution, if one is possible.

In the meantime, Taylor said, his officers can close roads and redirect traffic as needed if blowing soil causes a driving hazard.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Ordered payment of \$3,000 to Penco Engineering P.A. for a survey to establish the section line boundaries for disputed land along County Road D near Mingo.

- Entered a closed-door session with the county attorney and health department director to discuss attorney-client privileged matters regarding a fingerprint agreement with Morpho Trust.

- Approved the purchase of a new enclosed trailer to be used as storage for weed department equipment. Road Supervisor Clair Schrock obtained bids from Bet-

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Conservation practices honored

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

The Thomas County Conservation District handed out awards and re-elected a supervisor at its annual banquet Wednesday.

Jon Starns, vice chairman of the board of supervisors for the district, gave the welcome at the meeting, telling about the one vacant seat on the board in addition to his own position. The group re-elected Starns to another three-year term with a written ballot. His was the only name on the ballot, but Tony Horinek came in second place with four write-in votes. Horinek had not decided by the end of the meeting if he would accept the vacant spot.

There were fewer than 50 people at the meeting in the basement of the Colby Community Building, but various community leaders attended, including Conservation District Manager Debbie Potter, District Conservationist Tanya Gerstberger, Ross Sloan with the Farm Service Agency, Extension Agent Kurt Sexton, Katherine Wilkins-Wells, manager of Groundwater

Management District No. 4, County Clerk Shelley Harms and county Commissioners Mike Baughn and Byron Sowers.

Katera Harter, this year's Miss Rodeo Kansas, was the special guest at the meeting. Ryan Edmundson, branch manager for Farmers Bank and Trust in Brewster, represented the banks at the banquet.

Following a lunch provided by area banks, other district business was covered.

Winners of the Kansas Bankers Awards for soil conservation and windbreak for the year were recognized.

Darvin and Tammi Strutt accepted the windbreak award, given to them for the Austrian pine windbreak they began around their house over 10 years ago. They water the trees with a sub-surface drip irrigation system and do not let anyone spray herbicide near them. As he presented the award, Sexton said the windbreak surrounds all four sides of their house, and has been the subject of many positive comments.

The soil conservation award went to Steven and Marilyn Friesen, who use no-till farming and a cover of brome grass to preserve the soil on their farm. Steven Friesen

spoke to the group briefly about his passion for soil conservation, which he said grew into something bigger after he started using it to save money.

His farm had been tilled as long as anyone else's, he said, and testing the soil along fences, he estimated that 30 to 60 percent of the living things in the soil have been depleted in the 150 years since farmers started tilling it.

"And how long it will take to get the other half I don't know," he said.

Academia has only recently caught up to the need to study microbiology in the soil, he added. For most of the time since pioneers first broke sod here, scientists were trying to figure out how to till the land, or chemists were learning to make fertilizer and "fu-fu juice that solved all our problems," he said.

To see what happens when microbes leave the soil, Friesen said, one only has to look up places like North Africa and central China on the Internet. The overworked land in these areas is turning into a desert, he said.



Experts at odds over testing gaps

TOPEKA (AP) — Education policy experts differ over the causes of achievement gaps among Kansas public school students and whether the state is putting the right focus on how to boost scores.

The discussion occurred Thursday during a joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees to review state scores on a national reading assessment and state funding for schools.

State Education Commission Diane DeBacker and Dave Trabert, executive director of the Kansas Policy Institute, did agree that achievement gaps were widening between poor and wealthy students, the *Topeka Capital-Journal* reported (bit.ly/1aEfp3). The two disagree on whether state funding earmarked for helping students at risk of failure was working or appropriate.

"Kansas has a two-tiered education system," Trabert said. "About half of students are doing pretty well, but those considered economically disadvantaged are several years' worth of learning behind."

Legislators were reviewing scores on the National Assessment of Education Progress, which measures students in math and reading. DeBacker said the NAEP scores and separate state assessments show there were gaps among

students on math and reading scores, a problem that has persisted despite efforts to target funding.

"We know we have a gap in terms of students living in poverty," DeBacker said.

DeBacker said scores had declined since the 2008-09 school year, linking the drop to reductions in base state aid per pupil, which went from \$4,400 per student to \$3,838. She pointed to fourth- and eighth-grade math and reading scores as an example.

Kansas has fallen from ranking sixth in the nation in fourth-grade math in the 2008-09 school year to 11th in 2012-13 tests. Eighth-grade math had moved up from 12th to 11th. Reading scores at the fourth-grade level fell to 23rd in the country after being 17th, while eighth-grade reading fell from 20th in 2008-09 to 29th.

Trabert, who works for a conservative think tank, said comparing Kansas scores to other states was complicated by how rigorous the academic standards are in other states.

He said Kansas needed to take an analytical look at the additional funds that are spent each year to target programs aimed at helping low-achieving students. Trabert said there was no system to measure whether the money was hitting the mark.

"Is it actually being spent on at-risk? We don't know," Trabert said.

The Kansas school finance formula, which has been challenged in court, gives school districts additional funds for at-risk programs for each student that qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches. The money can be used for additional tutoring or other student interventions, such as before and after-school instruction.

Legislators said the focus shouldn't be on just the base state aid figure but all of the money put into education, including funding for teacher pensions and money from federal and local sources.

Sen. Jeff Melcher, a Leadwood Republican, also suggested that a way to improve student performance would be to develop a system for removing and replacing low-performing teachers.

Others, such as Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, a Topeka Democrat, said the danger in changing the funding formula was the potential for understating state cuts to education. Hensley said cuts at the state level increased the discrepancies between what poor and wealthy school districts can generate from local property taxes and the effect on the quality of education.

Mortgage fee bill likely to be killed

A bill that would have eliminated the mortgage registration fees that apply to most mortgage-funded land purchases seems likely to die in the state legislature.

The bill was backed by the Kansas Bankers Association as an unfair penalty for those who fund their purchases with loans as well as an unfair advantage for federally chartered banks. The fee is not charged for cash purchases and cannot be charged on loans through federally chartered banks.

County governments, including the Thomas County commissioners, opposed eliminat-

ing the fee because of the revenue it generates for the county. Thomas County received \$90,609 from the fee in 2012 and \$120,720 in 2013.

In an email to county clerks throughout his district, Rep. Ward Cassidy said that he has only talked to two legislators who would support the bill.

"Most of my districts sent concerns (and) resolutions pertaining to the Mortgage Registration Act," Cassidy said in the email.

He said his discussions with other lawmakers indicate the bill will not go forward.



Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north-west after midnight.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

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

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Washington's Birthday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 63.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 64.

Wednesday: High, 39; Low 22

Precip: Wednesday None

Month: 0.11 inches

Year: 0.41 inches

Normal: 0.93 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

Sunrise and Sunset

Friday 7:37 a.m. 6:20 p.m.

Full moon at 5:54 p.m.

(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Talking over soil conservation



After the Thomas County Conservation District banquet, Steven Friesen talked with Duane Cheney (left), Jo Cheney and Matt Palmquist.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Soil loss plan in the works

From "SOIL," Page 1

ter Built Trailer, Grainfield, for \$4,700 and from S&S Trailer Sales, Ness City, for \$5,195. The commissioners approved the lower bid.

• Approved up to \$2,000 toward the purchase of a new ventilator requested by the county emergency medical services

department. Representatives of the department said their current ventilator is inadequate for longer transportation runs, so this reconditioned ventilator will allow the department to increase its ability to transport patients.

• Agreed to a proposal from the county attorney to replace three old doors on the third floor of the courthouse with new glass

doors that provide better sound-proofing. The doors will cost a little over \$3,000 total and will be paid for by the county attorney's diversion fund.

• Approved a tax correction of \$1,049 for Bruce Plumisto who traded in a vehicle but had been taxed on both the old and new vehicles.

Crash head-on, not serious

Two drivers escaped serious injury in a head-on collision Wednesday afternoon in rural Gove County southeast of Oakley.

Janine Renee Hayden, 47, Oakley, hit a tractor-trailer rig head on when she bent down to pick something up in her truck, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol. She was headed east from Oakley on Gove County Road CC just before 5:30 p.m. About a mile from town, she bent down

to get something in her 3/4-ton 2006 GMC pickup, and lost control of the vehicle.

The truck collided head on with a 2007 Peterbilt semi-rig driven by Kyle A. Spresser, 41, Hoxie. Hayden was taken to the Logan County Medical Center with what the patrol called a possible injury; no information was available on her condition. Spresser was uninjured, and both drivers were wearing seat belts.

Couple wants open police raid records

TOPEKA (AP) — A suburban Kansas City couple whose home was the subject of an unsuccessful raid by police searching for marijuana want Kansas lawmakers to make it easier for the public to access police investigative reports.

The search of Robert and Adlynn Harte's Leawood home two years ago launched them on a crusade for documents to shed light on why they were the sub-

ject of the raid, *The Kansas City Star* reported (bit.ly/lhfNSXa). It did not produce any charges or evidence.

The Hartes appeared Wednesday at the Kansas Capitol, asking lawmakers to make public probable-cause affidavits, which are police documents used to justify arrests or searches. The affidavits include evidence and establish the justification for a search, arrest or criminal charges.

Wichita media lawyer Lyndon Vix said the Kansas Legislature closed those records in 1979 after a Topeka newspaper included information about an arrest warrant issued in a murder case before it was carried out. In Kansas, a court order is now required to make the records public.

Under a bill introduced by Shawnee Republican Rep. John Rubin, the records would be public unless a prosecutor con-

vinced a judge the record should remain private.

"The burden should be on law enforcement to justify the need for keeping any part of a record from being revealed," Rubin said. "The burden should not be on the individual...."

Search warrant affidavits would not be open to the public under the bill but, with some exceptions, would be available to the target of a search.

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.

Murder mystery tickets on sale now

The 10th annual murder mystery at the Pioneer Memorial Library will be "Dead 2 Rights." For \$25 per person, you can help solve a murder while dining in style. Doors open at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 1. Seating is limited, but tickets are available now. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

College sets meeting on nursing program

Colby Community College invites all students interested in its nursing program to a free session at 1 p.m. next Wednesday in the Health Sciences Building, room 809. The deadline to apply for the Level I (licensed practical nurse) program is Saturday, March 1. For information, call Marie Wolkomir at 460-4797.

