



Bowling tourney boosts kids' group

An annual bowling tournament to raise money for local kids is set for the end of the month.

The "Bowl for Kids' Sake" bowling tournament is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Colby Bowl and Fun Center, and there is still space for more bowlers. Orvella Romine, director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County, which is sponsoring the tournament, said she is looking for at least six more teams to fill out the tournament roster. Teams are asked to gather donations for the organization from their members and stand to win special recognition and prizes.

This is the first year that a traveling trophy, which goes to the team that raises the most money, will be up for grabs for emergency responders like police, firefighters and EMS, Romine said. So far, the Colby Fire Department and the Thomas County EMS have signed up to bowl.

The traveling trophy for area restaurants will make its third stop this year. Taco John's won that trophy the first year it was offered, and Sonic won it last year. So far this year, Romine said, bowlers from Sonic are on board to play again, along with Burger King, Subway and Quiznos.

All bowlers will get a T-shirt with this year's Bowl for Kids' Sake logo, "Go Big or Go Home," written on it, along with the logo of K-State, Kansas University, Wichita State or Big Brothers. "Lane sponsors" who raise \$250 will get to roll the first ball.

"Pin sponsors" who raise \$150 or more will get their names put in a drawing for a 32-inch television.

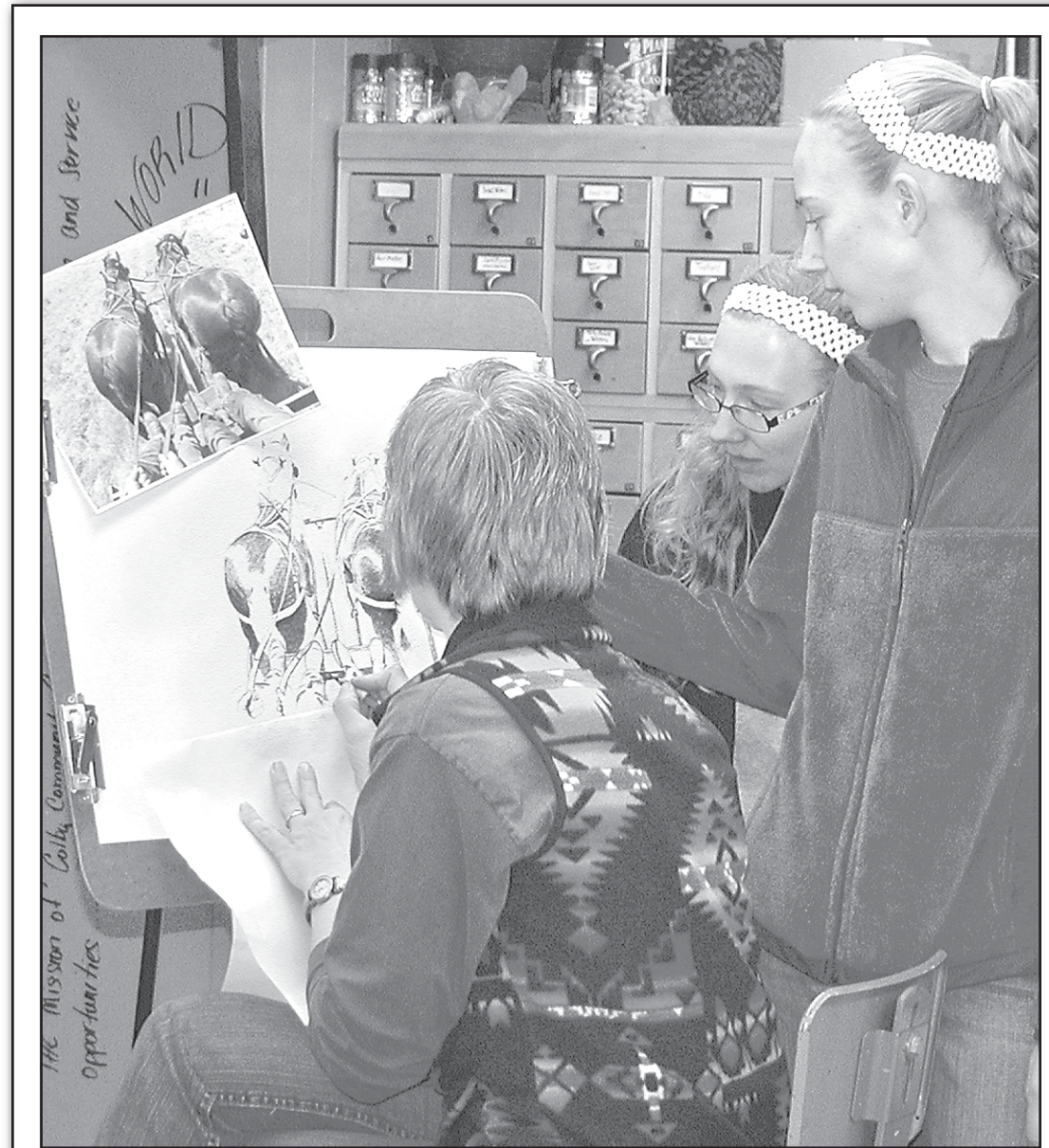
All individual players who raise \$200 and team that raise \$1,000 will be recognized in a thank you ad in the *Colby Free Press*, along with the trophy winners. A banner will be hung at one end of the bowling alley with the names of donors who give without going to the tournament.

There is also a floating trophy for the winner of March Bowling Madness, a competition among Colby's Bowling League teams are asked to chip in 50 cents for every strike they make and 25 cents for every spare during their third game each week at Colby Bowl and Fun Center. The "Fire strikers" won last year's March tournament, Romine said, and their name is on the trophy which is displayed at Colby Bowl. This year the winner will also get a T-shirt, two large pizzas and a medium drink from the bowling alley.