Foundation to serve pulled pork tonight

The Thomas County Community Foundation will have a fund-raising pulled-pork dinner from 5:30 to 8 p.m. tonight at the Community Building. Make a donation, get a meal, and get a one-time discount on your membership. This night only, Friends of the Foundation annual membership will be \$20 instead of \$25 and business membership will be \$40 instead of \$50. For information, call Executive Director Melinda Olson at 460-9152.

Genesis annual meeting to be Feb. 20

The annual meeting of the Genesis-Thomas County Inc. food bank will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the meeting room at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave. in Colby. All are welcome to attend to hear more about the food bank operations. For information, contact Wynn Duffey at 462-5388.

Church to offer parenting classes, free food

Colby Wesleyan Church is offering "Parenting with Love and Logic" classes at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings at the ministry center. Free child care is available, and a free hot breakfast will be served beginning at 9 a.m. Contact Pastor Gene Rothfuss at 462-8391 to sign up.

Rotary to serve soup at Tuesday game

Colby Rotary Club will have a soup supper Tuesday at the Community Building during the Colby High School varsity basketball game against Goodland. Make a donation and enjoy chili or turkey noodle soup. Money will go to various community projects. For information call Gary Adrian at 460-2931.

Cattle drive topic of Food for Thought

David Pabst will talk about his experiences recreating the Great Western Cattle Drive at noon next Thursday in the Prairie Museum of Art and History's Food for Thought series. A light lunch will be served. The program is free but donations will be accepted. For information, call Ann Miner at 460-4590.

Sorority serving soup for school

Kappa Upsilon sorority will hold its annual soup supper to raise money for the Puddle Duck Preschool at the regional wrestling meet from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, in the basement of the Community Building. The women will serve chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable-beef and desert for a donation. For information, call Amy Jennings at 460-2603.

Orchestra plans concert Feb. 23 at college

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will present "Dial 'M' for Music," conducted by Beverly Rucker, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, in the Frahm Theatre of the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College. Admission is by season ticket or at the door, \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students. For information, call Mary Shoaff, 462-2159, or Janet Hopson, 462-5102.

Pickin' to have St. Patrick's Pub Party

With proceeds going to the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival, there will be a St. Patrick's Pub Party Saturday, March 15, at the City Limits Convention Center. Wine and beer tasting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. DJ by Justin Meitl from 8:30 to 9 p.m. and dance to the Mama's Boys from 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 each for the tasting party or the dance, or \$30 for the whole evening. Tickets available at the Colby Chamber. For information call the Chamber at 460-3401.

Send local news to colby.editor@nwkansas.com



LOCAL TV Listings Sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Saturday Evening February 15, 2014										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Dreamgirls						Local			
KBSL/CBS	Person of Interest		48 Hours Presents				Local			
KSNK/NBC	XXII Winter Olympics						Local		XXII Winter Olympics	
KSAS/FOX	Rake		The Following		Local		Animation Domination		Local	
Cable Channels										
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Snakes on a Plane				I Am Legend				28 Days Later	
ANIM	Too Cute!		Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls-Parole	
BRAVO	To Be Announced		Coyote Ugly				Coyote Ugly			
CMT	Road House		Swamp Pawn		My Big Re	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	
CNN	CNN Special		Anthony Bourd.				CNN Special		Anthony Bourd.	
COMEDY	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk
DISC	MythBusters		Treehouse Masters		MythBusters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters	
DISN	Good Luck Charlie		Austin		Lab Rats	Kickin' I	Jessie	Austin	Dog	Austin
E!	He's Just Not					RichKids	The Soup	Chelsea	Sports Illustrated	
ESPN	College GameDay		College Basketball				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	College Basketball				30 for 30				College B	College B
FAM	Grease					The Birdcage				
FOOD	Worst Cooks		Worst Cooks		Worst Cooks		Restaurant: Im.		Worst Cooks	
FX	Underworld								Legit	Legit
HGTV	Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Property Brothers	

Sunday Evening February 16, 2014										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Up					Castle			Local	
KBSL/CBS	Elementary		The Good Wife			The Mentalist			Local	
KSNK/NBC	XXII Winter Olympics						Local		XXII Winter Olympics	Olympics
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Amer. Dad	Local					
Cable Channels										
A & E	Duck Dynasty	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Duck D.	Bad Ink	Bad Ink	Duck Dynasty		
AMC	The Walking Dead		The Walking Dead		Talking Dead		The Walking Dead	Comic Men	Walk:Dead	
ANIM	Finding Bigfoot		Finding Bigfoot				Finding Bigfoot			
BRAVO	Housewives/Atl.		Blood, Sweat & Heels		Housewives/Atl.		Happens	Fashion	Housewives/Atl.	
CMT	Party Down South		Party Down South		Party Down South		Tattoo Titans		Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.
CNN	Anthony Bourd.		Paradise Lost 3				Paradise Lost 3			
COMEDY	South Pk	South Pk	South Park			South Park			South Park	
DISC	Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud		Fast N' Loud	
DISN	Good Luck Charlie		I Didn't	Jessie	Austin	Dog	Shake It	Jessie	Good Luck	Good Luck
E!	Kardashian		Kardashian		RichKids	Kardashian		RichKids	Chelsea	Lately
ESPN	Shorts	30 for 30		2013 World Series of Poker			SportsCenter			SportCtr
ESPN2	'51 Dons		30 for 30			Shorts	Sport Science		ESPN FC	
FAM	Grease		The Breakfast Club				Twisted		J. Osteen	J. Meyer
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games		Chopped		Cutthroat Kitchen		Restaurant: Im.		Chopped	
FX	Thor					Thor				
HGTV	Beach	Beach	Hawaii	Hawaii	Island	Island	Hunters	Hunt Intl	Hawaii	Hawaii
HIST	Ax Men		Ax Men		Swamp People		Pawn	Pawn	Ax Men	
LIFE	Foot's Gold		Failure to Launch				Foot's Gold			
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	The Break-Up					Ridic.
NICK	See Dad	Instant	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Full H'se	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SCI	The Last Airbender		Skyline				Outlander			
SPIKE	The Expendables					Rambo				Killer El
TBS	Wedding Crashers				Yes Man				Dupree	
TCM	A Place in the Sun				An American in Paris					Streetcar
TLC	Sister Wives		Sister Wives		90 Day Fiance		Sister Wives		90 Day Fiance	
TNT	NBA All-Star					NBA All-Star				
TOON	Steven	Teen	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Rick	China, IL
TRAV	Monumental Mysteries		Mysteries-Museum		Castle Secrets		Mysteries-Museum		Mysteries-Museum	
TV LAND	Gilligan	Gilligan	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	
USA	NCIS		In the Heat				Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	Anger Management				The Switch					
WGN	Bones		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Rules	Rules
Premium Channels										
HBO	Gangster Squad		True Detective		Gangster Squad					
MAX	Mama		Banshee		Identity Thief				Banshee	
SHOW	Alex Cross		Crash				Barbershop 2: Back in Business			

Chocolate and All That Jazz: what a date for Valentine's Day

The Pioneer Memorial Library staff is rushing around getting everything set for Chocolate And All That Jazz Friday (Valentine's Day).

We are excited to have everyone come and enjoy the Colby Community College Jazz Band and Sunflower Singers with us while we enjoy desserts. This year participants will have the opportunity to pick up their snacks upstairs. We will have some tables upstairs with streaming video on two TV units, and chairs downstairs for those who wish to watch the live performance. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the music will commence about 7 p.m.

Remember to come and bid on our specially decorated and painted tables and chairs for the Friends silent auction. Each item is unique and would be a great gift. All you need to do to bid is sign up for a number. Then you can quietly begin bidding on the item you cannot live without either keeping or giving as a gift.

Have you been watching the Olympics? Do you know we have a book on the struggle and comeback of luger, Steve Holcomb? It is "But Now I See: My Journey from Blindness to Olympic Gold," by Steven Holcomb and Steve Eubanks. Another great book is "Zero Regrets: Be Greater Than Yesterday," by Apolo Ohno. Ohno was the USA Olympic gold medalist in speed skating.



Melany Wilks
• Library Links

Are any of you inspired to read the book on ice skating gold medalist Dorothy Hamill? Her book is "A Skating Life: My Story," by Dorothy Hamill and Deborah Amelon. I am told by library patrons who have read about the Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics, "Grace, Gold, and Glory My Leap of Faith," that it is a good book, written by Gabrielle Douglas and Michelle Burford.

Now let me share about some books with mystery, intrigue and a bit of history. The first is historical fiction by Leila Meacham: "Somerset." This book carries forward the families in Meacham's book, "Roses." This newest book takes the reader from South Carolina towards Texas where Silas Tolver and Jeremy Warwick begin a wagon train to a new land and future. It will keep you reading and spellbound.

The next book is "Carthage," by Joyce Carol Oates. My favorite part of the book, even before I open it, is the cover's rich and inviting colors. Oates has a young woman named Cressida Mayfield disappear. In the prologue search-

ers are roaming the countryside looking for her remains.

Cressida, from a family of wealth and stature, is thought to have disappeared into the Nantauka State Forest Preserve. A troubled veteran is considered a suspect, but as the story progresses there is a sense that her disappearance was not sudden, but part of a story playing in the background of life. Read this exciting mystery.

The next item is "Ripper," by Isabel Allende. This is a great intergenerational book. Amanda, teenager and protagonist, loves to play the Internet computer game "Ripper" with her grandfather and friends. She comes by the ability to solve mysteries naturally; her father is the deputy chief of homicide for the San Francisco Police Department.

Amanda's parents are divorced but both live in the Bay Area. Sleuth and seeker of intrigue, Amanda is drawn into solving a local murder, endangering even her easy going and carefree mother. Amanda must crack the mystery without getting anyone else killed, including herself.

Let me list for you some of the books we have added in the last few weeks:

"Private L.A.," by James Patterson; "Cell," by Robin Cook; "Killer," by Jonathan Kellerman; "Mark of Evil," by Tim LaHaye and Craig Parshall; "Forever Girl," by Alexander McCall Smith; "The

Hanging Judge," by Michael Ponsor; "Andrew's Brain," by E.L. Doctorow; "Still Life With Bread Crumbs," by Anna Quindlen; "Lost Lake," by Sarah Addison Allen; "An Affair to Dismember" and "Matchpoint," both by Elise Sax; "Lies You Wanted to Hear," by James Whitfield Thomson; "The Quaker and the Rebel," by Mary Ellis; "The Calling," by Suzanne Woods Fisher; "A Promise Kept," by Robin Lee Hatcher; and "Under The Wide Starry Sky," by Nancy Horan.