Aside from the prizes Big Brothers offers for raising the money, she hopes people will take an interest in the organization and what it is trying to do for kids.

"What I'm trying to get this community to see that by them making an investment today, it is going to make better community members tomorrow," she said.

For information or to sign up for the tournament, call Romine at 460-9125.



Friday's drawing



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Sue Krehbiel's daughters Katie (right) and Sarah looked over her shoulder (top) as she turned a photo of horses into a pencil drawing. A small audience watched Krehbiel work during this month's Studio Friday at Colby Community College, including Claire Wegele of Oakley (above), who worked on her own drawing.

Criminal justice group appointed for new jail

By Heather Alwin
Colby Free Press
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Thomas County now has a Criminal Justice Strategic Planning Group, folks given the task of helping the county plan a new jail and court complex.

The group was appointed at the commissioners' Monday meeting after months of discussions about the way ahead for the jail project. Commissioner Mike Baughn suggested the group several weeks ago and has been working to identify a chairperson and members.

District Judge Glenn Schiffner will serve as chairman, the commissioners decided. Schiffner had to wait to accept the appointment until he could obtain an opinion from an ethics council on whether his appointment to the group would be a conflict of interest.

Once the ethics council determined his involvement would not be a conflict, the commissioners were able to appoint him to fill this role.

Baughn selected some members of the committee based on their roles in local government and law enforcement: Magistrate Judge Richard Ress; Kim Schwarz, court clerk; Marilyn Bailey, court reporter; Anne Ogle, court services officer; Daren Organ, probation and parole officer; County Attorney Kevin Berens; Sheriff Rod Taylor; Undersheriff Marc Finley; deputies Sheri Staab, Marvena Chance, David Grace and Lance Goodman; Mayor Gary Adrian; Police Chief Ron Alexander; Marlene Pfiefer, communications officer; and Christy Preston, economic alliance director.

Other members were suggested by Taylor as community repre-

sentatives: David Pabst, Gary Baumfalk, W.G. Romine and Carl Miller.

Anyone else who wants to be on the committee can contact the commissioners for consideration, said Baughn. But he emphasized that all citizens are encouraged to participate in the group's planning process by attending their public meetings.

The group is to coordinate all planning on the judicial complex, particularly regarding its functionality and security, said Baughn. The commissioners expect the group to provide recommendations to the commissioners who will ultimately make decisions on the project.

Meetings will be scheduled at Judge Schiffner's discretion and will likely be held in the county office complex conference room.

Memories of school and dust storm mingle

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansan.com

Long after surviving the Dust Bowl as a schoolboy, a local farmer still holds onto memories of the one room schoolhouse in rural Thomas County where he learned to read and write during those lean years.

This February marked the 80th anniversary of one of the worst dust storms Lloyd Theimer had to endure as he went to Prairie Bell school in southern Thomas County. The one-room schoolhouse is long gone, but Theimer still remembers the school and the hardships the students went through in the Dust Bowl years when they attended.

Named for its bell tower, the school once stood nine miles south of Colby and five miles west of K-25. It was two miles west of the house where Theimer lives with his wife Ruth, the same one he lived in when he was a student there. Born in 1922, he attended Prairie Bell School District 53 from the age of 5 up through the 1930s, along with his older sister Elsie, younger siblings Walter, Marie and Howard, and other farm kids from that part of the county. One of the children who got their education at the school would later become a plaintiff at *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*, the landmark Supreme Court education case that started in Kansas and led to in-

tegrated schools nationwide.

The Dust Bowl years started in the 1930s, Theimer said, and by the time he was old enough to help his father on the farm in the middle of the decade, there were no crops at all coming out of the soil.

"I thought we just farmed to keep the ground from blowing," he said. "They were terrible days."

Roy Harper, one of the teachers at Prairie Bell, wrote years later about his experiences when the worst dust storms came in 1934, chatting with kids students to keep them calm after "the most ominous cloud I have ever seen," a wall of dust several miles high, engulfed the school house. He kept the kids in class after school each time a storm came until their parents came and got them.

Whatever precautions the parents took, the Theimer children still sometimes found themselves walking through clouds of dust to get to and from school. One of the worst storms caught them about a quarter of a mile from home, he said; they could see the electricity jumping between the dust and a barbed-wire fence as they passed over a hillside. The children followed the ditch by the side of the road, holding each other's hands to keep from getting lost.

They all got back OK at his school, but nearby, Theimer said, "a little boy that had a handicap, he got out in the

dust storm and they couldn't find him."

He was found later under a heap of dirt, where he suffocated.

At Prairie Bell there was a barn alongside the schoolhouse for the horses some of the kids used for their daily commute to school, a bin for coal to heat the school, boys' and girls' out-houses and a flag pole out front, according to the notes Theimer still keeps with him. He has photos of the Prairie Bell school and the sod building that came before it among the souvenirs from his school days.

He is not sure when the school opened and closed, but among the souvenirs he has is a memoir Harper wrote in 1976 about his teaching career, which says School District 53 was organized in September 1887. At first there were two different school houses in the district, including the sod building. As far as Harper could find out, a new school called "Prairie Bell South" was built in 1900 about half a mile east of the building where Theimer went to school. The Prairie Bell school replaced this building in 1912. Harper started teaching at the school in 1931, and parents in the area voted in 1939 to consolidate Dis-

See "DUST STORM," Page 2



The Prairie Bell schoolhouse was in use until about 1939.



Other Viewpoints

New voter limits burden electorate

A bill that would create new limits on when Kansas voters could change their party affiliations is another example of state legislators trying to correct a problem that probably doesn't exist or at least not to an extent that justifies legislative action.

In this case, that "fix" also could limit Kansas voters' ability to cast their ballots for their preferred candidates.

The bill that has passed the Senate Ethics and Election Committee last week would bar Kansas voters from changing their party affiliation from June 1 (the filing deadline for candidates) to Sept. 1 (about a month after the August primary elections). The goal of the bill, according to Kansas Republican Party officials, is to prevent voters from switching parties in order to skew the opposing party's primary. The officials say they have no proof of such switches, but they have a feeling some Democratic voters are switching parties to vote for the Republican candidate they believe is less likely to win against the Democratic opponent.

That might be a little underhanded, but it's far from the most egregious political tactic employed in most races. And what if the voter actually is switching parties to vote for the candidate he or she prefers?

One of the arguments presented during committee testimony is that primary elections belong to the political party. That's not really true. Political conventions that choose party nominees belong to the party, but state primaries belong to all state taxpayers.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach also supported the bill, saying it would reduce the administrative burden on county election officers who must record registration changes. That's pretty ironic coming from the man who is trying to force county election officers to conduct a two-tiered election for people who have registered for federal elections and those registered for state elections. It's also possible that the workload for county officials actually would increase under the bill because people would switch their registration to "unaffiliated" before the June 1 deadline to keep their options open in the primary. Under the new bill unaffiliated voters still would be able to declare a party at the polls for a primary.

The big question here is whether voters who feel strongly about a candidate from either party should be able to vote for that candidate even in the primary. If a Democrat looks over the field of both Democratic and Republican candidates and finds his or her preferred candidate is a Republican, shouldn't that voter have an opportunity to help make sure that candidate advances to the general election by winning the Republican primary? The same principle applies in reverse, of course, but contested Democratic primaries are far more rare in Kansas.

Party-switching for political purpose may occur to some extent now, but efforts to ban that practice serve an equally political motive that also could infringe on the right of Kansas voters to support their chosen candidates.

— 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, with an address and phone number.

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"SO WHY WOULD YOU THINK HE CAN CONTROL RUSSIA?"

Choose your risks, information wisely

Deception and exaggeration have characterized the stance some environmental organizations and the mass media's coverage of environmental issues. If we look critically at these issues, however, we can begin to sort out fact from fiction.

One of the first things we must realize is that correlation is not causation. Correlation means two things tend to happen at the same time. Causation means one thing is known to cause another thing.

Because two things happen at the same time doesn't mean one is causing the other. We need proof, including a reasonable theory showing the path by which one thing causes another.

Environmental scares like global warming happen when correlation is mistaken for causation. To avoid errors, radical environmentalists must be responsible in proving that one thing is actually causing another to happen.

In today's world, much remains unexplained. Cancer is one disease that comes to mind. Cancer may be due to genetic conditions, nutrition, a health problem in childhood or a combination of these factors.

Someday scientists may find a cure for this disease, but that day has not arrived.

Trends don't always predict the future. In the early '70s some scientists predicted the advent of another ice age. During the '80s temperatures increased and some experts predicted catastrophic global warming. The cold winter of 1993-94 prompted a new wave of hysteria and predictions of another ice age.



John Schlageck

• Insights
Kansas Farm Bureau

Predictions of an approaching population explosion and resource depletion make headlines today. We must remember trends only serve as a guideline of past events and cannot document what will happen down the road.

Critical thinking relies on fact rather than opinion. So often in our society, the "squeaky wheel gets the grease." The loudest person or the most controversial opinion often receives the most attention.

This has definitely been true in the environmental movement where claims of upcoming catastrophes receive extensive media coverage. To make sure "experts" don't mislead you, seek relevant facts decide for yourself.

You don't have to look back far in history. During the energy crisis of the '70s the advent of more fuel-efficient vehicles and the discovery of alternative fuels helped ease this energy shortage. Today, the discovery of additional oil reserves in our own country provides additional energy.

One reason apocalypse abusers thrive is the general public rarely relies on its long-term memory. People are unlikely to remember a

doomsayer's dire predictions of a few months ago, much less 10 or 20 years back. We must remember yesterday's false alarms and the people who sounded them if we are to respond to future calls to action.

Everything we do has risk, even ordinary events like walking down the steps (falling and breaking bones) or crossing the street (being run over by a car).

Remember the risk of drowning (16 in a million), or dying in a home accident (90 in a million) or being killed in an auto accident (192 in a million) greatly exceed the alleged environmental risks being hawked by some organizations.

Throughout our lives we make choices. We must decide between the black pair of shoes and the burgundy. We must decide on catsup, pickles or mustard on our hamburger.

The same can be said about our environment. We have to choose our priorities. We can't do everything at once. To do so could produce unintended consequences that could harm the environment.

We must apply the same prudence we apply to other significant areas of our lives to environmental issues. Their importance makes careful planning all the more necessary.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

Equity, outcomes weigh school funding

In January last year, a three-judge panel of the Shawnee County District Court ruled in Gannon v. State that funding for public schools was unconstitutionally inadequate. The ruling called for the Legislature to raise the Base State Aid Per Pupil from \$3,838 to \$4,492 which would result in a cost of about \$437 million dollars for state taxpayers.

However, the district court's ruling was stayed by the Kansas Supreme Court in February of last year, officially indicating that they would hear the case themselves. Last Friday, the Supreme Court released its ruling.

The Supreme Court's decision emphasized that both equity of funding and the outcomes of funding are important in determining the adequacy of state education dollars.