If you are traveling or just want to enjoy using your tablet, remember to sign up for eBooks and Audio-books for free through the library's account at the Sunflower eLibrary. This site will also download these digital website so you can checkout eBooks and audio-books for you tablets, Kindles, Nook's, mp3's iPod, and smart phones (www.sunflowerelibrary.org). All you need to do is download the appropriate app for your device and then use your Pioneer Memorial Library card number to sign up. After that it is simple to check out items.

Come in from the cold, enjoy our comfy chairs. Remember our normal winter hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you in the library!

Sweethearts crowned



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School
Grant Spresser and Jordan Christensen were crowned Sweetheart King and Queen at the basketball game Saturday in Rexford against Cheylin. Spresser is the son of Dan and Annette Spresser of Gem. Christensen is the daughter of Parker and Mindy Christensen and Matt and Penny Vogler of Rexford. A dance followed the game.

Fort Hays to honor students here Feb. 24

Fort Hays State University's Annual Student Recognition Program in Colby will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, at Colby High School. Pizza will be served.

Students from nine Kansas counties, two Colorado counties and four Nebraska counties are invited to the Colby program: Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace in Kansas; Cheyenne and Kit Carson in Colorado; and Chase, Dundy, Hayes and Hitchcock counties in Nebraska.

Students and their parents have the opportunity to mingle with Fort Hays faculty, staff and administrators and with alumni before and after the scholarship presentations.

Many high school seniors and transfer students will receive certificates for a variety of scholar-

ships awarded to them by the university.

Fort Hays alumni and other interested community members are also encouraged to attend.

Scholarships to be awarded include the \$1,200 Miller Black and Gold Academic Award and the \$800 Hays City Silver Academic Award, both renewable. Also to be awarded are the \$2,000 Fort Hays Presidential Award, the \$700 Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award and the \$500 Copper Academic Award, all one-time scholarships awarded only to incoming freshmen enrolling in college for the first time. The \$1,000 Transfer Student Scholarship, a one-time award, is also awarded.

Students can also receive \$500 or \$900 Academic Opportunity Awards, given to scholars by individual academic departments.

Art competition winners on exhibit

The 20th Annual Western Kansas Scholastic Art Competition and Exhibition is on view through Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Stauth Memorial Museum of Montezuma. This exhibition includes almost 250 art works of all kinds; photography, sculpture, metals, glass, drawings, paintings, ceramics, graphics and more.

Five American Vision winners were awarded for best of show, there are 46 Gold Key and 78 Silver Key winners plus over 117 Merit Award winners on display.

The exhibition will culminate with an Awards Ceremony and Closing Reception for the winning students Feb. 23 at the museum's Community Room.

The Scholastic Art Competition Awards contest is open to students in seventh grade through high school from 31 counties: Cheyenne, Clark, Decatur, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Norton, Rawlins, Scott, Seward, Sheridan, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wallace, and Wichita.

The museum, 111 N. Aztec St. in Montezuma, is open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Call (620) 846-2527 for information. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

Award winning artists from Colby are:

- Bailey Britton, 8, drawing, "Self-portrait," silver.
- Katelyn Brown, 12, drawing, "Chester," honorable mention, and drawing, "Roger May," silver.
- Lynnsey Elling, 8, ceramics and glass, "Primary Cone," silver.
- Kory Finley, 7, ceramics and glass, "Black Goblet," honorable

mention.

- Abby Friesen, 12, drawing, "Building A Legacy," honorable mention, and mixed media, "Watching The Sun Set," silver.
- Michelle Kirby, 12, sculpture, "Untitled Vessel," honorable mention.

- Lexy Kraft, 8, ceramics and glass, "Butterfly Cone," honorable mention.
- Kylee Martin, 10, drawing, "Indian Corn," honorable mention.

- Brielle Mckee, 10, drawing, "Everyday," honorable mention.
- Brennon Overton, 10, drawing, "Indian Corn," gold.
- Michael Schiferl, 12, drawing, "Still Life," honorable mention.
- Jordan Schippers, 7, ceramics and glass, "Blank and Red Coil," honorable mention.
- Haileigh Shull, 12, sculpture, "Dangers Of Trust," silver, and sculpture, "Untitled Vessel," honorable mention.
- Karly Shull, 12, mixed media, "Relaxed Boots," honorable mention, photography, "Snowing In The Barn," silver, and painting, "Dusty Spur," silver.
- Kelly Sloan, 11, sculpture, "Say Yes," gold, and mixed media, "Soar," honorable mention.
- Lara Stephens, 10, drawing, "Indian Corn," silver.
- Madison Tubbs, 12, Painting, "Gradient Thoughts," honorable mention, drawing, "Give Away," gold, drawing, "Sunday Morning," silver, drawing, "Bones," gold, drawing, "Mother's Crystal," gold, and drawing, "Curly Girl," silver.
- Olivia Wetter, 11, mixed media, "Grandma's Chickens," silver, and "Untitled," silver.

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.

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

Deaths

Michael E. Shubert

Michael E. Shubert, 58, Colby, died Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014, in Colby.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, at the College Drive Assembly of God Church in Colby, with Pastor Steve Todd officiating and burial in the Ogallah Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until service time Saturday at the church.

The family suggests memorials in his name, in care of Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan., 67749.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.paulsfh.com.

KanCare to address chronic conditions

Kansas Medicaid has scheduled Health Homes meetings for a specific group of KanCare members and their families. In Colby, meetings will be at 1 and 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at the Colby Community College Student Union, Room 109.

KanCare members with certain chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma or mental illness are invited.

A Health Home is a comprehensive and intense method of care coordination and is a service that will begin under KanCare starting in July. (A Health Home is not a building or a place for someone to live.)

Health Homes integrate and coordinate all services and supports to treat the person across the lifespan. In KanCare, Health Homes will be a partnership between managed-care organizations and the health home partners, which can include many types of providers, e.g., doctors, clinics, community mental health centers and community developmental disability organizations.

These meetings are free and will be an opportunity for this specific group of KanCare members to learn about Health Homes and

ask questions.

If you are not in KanCare or don't have chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma or mental illness, you will not be in a Health Home. Space at these meetings is limited and is offered to KanCare consumers only. Providers will have separate, ongoing webinars and conferences on the implementation of Health Homes.

Members needing special assistance for a meeting (like a sign language interpreter or handouts in Braille) should call (785) 296-4753 or email HealthHomes@kdheks.gov. Transportation to the meetings is not available.

Details: Two meetings will be held on the same day at each location: an afternoon meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. and an evening meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Members should only attend one meeting.

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Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H Club

The Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H Club met Jan. 21 at Hunter Hall with 14 members, called to order by President Ashley Barrie. Hosts were the Barrett and Roulier families.

Kedzie Clymer led the pledge of allegiance, and Brett and Kara Roulier led the club in singing the ABC song.

The club approved minutes of the last meeting and Dara Roulier gave the treasurer's report. Parent leader Kathy Baird reminded members to read the extension newsletter which contains important information about deadlines and upcoming events.

Pizza sales went well, Dara Roulier and Michelle Werth said, with members selling more pizzas than last year.

Club members reported the club helped take Christmas decorations down at the Brewster Senior Center, and that members exhibiting livestock could pick out signs for the club to purchase for their use.

The group decided to have a bowling or swim party with details to come from the club's party chairs.

For the program, members discussed their projects: Layton Werth, welding; Ashley Barrie, music; Brett Roulier, horse; and Colton Rundel, heifer. Justin Schmidt gave a safety presentation on why people should tie their shoes.

The group played the game Four Corners.

-Emeline Hutton, reporter

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners for Tuesday were: first, Gladys Fischer; second, Elaine Ptacek; third, Gail Vacca; fourth, Margaret Denneker; fifth, Ken Ptacek; sixth, Sarah Jane Barrett; and seventh, Larry Barrett.

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Other Viewpoints

Lobbying law: stifling free speech?

Listening to the people of Kansas should be Job 1 for all members of the Kansas Legislature. That means listening both to the people who agree with them and those who don't – not trying to figure out how to silence those who hold a different opinion.

This issue arose recently during a Kansas House hearing on a bill that would prohibit cities and counties from setting their own restrictions on the open carry of firearms and knives and ban them from using tax dollars to administer gun buyback programs. Logically, one would think that city and county government representatives might have some pertinent perspectives to offer to this debate.

However, when Mike Taylor, a lobbyist for the Unified Government of Kansas City and Wyandotte County, showed up to testify against the bill, he was confronted by Rep. Brett Hildabrand, R-Shawnee, who said Taylor, simply by speaking on behalf of Wyandotte County, may be violating a new state law. That law, which took effect last summer, prohibits the use of state dollars for lobbying or other forms of advocacy on gun-control issues. Although Taylor said he was being paid by local tax dollars, Hildabrand said he was considering asking Attorney General Derek Schmidt for a legal opinion on whether Taylor had violated the law.

If he did, there's something wrong with the law. It's never been clear how the law would be enforced because it includes no penalties for violations. Nonetheless, as illustrated by Hildabrand's complaint, the measure can be used to try to stifle debate and, specifically, any input from local governments or other state entities, including state universities, on gun control legislation.

The law sets a troubling precedent. The measure passed last year relates only to gun control, but what if legislators seek similar restrictions on other controversial issues? Do state legislators believe their knowledge of local government and what's best for the state is so complete that they have no need to hear from anyone who may disagree with their opinion?

It's said that, in the nation's current politically polarized atmosphere, most people choose to get their news and information only from sources that they know will reinforce their own political viewpoints. That may be an acceptable choice for the average citizen, but it's not an acceptable choice for the state's elected representatives. Like it or not, legislators have a duty to listen not only to those who agree with them, but also those who don't.

Hildabrand said his understanding of the new Kansas law is that "taxpayer money can't be used to lobby against the Second Amendment because that is a constitutional law." While they're talking about the U.S. Constitution, maybe legislators also should consider the First Amendment and its guarantee of free speech.

— Lawrence Journal-World, via the Associated Press

Write us

The Colby Free Press encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

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Sharon Friedlander - Publisher
sriedlander@nwkansan.com

NEWS

R.B. Headley - Sports Editor
colby.sports@nwkansan.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard@nwkansan.com

Sam Dieter - News Reporter
colby.editor@nwkansan.com

Heather Alwin - Society Editor
colby.society@nwkansan.com

ADVERTISING

Kathryn Ballard - Advertising Representative
kballard@nwkansan.com

Sharon Funk - Advertising Representative
sfunk@nwkansan.com

Kylee Hunter - Graphic Design
khunter@nwkansan.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Office Manager

Melissa Edmondson - Office Manager
medmondson@nwkansan.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansan.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager
Gary Stewart, Foreman

Jim Jackson, Jim Bowker, Pressmen
Kris McCool, Judy McKnight, Tracy Traxel,
Sheri Arroyo, Mailing

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Game seats? Sure – next to opposing fans

OK, OK, so if I had to pick a place to sit in Allen Field House, it wouldn't be right below 55 screaming West Virginia students.

But I didn't have much choice if I didn't want to pay Big Bucks, with the game just a couple of days away. I saw some high-priced tickets on Stub Hub as we motored down Interstate 70, and some "general admission" (read standing-room-only) tickets, but only a few reserved seat perched high in the rafters of the field house.

At \$115 each, the ones in the southwest corner seemed fine. The view is pretty good up there, I'd heard. Of course, I had no way of knowing that the seats right above them had been sold to the opposing team. Or that a blue-and-yellow bus loaded with crazy college fans was, even then, on the highway, headed to Lawrence.

We were the crazy ones, I thought. We had meetings in Lawrence, a dinner date with friends and some time to spend with our son, who manages a bar there. Last minute tickets to the game? Hah!

It started when a friend asked if we were going to the game, since we'd be in Lawrence. No, I said, no tickets. Then I got to wondering if, in this age of modern electronics and instant gratification, there just might be tickets.

There were. The computer remembered my information from buying baseball tickets last



Steve Haynes

• Along the Sappa

fall. The cell-phone system has gotten good enough, even out in western Kansas, that you can work on the Internet just about anywhere.

We were passing WaKeeney when I got the wild hair and were pulling by Ellis before I finished the transaction.

The easy part was done. Come Saturday, we had to find a parking spot. Close-in lots on campus, and not-too-close-in lots, for that matter, are reserved for season ticket holders, university donors and other Big Bucks types. We had to hunt for one.

Found a block where all the neighbors got together and rented out every bare spot of drive or lawn at \$15 a pop. Walked half a mile to the field house. And managed to get there for the tipoff, though Cynthia was talking to me at the time. Didn't see it.

Son Lacy met us a minute or two later, just as the yellow-clad horde behind us got to yelling. The Jayhawks scored, but Cynthia was talking to me. I missed it. He said he thought

we were in the wrong seats, but it didn't matter, because no one came to claim them.

The horde was shouting, "defense, Defense, DEFENSE." Then a Jayhawk got called for a foul. "You can't do that," the kids yelled. "You can't DO that."

Still, they were a well-behaved bunch, even when the 'Hawks started to pull ahead; not much profanity, just lots of spirit. Crazy? Sure; who would ride a bus 15 hours overnight to go to a basketball game but a bunch of crazy college kids.

I got to talking to them over the half, and really, they were nice kids, real fans, awed just to be in Allen Field House.

"What a place!" one said.

Even after KU pulled ahead by 13 and the crowd started up the Rock Chalk chant with two minutes to go, the West Virginia kids were having a good time.

"This was a great trip," one said after the buzzer, "even if it didn't turn out like we hoped."

I had a great time, too, I think. Ask me when my hearing returns.

Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.

Congress will not fund U.N. arms treaty

In October 2009, President Barack Obama reversed the positions of both President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush by committing the United States to U.N. Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

In the years that followed, the Senate made it clear to the president on numerous occasions that it will not ratify any arms treaty that does not secure our country's sovereignty and protect our citizens' individual freedoms. These issues have not been resolved, yet in October, the Obama Administration signed a U.N. arms treaty in a direct dismissal of the American people and the bipartisan Senate majority that rejects this document.

Even though the treaty will never be ratified by the Senate, the fact that the administration signed in the face of such strong opposition by Congress gives us little faith they will not try to implement the Arms Trade Treaty in the absence of ratification. That is why in January, the Senate and House passed bills which include specific language prohibiting any money for enforcing the U.N. Arms Trade treaty unless it is ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Throughout this process, it has been disturbing to watch the Administration reverse U.S. policies, abandon its own negotiation principles, admit publicly the treaty's dangerous ambiguity and hastily review the final text.

After signing the treaty, Secretary Kerry stated that "this treaty will not diminish anyone's freedom" and that "reaffirms the sovereign right of each country to decide for itself... how to deal with the conventional arms that are exclusively used within its borders."

While the treaty does include a preamble referencing lawful firearm ownership, it is not binding and the treaty itself does not recognize the ownership and use of firearms or individual self-defense as fundamental rights.

Secretary Kerry says this treaty is about



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

• Moran's Memo

"keeping weapons out of the hands of terrorists and rogue actors." However, North Korea, Syria and Iran – nations most would agree are "rogue actors" – voted against the treaty.

If 50 nations ratify the document, it will take effect, but those rogue actors will not be a party to it and will not follow its provisions, leaving them free to continue dealing in arms. Meanwhile, the United States could find itself handcuffed when it comes to aiding our most vulnerable allies – including Israel, Taiwan and South Korea – due to international pressure exerted under the guise of the treaty.

The export of firearms from the United States is already subject to a very strict and complex set of guidelines. The U.S. International Trade in Arms Regulations, which were written in accordance with the Arms Export Control Act, strictly limits the transfer or sale of firearms and have been doing so since the 1950s.

Other nations, primarily our allies, have followed our lead, mirroring our controls because they are so comprehensive. Like gun control laws, even with the Arms Trade Treaty, bad actors will continue to act at will.

If the treaty could work, it would not be necessary. There is no reason to believe it will succeed where past U.N. Security Council arms embargoes have failed. Smothering the world with law will not affect nations that choose not to respect the treaty, or are too ill-governed to enforce it.

In fact, the State Department itself has described the goals of the treaty as "ambiguous," hardly instilling confidence that American rights will be secure. Good treaties are not ambiguous, and our constitutional rights are too important to be entrusted to a dangerous treaty drafted by nations hostile to the ownership of firearms by private citizens.

That is why Congress stands in firm opposition to the treaty's ratification. Just in case, with this Administration, that is not enough, the passage of language prohibiting any funding of the enactment of the treaty has made it unequivocally clear that Congress is committed to upholding the fundamental individual rights of Americans and rejects the U.N. treaty.

We will not be bound by the treaty and we will not pay for its implementation.

Jerry Moran of Manhattan, the junior U.S. senator from Kansas, is a member of the Senate Banking Committee and serves as the ranking member of the Subcommittee for Housing, Transportation and Community Development. He is the sponsor of the Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act.

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/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966.
Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley



Old Kansas papers made available online

The Kansas Historical Society has announced that its Kansas Digital Newspapers program has partnered with Newspapers.com to provide online access to several million pages of Kansas newspapers from the Historical Society's collection.

The initial partnership will focus on Kansas newspapers published 1854 to 1922 and includes almost five million pages. Access is free to Kansans with a valid driver's license or government issued identification card. For access information, go to ksks.org/ancestry/drivers/dlverify.

Founded by the Kansas Editors' and Publishers' Association in 1875, the Kansas Historical Society holds one of the most comprehensive state-wide newspaper collections in the United States, including nearly every newspaper published in Kansas from 1854 to the present.

The Digital Newspapers program seeks to digitize and make available on the Internet digital editions of Kansas newspapers. The Historical Society manages the program with support from public and private partners and draws on its comprehensive Kansas newspaper collection.

With more than one million Kansas newspaper pages already available online, the program provides online access to these primary sources and an opportunity to rediscover Kansas history through the local press. For information, go to ksks.org/16126.

Landowners can earn payments conserving prairie chicken habitat

Kansas landowner-producers can receive sign-up incentives and payments for implementing grassland conservation practices that benefit lesser prairie chickens.

The application deadline to enroll land in the Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation Program is Friday, Feb. 28, according to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Landowners or producers with land in the lesser prairie chicken range are eligible to apply, and those who are accepted will receive payments for implementing conservation practices such as mechanical brush removal, prescribed grazing and establishment and management of planted native grass stands. Only producers not currently enrolled in federal farm bill programs are eligible to apply for five- and 10-year contract options.

Applications will be ranked by the agencies based on their value to lesser prairie chickens. Accepted landowner-producers located in the high-priority locations can receive payments of up to 125 percent of the estimated cost of implementing the conservation plan.

If the species becomes federally listed, participating producers will be exempt from the take prohibition of the Endangered Species Act if the take occurs while implementing the practices prescribed in their conservation plan.

Interested landowner/producers should contact the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's Colby Field Office on 1880 south Range Ave. at (785) 462-3367 or the Region 1 office

in Hays, (785) 628-8614 for information and enrollment application forms. The field biologist here can help you find out if your land qualifies for the program, and what value it is.

The Western Association consists of 23 state and provincial wildlife agencies that have primary responsibility and authority for protecting and managing fish and wildlife in the western United States and Canada. Member agencies in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado worked through the association over the last two years to produce the conservation plan as a means to preclude a federal listing of the species under the Endangered Species Act.

On Oct. 23, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed the plan as "a comprehensive conservation plan that reflects sound conservation design and strategy that, when implemented, will provide a net conservation benefit to the lesser prairie-chicken." To date, it is the only plan that has been endorsed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and is the only pathway that has the potential to lead to a "not-warranted" final decision. The amount of voluntary enrollment will likely weigh heavily into the final listing decision that must be announced by the end of March.