With regard to equity, the Court identified two areas in the current funding formula where it believes the legislature has fallen short. Most significantly, the decision rejected the district court's notion that "suitability" of education under the state constitution is determined by a dollar amount. Rather, the Court sent the case back to the district court to review state funding based on the outcomes produced.

Republicans have long said outcomes should be the determining factor for adequate school funding. Additionally, all Kansas students should have equal opportunity to receive a quality education. The Court's focus on these areas is important for the legislature going forward. As the session progresses, the Senate is committed to considering the areas where the Court says equity is lacking and to ensuring the potential of students is being achieved.

The decision allows us to see the entire picture. Every legislative session is a puzzle, and without all the pieces it would have been difficult to assemble. This allows us to build.



Ralph Ostmeyer

• State Senator

Happenings for this week

This legislative week was shortened to allow clerical staff to catch up with the bills passed before the "Turnaround." Although we had Monday and Tuesday off, there was still a lot of committee work and debate on the Senate floor as the next major deadline, First Adjournment, is Friday, April 4.

Religious Liberties

This week the Senate Judiciary Committee held an informational hearing on religious liberty and HB 2203, a measure passed and signed into law last session protecting Kansas religious liberties. The hearing came after the controversial HB 2453 was killed in the Senate as a result of major flaws with the legislation. Committee members heard from a number of experts regarding HB 2203, who ensured it does, in fact, protect Kansans' individual religious liberties. Some testified that our current laws are some of the strongest in the nation.

HB 2453 was unfortunately crafted in a manner that would have opened up the state to a number of legal vulnerabilities and unintended consequences. Those realities convinced Senate leaders that current laws adequately protect Kansans' individual right to religious liberty.

Judicial Budget

On Thursday, the Senate considered Senate Substitute for HB 2338 – the judicial budget reform. The bill adds \$2 million in new dollars

from the state general fund and \$8 million in savings from restructuring and docket fees to be used for non-judicial court staff and help modernize the judicial branch.

S Sub for HB 2338 compiled four judicial reform bills; continuing to fix recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Property Tax Transparency

The Senate considered HB 2047 this week in order to create transparency for local communities when their annual budgets or appropriations are funded by an increase to property taxes or increases to property valuation. When the votes are cast by the local municipalities, they would then need to publish the increase.

February State General Fund Receipts

Last week the Kansas Legislative Research Department reported total State General Fund receipts from July 2013 through February totaled \$3.65 billion, about \$128.3 million above estimates. Total receipts for February were \$329 million, or \$97.6 million above estimates. There was only one tax source that fell below the fiscal-year-to-date estimate by more than \$1 million, retail sales.

What to look for next week

Next week the Legislature will continue to look through the Court's ruling on the Gannon v. State case. As we learn more, I will update you. Please let me know your thoughts on this issue and others we will be discussing in the Legislature.

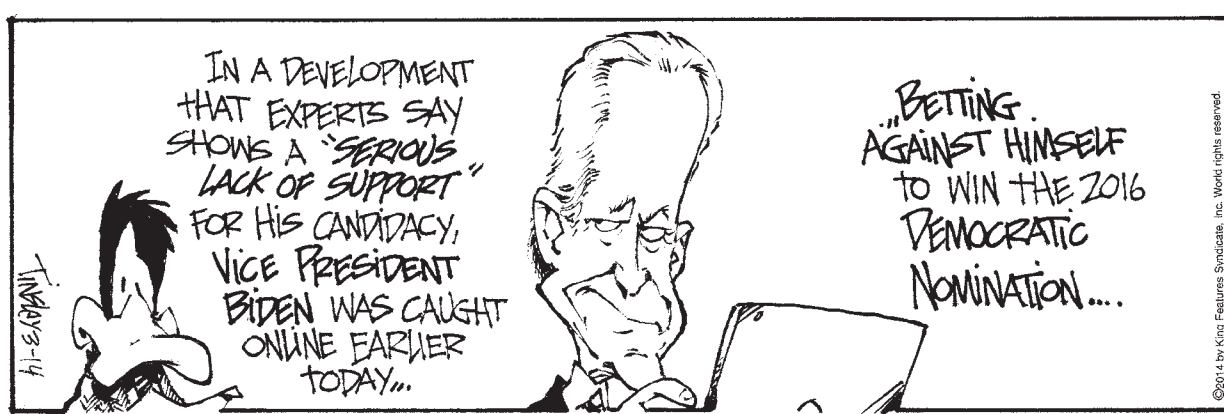
Feel free to call or e-mail and I'd be happy to discuss any topic you are interested in.

Thank you for the honor of serving you!

I can be reached by writing to Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th Street, Room 136-E, Topeka, Kan., 66612, or call (785) 296-7399. My e-mail address is Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



School Activities and Menus

Colby Public Schools
Activities: no school, spring break. **Saturday:** eighth grade transition meetings; 1 p.m. FFA Fort Hays Livestock Career development event.
Sacred Heart
Activities: no school, spring break.
Heartland
Activities: no school, spring break. **Monday:** 7 p.m. board meeting.
Golden Plains
Activities: no school, spring break.
Brewster
Activities: no school, spring break.
Colby Community College

Activities: spring break, no classes. **Sunday:** 1 p.m. baseball vs. Dodge City. **Monday:** 5 p.m. trustees meeting. **Wednesday:** 2 p.m. baseball, McCook. **Friday:** 9 a.m. videos and eCollege - embed, link, review and view, Title III room. **Saturday:** women's track, El Dorado; 1 p.m. baseball, Garden City. **Sunday:** men's golf, Salina; 1 p.m. baseball, Garden City.