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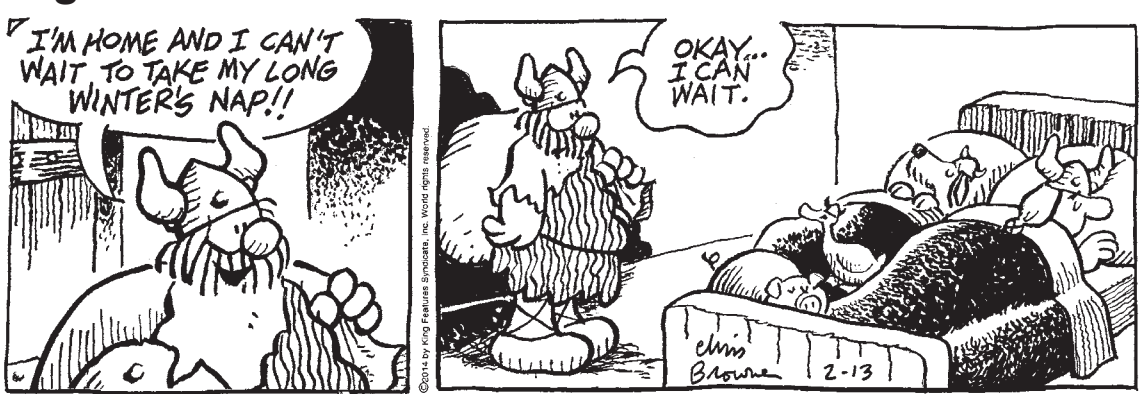
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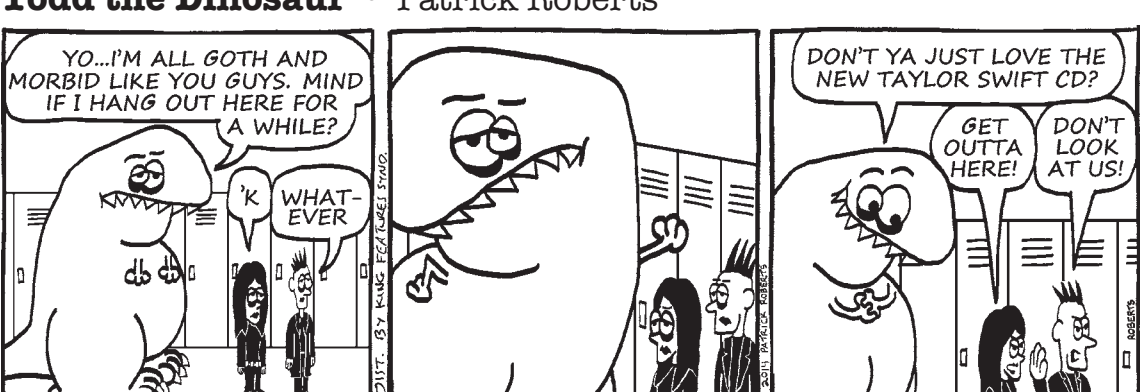
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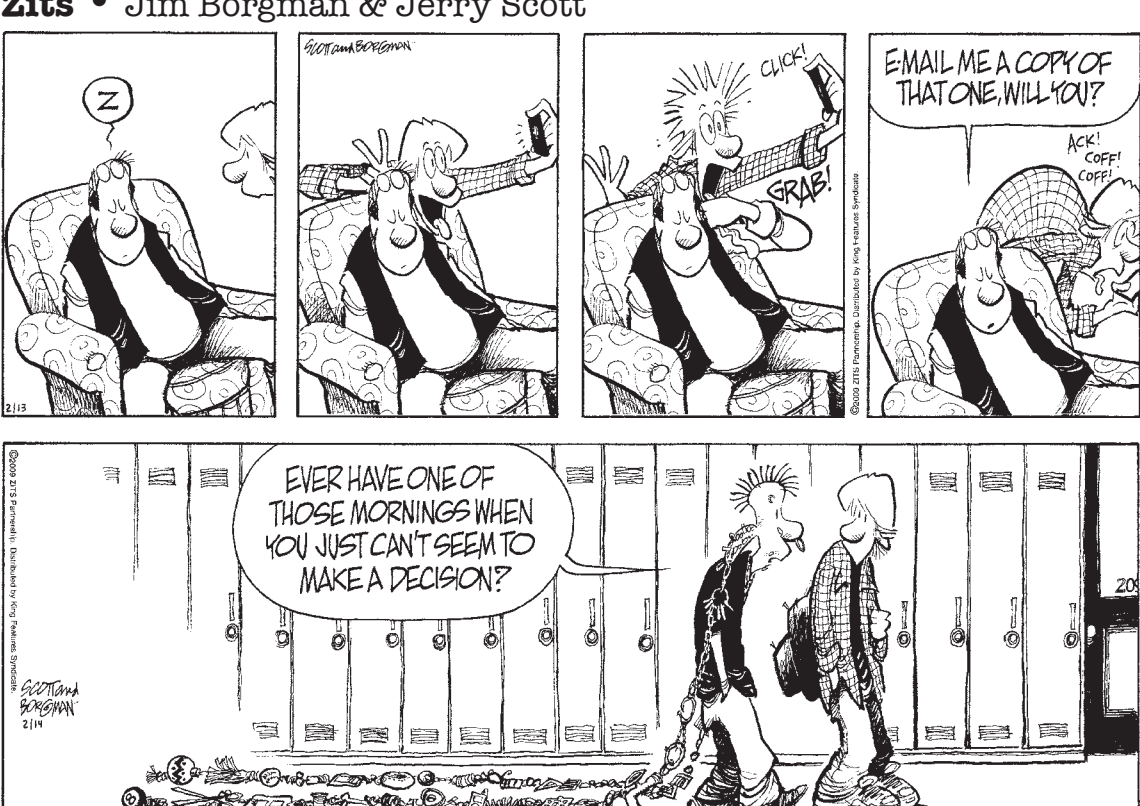
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• Antiques and Collecting

Hummingbird prints engraved

Q: Back in the early 1940s, my in-laws received two prints of hummingbirds as a wedding gift. They left the prints to us and I would like to learn more about them. The words on the backs are in French. They include the names of the pictured birds (one is a bearded hummingbird and the other has a forked tail) and the name of the publisher, Arthus-Bertrand. What can you tell us about the prints?

A: Arthus-Bertrand, still in business in Paris, was founded by Claude Arthus-Bertrand in 1803. Today it sells all sorts of jewelry, medals and decorations. Back in the early 1830s, however, Arthus-Bertrand published a book titled "The Natural History of Hummingbirds," by Rene Primevere Lesson, a French ornithologist and naturalist. The book included engraved prints of hummingbirds. The book's prints are identified on the bottom of each page, not on the back like your prints. So it is likely your prints are later copies of the prints in the book.

Q: I have a Simmons Wonder ice-cream maker that has been in my family for years. It makes one cup of ice cream.

A: In 1924, when my mother was 6 years old, she was run over by a Model T and was in a body cast for a few weeks. During her recovery, her grandmother made ice cream for her in this ice-cream maker. Can you tell me anything about it?

A: Edward Simmons was a hardware salesman who started his own wholesale company in St. Louis in 1872. The company was incorporated as Simmons Hardware Co. in 1874. Simmons sold tools and hardware items through catalog sales and was first to issue catalogs with color photos.

Wonder was one of the lines carried by the company. Its best-known brand was Keen Kutter, a name still in use. Simmons Hardware was bought by A.F. Shapleigh Hardware Co. in 1940. The value of your ice-cream maker is about \$200.

Q: I recently found my grandfather's old autograph book. He was good friends with comedians Lou Costello and Bud Abbott. The book includes their autographs as well as of several sports figures, including Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Jimmy Braddock, Joe DiMaggio and others. I think some go back to the early 1920s. What do you think these are worth?

A: The value of an autograph depends on how famous the person and how rare the autograph. If the celebrity or sports star rarely signed autographs, they will be harder to find and worth more. Autographs can sell for a few dollars or for hundreds of dollars. A Babe Ruth autograph sold at auction recently for more than \$1,000.

Autographs of sports stars appeal to collectors of sports memorabilia as well as to autograph collectors. If you are thinking of selling your grandfather's autograph book, you should contact auction houses that specialize in autographs or sports memorabilia to learn about pricing.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 2
♥ K Q 10 9 4
♦ J 9 8
♣ 7 6 5

WEST
♠ J 7 4 3
♥ 6
♦ K 10 7 5 4
♣ J 9 2

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 5
♥ A 7 5 3 2
♦ 3
♣ Q 10 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 9
♥ J 8
♦ A Q 6 2
♣ A K 8 4

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 ♦* Pass
3 ♥ Pass 3 NT

* transfer to hearts
Opening lead — five of diamonds.

Look Before You Leap

Bridge is admittedly not an easy game, but the sad fact is that the overwhelming majority of mistakes made occur on relatively easy hands, rather than on the difficult ones.

Consider this deal where South was in three notrump and West led a diamond. Declarer won the trick with dummy's eight, played a heart to his jack, which held, and continued with another heart, taken by East's ace.

East shifted to a spade, won by the king, and declarer returned a low diamond from his A-Q-6 toward the J-9, hoping to get to dummy and cash three heart tricks. But West went up with the king and returned a spade, and South finished down one, scoring only eight tricks -- two spades, a heart, three diamonds and two clubs.

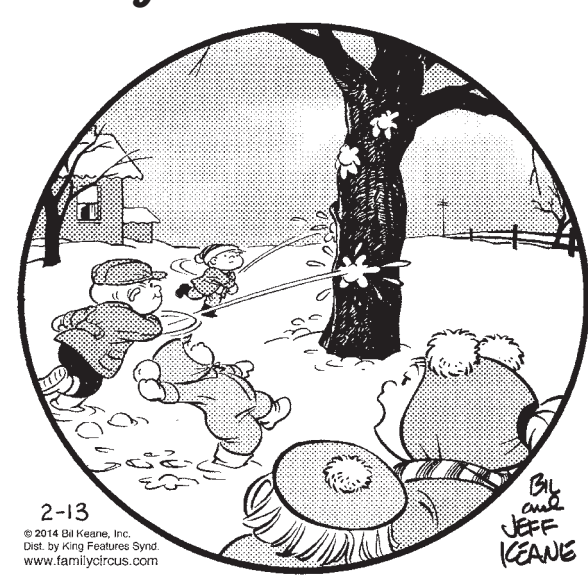
Declarer could have assured the contract against any lie of the opposing cards had he not fallen asleep at the switch. All he had to do was to win the opening lead with the queen of diamonds rather than with dummy's eight.

Now after East takes the second heart lead with the ace, there is nothing the defense can do to stop the contract. Let's say East shifts to a spade as before. South wins and leads the two of diamonds, taken by West with the king. West leads another spade, but school is out. Declarer takes the spade, leads the diamond six to dummy's jack, cashes three hearts and winds up making five notrump!

While it might seem wasteful to win the first diamond with the queen after dummy's eight holds the trick, it is unquestionably the correct play. If instead you impulsively let the eight win the first trick and then start thinking about what to do next, you discover why the easiest hands are sometimes the toughest.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



2-13
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www.familycircus.com

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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.