Triplains
Activities: no school.
Send us your calendar and menus. E-mail colby.society@nwksas.com or mail Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Senior Progress Center

Activities for the week: Monday: 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. canasta. **Wednesday:** snack day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pinochle. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pool game.
Menus for the week: Monday: steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and carrots, rosy pears. **Tuesday:** ham scalloped potatoes, Italian blend vegetables, tropical fruit. **Wednesday:** Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cook's choice vegetable, pineapple. **Thursday:**

barbecue chicken sandwich, potato salad, cottage cheese, fruit, cake. **Friday:** chef salad (meat on the side), strawberries and bananas, crackers, brownie.
 The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$3.25 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$6 for others.
 Make reservations at (785) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: Monday: St. Patrick's Day; Vicki

Wark's birthday; 2 p.m. Barnswallows. **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. ladies' Bible study. **Thursday:** 2 p.m. Come On Down. **Friday:** 9:30 a.m. Koffee Klatch; 2:30 p.m. Stitch and Chatter.

Town's old spitting ban could be lifted

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — A ban on spitting in public in Grand Rapids could soon be off the books.
 The Grand Rapids Press reports (bit.ly/1g4se0N) the City Commission plans to consider deleting the word "expectorate" from a list of prohibited public acts that includes urination and defecation.
 City Attorney Catherine Mish wrote in a memo that language was added to the code in an era when the use of chewing tobacco was prevalent and spittoons were common. She says the code's language "did not disappear as quickly as the spittoon."
 Mish says local health officials, who told her spitting doesn't pose as much of a threat as it might have in the past. She has been scouring city code to find archaic rules, including one recently on being willfully annoying.

Statehouse offers tours after renovation

After 13 years of renovation, construction on the Kansas State Capitol is completed, the new visitor's center is open and a full tour schedule has been restored for visitors.
 A tour of the Capitol is a tour through Kansas history, portrayed in important artifacts, paintings, sculptures and photographs. The Kansas Historical Society provides free historic tours of the Capitol building Monday through Friday, although visitors can explore the building with a self-guided tour as well.
 The adventurous should opt for a guided dome tour and climb 296 steps from the fifth floor to the top of the cupola. The breathtaking view from the dome's outer balcony is the highest point in Topeka. Kansas is the only state that offers a tour with an outdoor view from the Capitol's dome.
 The renovations display historic materials, maximize the amount of usable space and improve the building's functions and safety. The north entrance is now a welcoming public entrance as was originally intended. The new visitor's center includes a modern classroom, an orientation auditorium, display space for exhibits and a gift shop.
 The exhibits on display highlight historic items such as John Brown's sword, a page from the Wyandotte Constitution, photographs that celebrate Kansas' diverse cultural heritage and 25 Kansans who influenced the nation. The gift shop features a variety of Kansas-made products, including one-of-a-kind souvenir items made from the original green copper dome that has been replaced.
 A consultant hired to assess Topeka's historic preservation plan was so stunned by the newly renovated Statehouse that she urged Topeka leaders to apply for "world heritage site" designation, which would add the Capitol to an exclusive worldwide list of cultural and natural sites like the Grand Canyon National Park, Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. The program is administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO.
 In the late 1800s, more than a million people streamed into Kansas seeking a new life on the frontier. As pioneers arrived in Topeka, traveling along the Oregon Trail or following the railroad west, many stopped to settle down or purchase supplies. Rising from the Kansas prairie, a grand building loomed over the growing city and welcomed settlers. Along Topeka's dirt streets, the sound of chipping stone was a constant rhythm as construction on the Kansas Statehouse continued for 37 years.
 As a reflection of early Kansas' optimism and confidence, the Capitol was completed in opulence. Designed by Wisconsin's Edward Townsend Mix and John G. Haskell from Lawrence, the building cost \$3.2 million and included architectural elements of gleaming copper, 17 types of marble, crystal, granite and gold leaf paint.
 Visual references to Kansas and its position as the 34th state are repeated throughout the building: sunflowers lining the base of the

stairs, the initials KS on doors and pedestals and 34 stars carved into glass light fixtures. The Capitol was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.
 The Statehouse has served as both an impressive public monument and working offices for the governor and legislators, but over the years the grandeur of the building faded. Repairs and maintenance were often neglected due to tight budgets, murals were obscured by decades of smoke and then painted over, copper railings dulled with use and turned black. By the late 20th century, the Capitol was in dire need of renovation.
 Necessitated by serious safety concerns and inadequate infrastructure, the Capitol restoration project was the first major maintenance to the Statehouse since it was completed in the early 20th century.
 When the work began in 2001, the project was expected to last five to eight years, and focused on upgrades to offices, meeting rooms and mechanical systems. During the repairs, workers found beautiful murals, stencil designs and bold colors under flaking paint, spurring further research into the building's original features.
 It took 13 years and \$332 million, but the renovation went far beyond simply shoring up an old building. With a goal of restoring the original architect's vision, care was taken to preserve the craftsmanship and splendor. To increase accessibility to the Capitol for both employees and visitors, new additions included an underground parking garage, hundreds of new offices and the visitor's center.
 The project touched every part of the Capitol, from two stories below the underground cornerstones of the building to the top of the 306-foot dome. Now the public is invited to experience what the renovation has uncovered with a free tour of the building and a breathtaking tour to the top of the dome. To plan your visit to, find more information at www.kshs.org/Capitol or www.VisitTopeka.com.
 The Statehouse is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Enter from the north via the parking garage on Eighth Avenue.
 Historic tours are given at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Monday to Friday. Dome tours begin at 9:30, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. and 12:15, 1:15, 2:15 and 3:15 p.m.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: Monday: St. Patrick's Day; Vicki

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TRAIL LIFE USA TROOP INFORMATION MEETING FOR PARENTS
MARCH 18 (MINGO) AND 22 (COLBY)
 Parents are invited to informational meetings on new Trail Life USA Troop for K-12 age boys and young men. Two informational meetings are being held at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18th, at the Mingo Bible Church in Mingo, and at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, March 22nd, at the KSU Northwest Research Extension Center in Colby. The Trail Life USA program is a Christian adventure, character, and leadership program for young men ages K-12 grade. For more information, please contact Mingo Bible Church at (785) 462-2992, or visit our website at <http://trail.kscolbyinfo.org>.