Cryptoquip

GST WYLLWP HS XL SXZLZZLO
MFHI HIWH YWBL, OLBKWHL
KSBSP. GST ZISTBOR'H
OMLBB SR HIL YWZHLB.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OFFICIAL NAMES OF NUMEROUS MOUNTAINS IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICA: APPALACHIAN APPELLATIONS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals Y

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Write in the margins
4 Dog's annoyance
8 Analgesic target
12 Lamb's mama
13 Misa-placed
14 —
15 Quiet restaurant
17 Ball-bearing items
18 Scatter seed
19 Erode
21 Kermit or Miss Piggy
24 Swab
25 Id counter-part
26 Filch
28 Maze
32 Lotion additive
34 Spring month
36 Blue hue

DOWN

1 Lustrous black
2 Have bills
3 Dosage measure
4 Bloom
5 Reed or Rawls
6 Being, to Brutus
7 Top-notch players
8 Heartbeat sound
9 From the start
10 Concept
11 Inquisitive
16 Bound

37 Measures of force
39 Solidify
41 Miss. neighbor
42 Appomat-tox figure
44 Available amount
46 Leprechauns' home
50 Actress Farrow
51 Ganges garment
52 Winter-green fruit
56 Hide in the bushes
57 North Sea
58 Also

59 Other-wise
60 Back
61 Longing
20 Dreidel, basically
21 Honey drink
22 Unattractive
23 Male cat
27 Satchel
29 Event for Alice
30 Corridor
31 Dispatch
33 Long, slippery and sinuous
35 Affirmative
38 Red or Black
40 Move ponderously
43 Go in
45 Chart format
46 Man or Wight
47 Actor Julia
48 Slips up
49 Editor's mark
53 Lawyers' org.
54 Fish eggs
55 Thither

Solution time: 25 mins.

BOT	WACO	MALE			
RAH	ELAN	AVER			
ATE	BALLA	DAEER			
SHEAF	YAM				
	LOST	HELLO			
BALLOTTED	NOEL				
OBI	TAXES	CGI			
GURU	BALLYHOO				
STAND	SLOE				
	CUE	VSIGN			
BALLERINA	BEE				
AREA	SOAK	IRA			
READ	TUBS	SET			

Yesterday's answer 2-13

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
32		33		34		35		36		
37			38		39		40		41	
		42		43		44		45		
46	47	48		49		50				
51				52		53			54	55
56				57				58		
59				60					61	

Classifieds

To place your classified ad, mail (155 W. Fifth), fax (785-462-7749), phone (785-462-3963), or stop by our office at 155 W. Fifth

Card of Thanks

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food, visits, and love shown me after my recent surgery. God's blessings on all. - Joan Albers
---2/13---2/19---

Notices

Brule, Neb. Gun Show. Brule Activity Center. February 22 and 23. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Drawing for 2 Ruger handguns. Call 308-287-2528 for more information.
---2/7---2/20---

Dan is back! Dan Geschwentner. Small remodeling and repair jobs. Call 785-443-3673.
---12/15---TFN---

Classified ad deadlines (word ads only). Noon the day before publication (noon Friday for Monday paper). Ads going into the Country Advocate need to be in on Thursdays. Please check your ad the first time it runs. If you find an error, please call at (785) 462-3963 so it can be corrected, since we will not be responsible for errors after that first day. The Colby Free Press.
---3/1---TFN---

Help Wanted

Advantage Woodwork is a custom woodworking shop in the Colby area that specializes in European Wood & Aluminum Window & Door systems. We are looking for a full time production assistant. This person must be dependable, hard worker, and a quick learner. Pay is based on experience. Please email resumes and questions to advantagewoodwork.com.
---2/13---2/26---

Great Benefits - The Colby Housing Authority is seeking applications for a full-time position in the Maintenance Department. Applicant must possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent; have a valid Kansas Driver's License and a driving record free of convictions for at least one year, and no felony convictions. We offer great benefits including optional health, dental, and life insurance, sick leave, vacation, and KPERs retirement benefits. Applications are available at the Colby Housing Authority office, 600 S. Mission Ridge, Colby or call 785-460-6763 to request one by mail. This position will be open until filled. Equal Opportunity Employer.
---2/12---2/17---

Electrician with 3 years experience or journeyman's license needed for service technician, pump and pivot irrigation work. Apply at Hitchcock, Inc. of Goodland or call 785-899-5628 for more information.
---1/22---2/17---

Help Wanted

Seeking persons to fill full and part time cashier positions for new retail business. Some computer skills and retail experience preferred. Call 785-621-2441 to schedule an interview.
---2/10---2/14---

The Sheridan County Long Term Care Unit has an opening for a night RN or LPN. Apply to Becky Tate, RN at 785-675-3281 Ext. 146.
---2/13---2/19---

Registered Nurse, Full-time position available; night shift; twelve hour shifts. Successful applicants will possess a positive attitude, strong communication skills, and basic computer knowledge. Holiday and weekend rotation required. Cheyenne County Hospital offers competitive wages, paid CEUs, support for educational growth, and a comprehensive benefit package. Call or go online to learn more! www.cheyennecountyhospital.com; 785-332-2104 ext. 116-Human Resources.
---2/12---2/24---

The Team at Kansasland Tire of Norton has an immediate opening for a service truck operator/general service person. Must have a valid drivers license. Competitive wages, 401k, insurance, & uniforms. Experience preferred, but not necessary we will train. Please stop by at 11101 Rd E1, Norton and pick up an application or call 785-877-5181 EOE.
---2/12---TFN---

Make a difference with DSNWK! DSNWK is looking for reliable, caring individuals to provide support and teach daily living skills to adults with developmental disabilities in Atwood, KS during the evening. This is a full-time personal assistant position. Must pass KBI, SRS, and Child/Adult abuse checks. Excellent benefit plan available. For more information, contact Denni at 785-626-3688. Apply on-line at www.dsnwk.org or mail resume to DSNWK, 208 S 4th St, Atwood, KS 67730. EOE
---2/10---2/14---

DSNWK is looking for an Individual Service Coordinator (Case Manager) to provide service coordination services for individuals with developmental disabilities in Northwest Kansas. Services are guided by a life plan developed to help the person live as independently as possible. Must pass KBI, SRS, and Child/Adult abuse checks. Excellent benefit plan available. This is a full-time work-from-home position. For more information, contact Nancy at 785-625-2521. Apply on-line at www.dsnwk.org or mail resume to DSNWK, PO Box 310, Hays, KS 67601. EOE.
---2/10---2/14---

CDL truck driver tanker required, local area, home every night. If interested call 620-874-0971.
---2/5---2/24---

Help Wanted

Needed, CDL route/delivery drivers in the Colby area. Benefit package available after 60 days. For more information, contact Rick at 308-627-6815.
---2/5---2/17---

Farm Bureau Financial Services is seeking a Field Claim Representative to investigate, evaluate and negotiate casualty claims in the Northwest KS territory. The ideal candidate will reside in/near Colby, KS. Candidate must have a college degree or equivalent experience; experience in auto body and mechanical repair preferred. For further information and to apply online, please visit www.fbicareers.com
---1/31---2/13---

Full time and part time CMA and LPN positions available at Fairview Estates for our Growing Assisted Living Facility. Competitive wages, AFLAC, and good working environment. Apply in person, ask for Gary at 1630 Sewell Ave, Colby. 785-462-2154 EOE.
---2/3---2/14---

Great Western Tire of Colby, Inc., 1170 S. Country Club Drive, is now accepting applications for all shop positions. Positions included, but not limited to, lube oil & tire, truck tire, service call, and alignment technicians. Experience required, but will train the right person. Valid driver's license is a requirement. Full time position includes competitive salary and benefits. Apply in person, EOE. Questions please call 785.462.2100.
---1/8---TFN---

PSI Transport, LLC, is always looking for good company livestock and grain haulers as well as shop mechanics. Competitive pay life/health/dental benefit and bonus program available. EOE (785) 675-3477
---7/13---TFN---

Carriers needed to deliver the Colby Free Press! Great for someone needing extra income. A few hours a day, 4 days a week. Bonus after 3 months. To apply please stop by the office at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby or for questions call 785-462-3963.
---3/21---TFN---

Office Space for Rent

Downtown office space for rent, corner location, utilities included with rent. Call Thomas County Insurance 785-462-3939.
---10/3---TFN---

Buildings for Sale

Steel Building Bargains. Allocated discounts. We do deals. 30X40, 50X60, 100X100 and more. Total Construction and Blueprints Available. www.gosteelbuildings.com. Source #18X. 620-577-4455.
---2/3---2/14---

Storage for Rent

Storage rentals 10x25. Discount for multiple months. Call 785-443-3261.
---1/24---2/20---

Apartments for Rent

2 room efficiency apartment includes utilities. No pets. Call 785-443-3261.
---1/24---2/20---

Houses for Sale

For sale or trade. 3 bedroom home in Brewster, 106 Nebraska. \$39,000 OBO. Contact Kenny at 719-740-1072.
---1/30---3/19---

Misc. for Sale

Refrigerators, electric stoves, air conditioner, under-counter dishwashers. We do not buy appliances. 785-694-8013.
---2/10---3/7---

Pebble Embossed Plastic Banquet rolls 40'x300' (white) \$30 + tax. Can be purchased at the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St.
---3/21---TFN---

Pasture Wanted

Need grass to rent for cow calf pairs. L.J. Heier Colby 785-443-2824.
---1/17---2/13---

Vehicles for Sale

Call us before you pay your next insurance premium. American Family Insurance - Rita Peters Agency - Colby 785-462-8246.
---1/18---TFN---

Seed and Feed

80 Round Bales - 9% Protein, low nitrates, SE Thomas County. Call 303-202-1000.
---2/13---2/26---

Help Wanted

Bookkeeper Position Available at Colby, KS

This is a full-time position with competitive wages and a full benefits package.



EOE

Please send resume to:
CHS Inc. PO Box 465 Colby, KS 67701
E-mail: michele.lorg@chsinc.com or
Apply in person at CHS-Colby
2122 US Hwy 24, Colby, Kansas

HELP WANTED

Part-time Registered Nurse position available at the Thomas County Health Department, Colby, KS. Must have current KS RN license. Nurse would be responsible for clinical and community nurse practice supporting a busy health department. Duties include patient assessment, counseling, maternal and child health, immunizations, women's health and disease investigations. Also providing health education and promotion services. 19 hrs/wk. No benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. Call 785-460-4596 or visit 350 S. Range, Ste 2 Colby, KS to apply. TCHD is an Equal Opportunity Employer

NOTICE: Roofer Registration

Beginning July 1, 2013, roofing contractors operating in the State of Kansas are required by law to register with the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

To register, or to view a list of registered roofing contractors, visit the Attorney General's website at www.InYourCornerKansas.org.