NOTICE TO THOMAS COUNTY TAXPAYERS
 It is your responsibility to file your Personal Property Assessment with the County Appraiser's Office each year. Reportable items include: Farm Tractors, Trailers, Boats, Airplanes, Mobile Homes, Golf Carts, Jet Skis, Snowmobiles, and Business Equipment & Fixtures. Real Estate Improvements or structural changes to buildings must also be reported. The filing deadline is the same for individuals, businesses, and corporations. Due date is on or before March 15, 2014. The deadline will be observed and penalties imposed as directed by law. We don't file imposing penalties any more than you file paying them. PLEASE FILE EARLY. If you previously had property to declare, this notice was mailed in January. Otherwise, assistance will be provided at the Appraiser's Office in the basement of the Courthouse in Colby from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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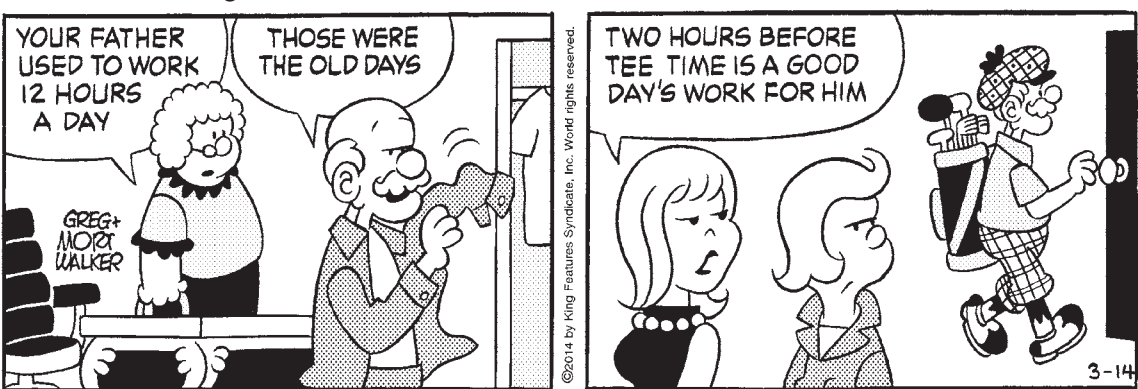
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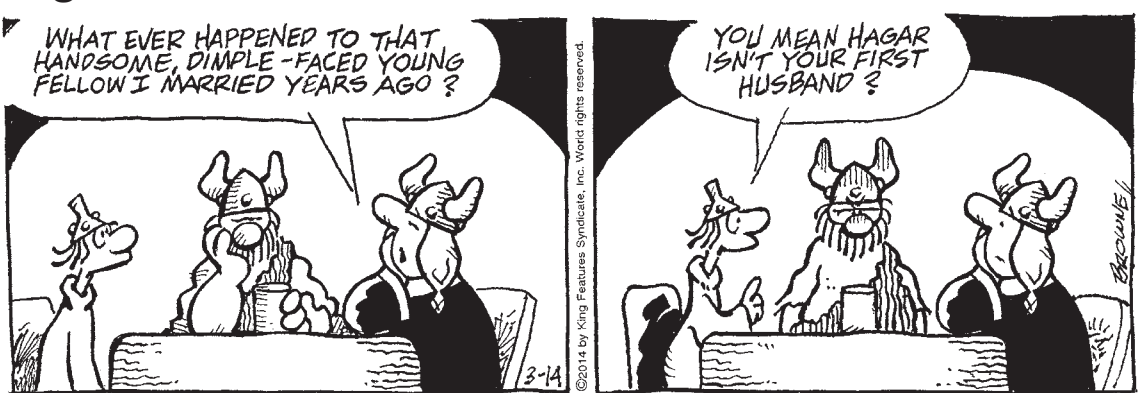
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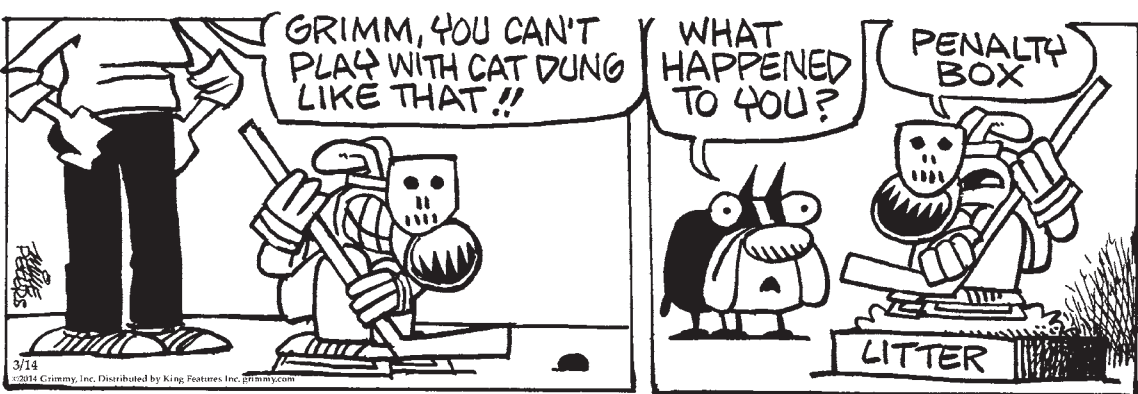
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Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Potted plant has bug problem

Dear Heloise: Help! I repotted a houseplant with cheap topsoil, and now I have gnats. I moved the plant outside, cleaned and sprayed my house, but they keep coming back!