Kansas Attorney General
Derek Schmidt
1-800-432-2310
Not paid for at taxpayers' expense.

Services

High LP Prices - consider an electric heat pump system to replace your LP furnace or supplement it. Call C.B. Heating, Colby, KS 785-462-2445.
---2/13---2/19---

Tree Service: Call Abel Tree Service LLC for tree spraying, tree removal, stump grinding, and trimming. Equipped with a bucket truck. In the Colby area now. Call 785-871-7275 now for free estimates. Satisfaction guaranteed.
---2/13---3/12---

Mane Appearance & Design now offering massages Would make a great Valentine's gift. Stop in or call 785-443-5693!
---2/3---2/14---

I specialize and analyze the situation surrounding the environment. Pines, Deciduous, Evergreens, Shelterbelts, Fruit Trees Cleanup, Removal, Nurseryman, gardening, Landscaping, Shrubs and Yard care and Snow Removal. Dave's Tree Service. 785-443-0994
---2/3---2/28---

Tree Trimming & Removal Call Kerry @ Infinite Connections, bucket truck, stump grinder, insured and free estimates. Family owned and operated. 785-626-4261.
---1/31---7/17---

Woofter Construction & Irrigation, Inc. is looking for a full time **Welder/Mechanic**

Benefits include:
Vacation, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aflac, 401K

Application is available online at www.woofter.com or pick one up at 1965 Thielen Ave., Colby, KS



HELP WANTED

We are hiring immediately for **Housekeepers.** Apply in person at Quality Inn.



1950 S. Range Colby, KS. 67701



Services

Do you have weeds every year? Want a great looking yard? Call JM Tree & Lawn Service to fill ALL of your needs this year. We offer full tree care and sprinkler system maintenance/installs as well. Call today to get a free quote. 785-462-6908.
---5/13---TFN---

Do Your Feet Hurt? We can help with I-Step Technology. We also provide medicare approved diabetic shoes up to size 15 with doctors prescription by appointment only. Currier Drug, Inc, Atwood. 1-800-696-3214.
---4/22---TFN---

Have a leaking roof and need it repaired? Look no further. Murray Roofing & Construction, LLC will give you a free estimate and roof inspection. We specialize in residential and commercial roofing systems. Call our office to schedule an inspection. 785-462-6908.
---3/11---TFN---

Pump Rig Operator

50K & Benefits

Apply at Western Sprinklers, Inc., 1100 S. Range Ave, Colby, KS.

Drug testing required.



Tabbs & Sons Ford has 2 positions open. 1 full time Lube Technician pays up to \$14.00 per hour. Also have 1 full time Service Technician position open. Pay commensurate with skill level. Must have clean driving record. Benefits include paid vacation & profit sharing 401K.

Contact Chris Kraft at 785-460-6746; 1-800-369-3673 or fordcars@st-tel.net.

Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Thomas County, Kansas in the Thomas County Clerk's Office at the Thomas County Courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave, Colby, Kansas until 4:00 p.m. on February 27, 2014 for a project to remove overhead hazards and deteriorating limestone and replacement of the same, if necessary per the specifications set forth in the bid documents. The proposals will be opened and read in public at 9:00 a.m. at the regularly scheduled Thomas County Commissioners meeting on February 28, 2014.

PROJECT: REMOVAL OF LOOSE AND DETERIORATED STONE AND REPLACEMENT OF ANY REMOVED STONE FROM ELEVATIONS ON THE COURTHOUSE, WHILE PRESERVING STRUCTURES AND HISTORICAL INTEGRITY OF THE COURTHOUSE. AS PER PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS AVAILABLE WITH THOMAS COUNTY. BID SHOULD INCLUDE A BEGIN DATE AND AN ESTIMATED LENGTH OF PROJECT.

Requests for Bid Documents (including the project specifications) and any questions regarding the project should be directed to Shelly Harms, Thomas County Clerk. Thomas County may accept the lowest and best responsive bid, and reserves the right to reject part or all of any or all bids, to waive irregularities or informalities in any bid, to divide purchases among bidders to accomplish the best gross price, and to make the final decision as to acceptability of quality and price. Bids received after the specified time of closing will be unopened. Time is of the essence.

(Published in the Colby Free Press on February 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, and 27, 2014)

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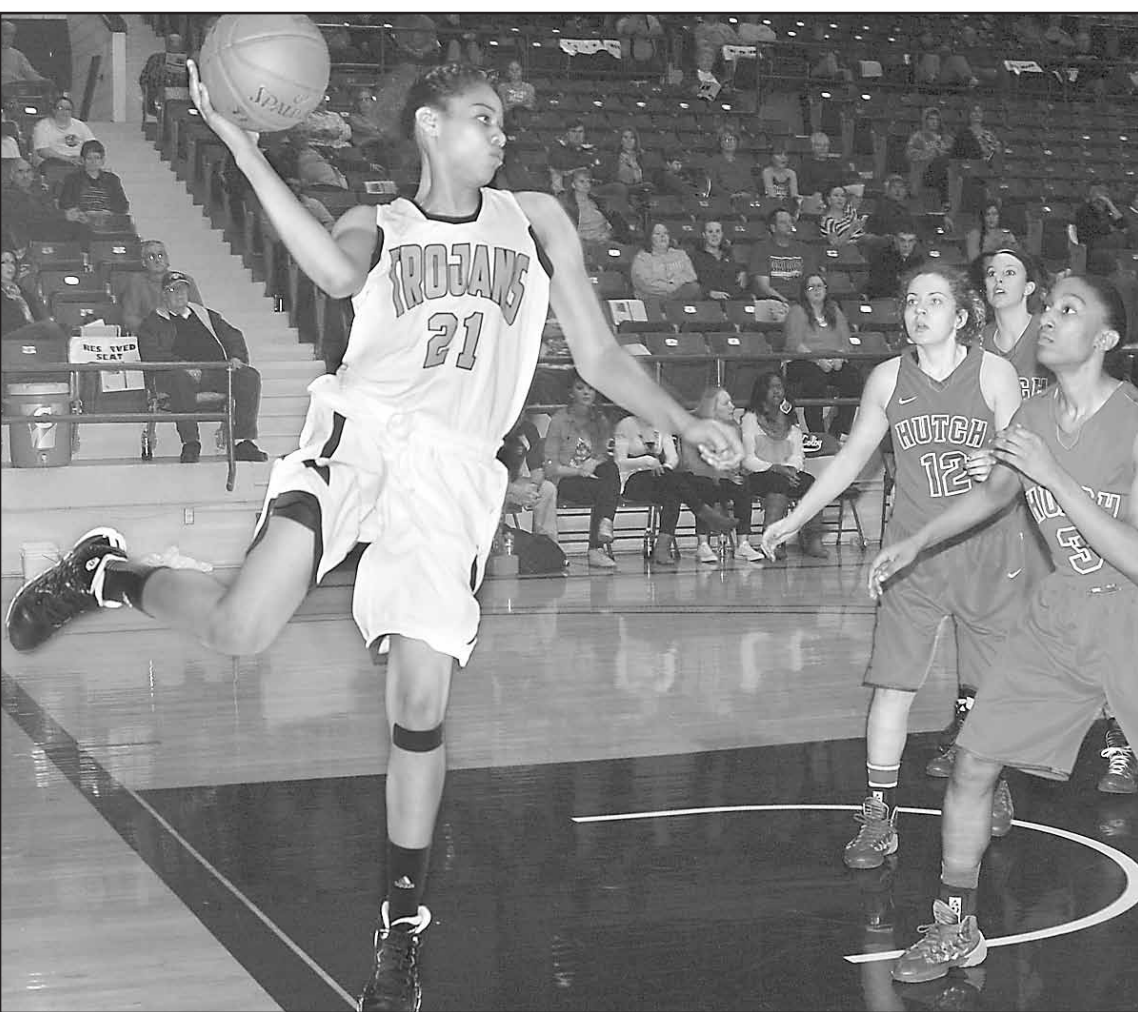


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R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Freshman Amanda Miller made a leaping attempt to keep this basketball in play during Colby Community College's home game against undefeated and No. 3-nationally ranked Hutchinson College Wednesday night. Pictured for Hutch are Brianna Starks (12) and Aaliyah Block (3).

Trojans take control, then Dragons awaken

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

Who cares if the Hutchinson Blue Dragons are undefeated?

Ariel Hutchinson didn't care as she burned the school sharing her name with two early three-point bombs.

Deja Cato didn't care while driving past Dragons to hit two smooth jump shots.

Deandra Williams didn't care en route to yet another terrific double-double effort (12 points/14 rebounds).

And more than a full quarter into Wednesday night's contest, the Colby Community College Trojans didn't care one bit about unbeaten Hutchinson. The 2-24 Trojans took numerous two, three and five-point leads in front of a sparse home crowd at Colby's Community Building.

"We were focused. We didn't worry about who they (Hutchinson) were," Colby coach Antowin

Edwards said when asked about his team leading 19-17 midway through the first half. "And it helped they got off the bus late and weren't focused."

Hutchinson coach John Ontjes agreed with his rival's assessment. "There's no excuse for not hustling. Colby was really playing harder," he said. "It meant more to them."

"But you don't want to wake up a sleeping giant," Edwards added.

That's when the Colby public address should have announced "It's pillow night here in Colby, especially for visitors from Hutchinson. Rest well, ladies, and we'll wake you when it's over."

News flash: that didn't happen.

Instead, the nationally No. 3-ranked Dragons did awaken with a sudden 14-0 run. They roared ahead 39-25 by halftime.

Though Colby continued battling, the eventual final score read 80-44 for those 24-0 Blue Dragons.

A flurry of five consecutive

Colby turnovers really turned that early momentum.

"It was fool's gold, really," Edwards said. "And rather than slowing things down, our girls tried to speed and really played right into their hands. You can't pass over (their press) because they're so long. You have to dribble past them."

"But on a positive note, I do feel we're playing our best basketball of the season," he concluded. "It gives us hope going into Barton (on Saturday)."

The Blue Dragons (10-0 league) now own a three-game Jayhawk West lead over Seward County.