Yes, and it's pretty easy, too! Mix a drop or two of dish soap with a cup or so of water and either mist or pour a little over the soil.

TRAVEL HINT

Dear Heloise: In response to a reader who advised people to buy a drink at the airport after going through security: It's the liquids that you can't take through security, not the bottle.

Bernice, you are right-on! This is what I do when traveling to give a speech or for other business. I always have an empty plastic bottle in my carry-on.

QUICK MEAL

Dear Heloise: I often work late and have a hard time making myself a good meal. It's easier to pick up fast food. Here is what I do now: One of my favorite meals is pasta.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
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Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

KEEP PHONE HANDY

Dear Heloise: One night my daughter crashed her car on a dark, lonely road. She was unhurt, but couldn't call for help herself because her phone went flying when she crashed.

Who would have thunk? A very good safety hint that I hope my readers will consider.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

You are South, with both sides vulnerable, and the bidding has gone: West North East South 1 ♣ 1 ♠ Pass ?

- What would you bid with each of the following five hands? 1. ♠ Q96 ♥ AK875 ♦ 1052 ♣ 64

Bidding Quiz

1. Two spades. It is far better to raise spades than to bid two hearts. Two hearts would suggest lack of spade support and would be correct with, say:

♠ 6 ♥ KQ9874 ♦ K2 ♣ J753

Furthermore, two hearts would not be forcing and might result in reaching the wrong partscore or game contract.

The simplest way to show your spade support is to raise partner's suit. It is not necessary to particularize the nature of your values and risk winding up in the wrong denomination.

2. Four spades. It is hard to imagine partner losing four tricks opposite this promising hand. A jump to three spades would be invitational but not forcing, and the auction might die then and there.

3. Pass. This is not a pleasant decision, but one must be realistic in misfit situations. The only other possible bid, one notrump, is somewhat dangerous.

4. Three spades. It's hard to assess your game prospects unilaterally, and it is therefore better to ask partner's view of the matter by inviting him to go on to four spades if he has extra values.

5. Four notrump. It is quite reasonable to expect that partner can make a slam opposite this hand if he has an ace in addition to his strong spades.

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"Don't worry, Mommy. I wouldn't talk to a wolf even if he wasn't a stranger."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

9x9 Conceptis Sudoku grid with numbers 4, 9, 8, 1, 6, 5, 7, 3, 2, 8, 5, 6, 1, 7, 6, 7, 3, 9, 2, 9, 8, 4, 1, 3, 7, 8, 5

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.

9x9 solution grid for the Conceptis Sudoku puzzle.

Cryptoquip

QWKJ SWK WIZZYRDJK DS

LKD FKNAXYLWKF DXX SWK

LWYG'L LDYX LIGGAZSKZL

YS QDL NDLS FKLSZIRSYAJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ACTRESS TYSON HAD LIVED ON A BIG ITALIAN ISLAND, SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CICELY FROM SICILY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 NHL Hall of Famer Neely 4 "Erie Canal" mule 7 Impetuous 12 In the manner of 13 La-la lead-in 14 Two under par 15 Fond du —, WI 16 Amuse 18 "— Believer" 19 Paris subway 20 Chicks and ducks 22 Vast expanse 23 Ache 27 Surprise cries 29 Hit 31 Grammarian's concern 34 Lubricated 35 Sandwich meat 37 "Oh yeah? — who?"

- DOWN 1 Nev. neighbor 3 Prayer ending 39 Fish eggs 41 Right on the map? 45 Wimbledon area 47 Falsehood 48 Woodworker 52 Superman foe Luthor hunter 53 Heavenly 54 Indivisible 55 Sister of Zsa Zsa 56 Bathroom fixture 57 Poehler pal 58 "Of course"

15x15 crossword grid with some letters filled in.

Yesterday's answer 3-14

15x15 crossword grid with some numbers filled in.

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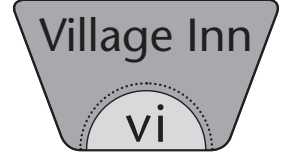
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Tasty! 'Dogs bite Dragons to start state

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

Being a forgotten freshman wasn't going to bother Gabrielle Schiltz Thursday afternoon.

Who could blame the Wilson Dragons for ignoring Schiltz? She wasn't anywhere to be found when they challenged Golden Plains during last year's 1A Division II state tournament game.

Could anyone really expect a freshman to hit the first big shot of this state rematch at state?

"No, not at all," Schiltz admitted. "I was excited (to see her shot go swish!)."

So was most of Rexford who filled the Gross Memorial Coliseum stands. Schiltz's beautifully-timed triple put Golden Plains ahead 11-7 and awoke everyone else playing for Golden Plains.

"It gave us a shot of energy for sure," coach Parker Christensen confirmed as his Bulldogs roared on to the 57-37 state quarterfinal triumph. "Gabrielle is a really good shooter, but sometimes she gets a little nervous. She just needs to set her feet and shoot like she knows how."

Suddenly, all the No. 3-seed Bulldogs were following Schiltz's lead. Junior Rachel Ritter also hit a huge early shot, showing that great teams are not limited to their starting five players.

Senior Mikayla Lobato and sophomore Madison Walz both powered past taller Dragon defenders to score inside baskets.