Colby (44) — Deandra Williams 12 points, Deja Cato 9, Ariel Hutchinson 8, Tori Biddle 6, Sierra Green 4, Amanda Miller 3, Cordae McKelvy 2. Three-point goals: Hutchinson 2. Rebound leader: Williams 14. Steals: Miller 2, Biddle 2. Blocked shot: Miller.

Hutchinson (80) — Jamie Patrick's 17 points and Kalani Purcell's 16 paced the Dragon attack.

Colby teams take on 6A opponents tonight

Colby High's varsity wrestling team travels to 6A No. 1 Garden City tonight, while both Eagle basketball squads play at home against 6A Dodge City.

Garden City features five wrestlers rated No. 1 or 2 in 6A, and Colby will likely be ready to face all of them.

The dual is scheduled to begin around 6 p.m.

Colby still holds the 4A No. 8 team ranking after taking second at Saturday's Great West

Athletic Conference meet.

Senior Andrew Taylor is the top-ranked 182-pounder.

Freshman Tate Carney (106) and sophomore Austin Hart (220) are both top five.

Meanwhile, both Dodge City teams bring 6-8 records into tonight's varsity doubleheader (6:30 p.m. start) at the Colby Community Building.

They swept a pair from the Ulysses boys and girls on Tuesday evening

Hutch survives Trojans' rally, 83-79

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

Trailing by 16 points with 4:28 remaining, the Colby Community College Trojans rallied to just one basket of catching those Hutchinson Blue Dragons Wednesday night.

If only Colby could have hit a few more shots during the game's first four or five minutes.

A 19-2 start hurt the Trojans as much as anything in their eventual 83-79 loss in Colby's Community Building.

"We can't start the way we did tonight against Hutchinson or any team in the Jayhawk Conference," assistant coach Egan Grafel said. "Spotting a team 17 points makes it really tough. We got it down to three, but we really need to play a full 40 minutes."

The Trojans (9-17 overall, 0-10 league) actually closed within two points when sophomore Brandyn Williams buried a corner three to cap his terrific 29-point, 10-rebound performance.

It was also beautiful execution from teammate Jeremiah Ingram, who drove into the lane and drew defenders before finding Williams with a perfect pass.

Freshman Kyle Summers also drilled his fourth and final triple during this flurry.

However, only 6.7 seconds remained and Hutch's Nathan Jackson was able to bury two victory-clinching free throws. There simply wasn't enough time left for Colby to make two more baskets.

The Blue Dragons improved to 21-5 overall, 7-3 league despite bringing only eight players. Another three remained home because of injuries.

They were also playing their third game in five nights, which included a road trip to Garden City.

Guard Kadeem Allen had played exactly 118 minutes and 25 seconds during this stretch — meaning he had only 1:35 of rest.

Yet he still scored a game-high 30 points to follow up his 37-point effort against Colby on Jan. 11.

"I'm tired. I've never really been this tired before," Allen admitted during a post-game interview.

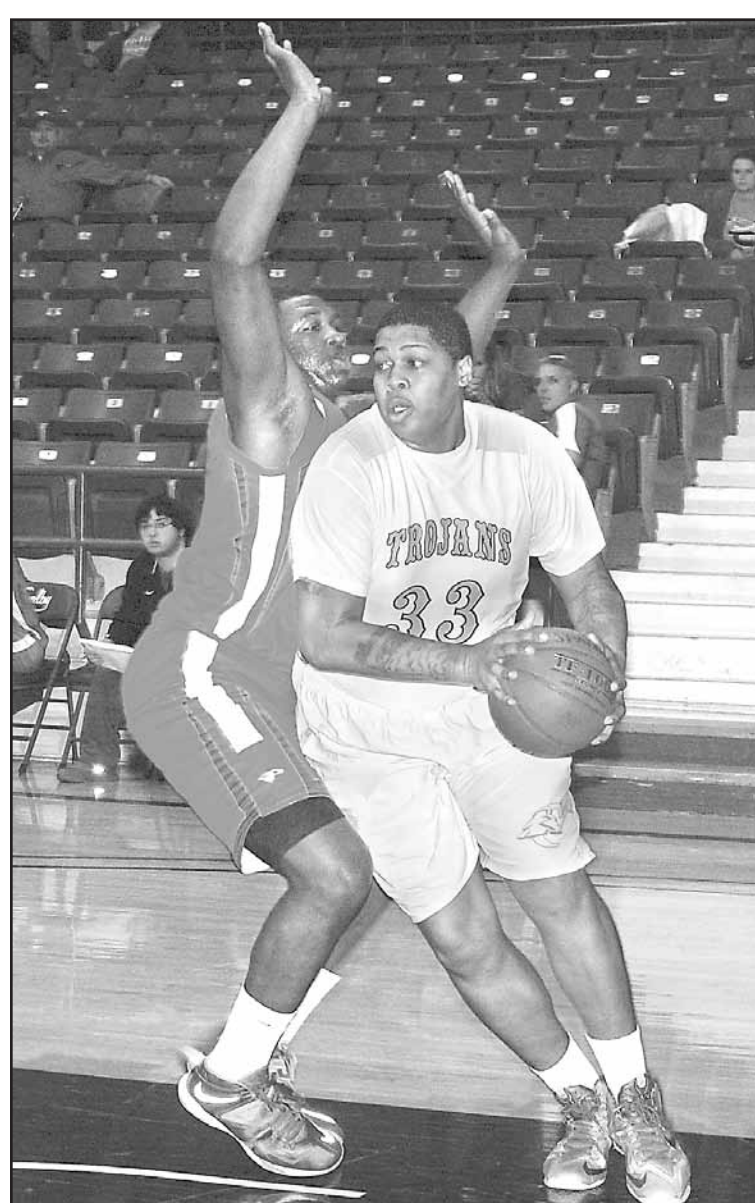
Dragon teammate Coreontae DeBerry (16 points) still found enough energy to make several one-handed slam dunks.

Colby sophomores Terry Starks and Ingram teamed for their own impressive "ally-ooop" slam. However, the Trojans' quest to make more winning plays continues.

"We can't have a drop in effort," Grafel concluded.

Colby (79) — Branden Williams 29 points, Terry Starks 14, Kyle Summers 12, Jeremiah Ingram 10, Ramon Johnson 8, Justin Talley 4, Joey Meyer 1, Anthony Barley 1. Three-point goals: Summers 4, Williams 3. Rebound leaders: Williams 10, Johnson 9. Assists: Ingram 4, Barley 4. Steals: four Trojans with one. Blocked shots: Starks, Meyer.

Hutchinson (83) — Kadeem Allen's game-high 30 points powered the Blue Dragons.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College center Ramon Johnson powered past a Hutchinson Blue Dragon during Wednesday night's Jayhawk West contest. Johnson tallied eight points and nine rebounds.

Olympian holds fourth

SOCHI (AP) — Lizzy Yarnold is halfway to the Olympic gold medal. Noelle Pikus-Pace is right on her heels, with Katie Uhlaender in medal contention.

The World Cup leaders all season are the leaders again halfway through the women's skeleton

competition at the Sochi Olympics.

Uhlaender, who owns a farm near Atwood had runs of 58.83 and 58.75 for a combined time of 1:57.58 which puts her in fourth place, or just one from winning an Olympic medal.

Golden Plains wins

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls grabbed another win on Feb. 6 when they hosted the Weskan Lady Coyotes and prevailed 47-15.

The girls worked together to post up 20 points in the first quarter while shutting out the Coyotes. They managed just four points in the second, and an additional 13 from the Bulldogs gave them a 33-4 halftime lead.

The girls lit up the floor to start off the second half and quickly extended their lead to 44-13 even as the balls kept spinning around the rim and bouncing out on many of their shots.

With many of the younger players on the floor throughout the fourth, the Lady Bulldogs added one more basket and the Lady Coyotes hit two free throws to seal the win.

"This was a great night for Golden Plains Middle School basketball," coach Travis Smith said. "I especially loved the effort of my girls."

Scoring for Golden Plains were KayCee Miller with a game-high 16 points, Noel Ritter tallied 10, Sierra Finlay six, Maggi Nieman six and Jennifer Esparza with four points.

The A-team girls go into the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament today with an 8-3 record. As a No. 3 seed, they will play at 5:30 against the winner of the Western Plains-Healy contest.



Golden Plains High School

Rachael Ritter drove in for this layup as the Golden Plains High School girls scored their first of three wins this week with a 50-16 victory over visiting Cheylin. Ritter scored three points for a Bulldog team that featured seven different girls hitting shots. Ritter also delivered an assist.

Bulldogs turn two foes into chew toys

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs remain undefeated in Western Kansas Liberty League basketball action as they claimed another win over Logan Friday evening.

"We had our game canceled on Tuesday because of the snow," senior Hailee Spresser said. "So we were ready to get on the floor and play."

The girls got off to a slow start in the first quarter but finally got a basket each from starters Spresser, Jordan Christensen and MiKayla Lobato. The defense held the Trojans to one point in the quarter.

The girls found their rhythm in the second, distributed the ball and pumped in a quick 20 points to the Lady Trojans' seven.

They continued this pace throughout the third adding another 18, allowing eight.

With a confident 44-16 lead going into the fourth, some of the younger girls were able to help out in the game. They finished the game by adding another six and shut out Logan for the 50-16 win.

The girls were able to share the scoring led by Christensen's 12 points, Kami Miller's 10, nine from Spresser and nine from Lobato.

Others adding points were Maddy Walz with four, Rachel Ritter three and Kynndra Rush three.

Miller contributed seven assists along with six from Rush and three from Christensen. The girls also had 12 steals as Miller, Christensen and Rush swiped three each. Spresser, Ritter and Walz made one steal apiece.

Bulldogs win again
The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs brought down Cheylin with a 62-41 win Saturday evening.

"We started out very strong," guard Kami Miller said. "We

crashed the boards hard and pushed the ball."

Their aggressive play helped the girls grab on to a 16-5 lead in first and accelerated their lead with another 18 in the second.

With a 34-13 lead at the half, the Bulldogs relaxed in the second half and allowed the Lady Cougars to outscore them 18-12 in the third.

The girls regrouped going into the fourth and finished the

21-point victory.

Hailee Spresser led with 17 points along with Kynndra Rush tallying 12, Rachael Ritter and Maddy Walz both added eight followed MiKayla Lobato's five, Miller's four and one point from Morgan Ritter.

The Bulldogs (12-3 record) outrebounded the Cougars 51-21 and totaled 13 assists with Jordan Christensen leading the team in both areas of play.

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