"Oh yeah, they were (physical), Lobato said about the No. 6-seed Dragons. "It was a little nerve-racking at first, but we were ready. We definitely wanted to go on to the semis."

One terrific hustle play showed the Bulldogs' determination. Ritter scrambled for a loose ball and basically pushed it ahead to Walz, who was breaking free behind any Dragon who could stop her.

Walz's layup moved Golden Plains ahead, 22-13, and clearly showed momentum was now with the red-and-black.

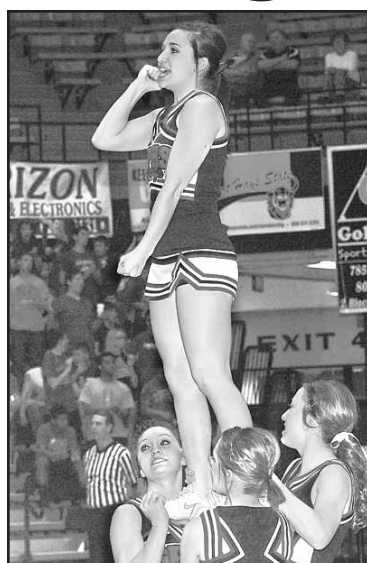
A quick check of Wilson's bench showed the Dragons' body language did not look good. No players were cheering and at least two wore expressions that said "the end is drawing near."

Wilson lost to Golden Plains, 77-67, in the state consolation final last season.

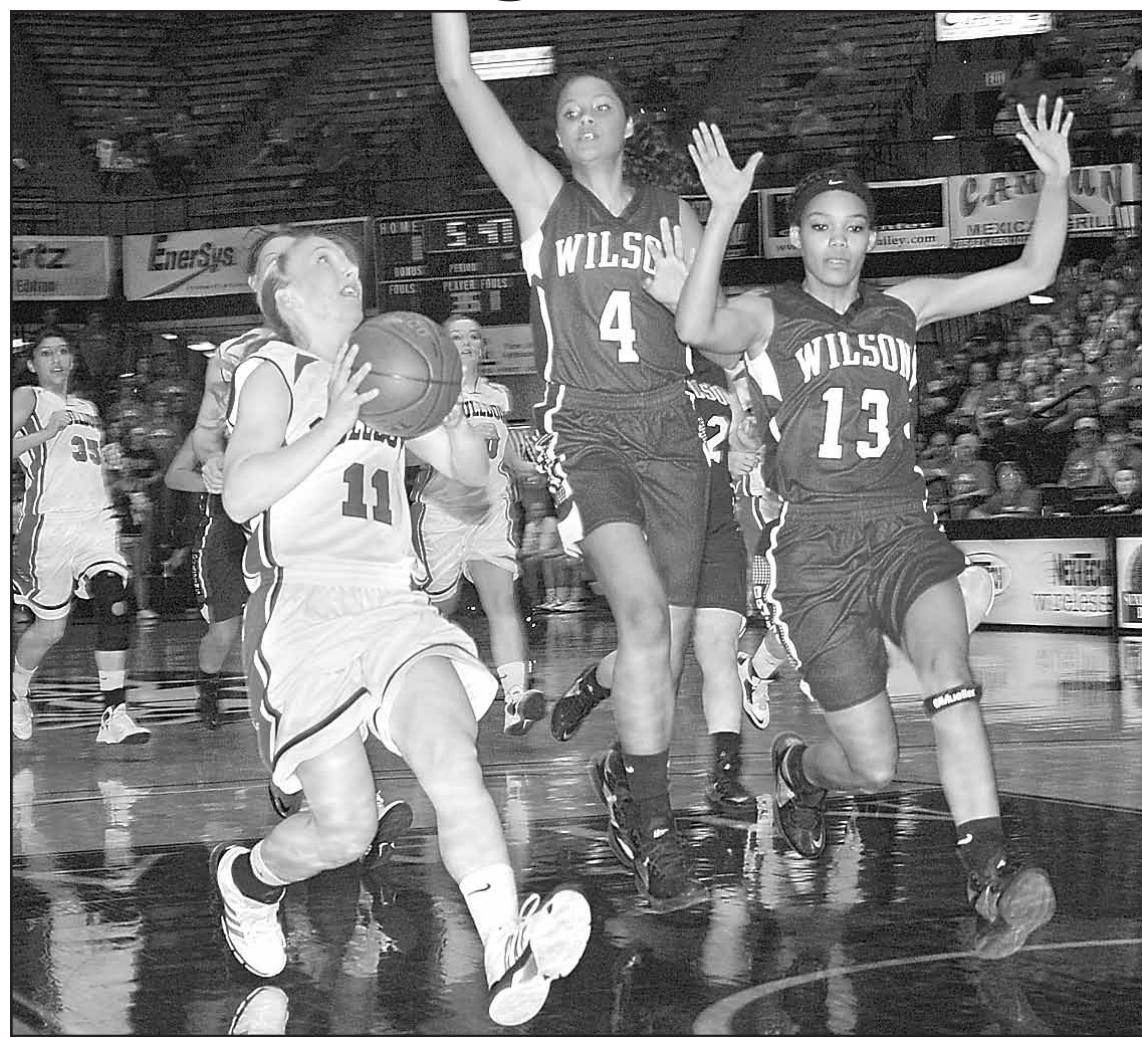
"Yeah, maybe we were getting them a little frustrated," coach Christensen said. "They were big. I thought we did a good job on the boards, though."

Senior Hailee Spreser (15 points) then showed her inside power by scoring two more baskets, which signaled the Bulldogs' top two scorers were ready to take over.

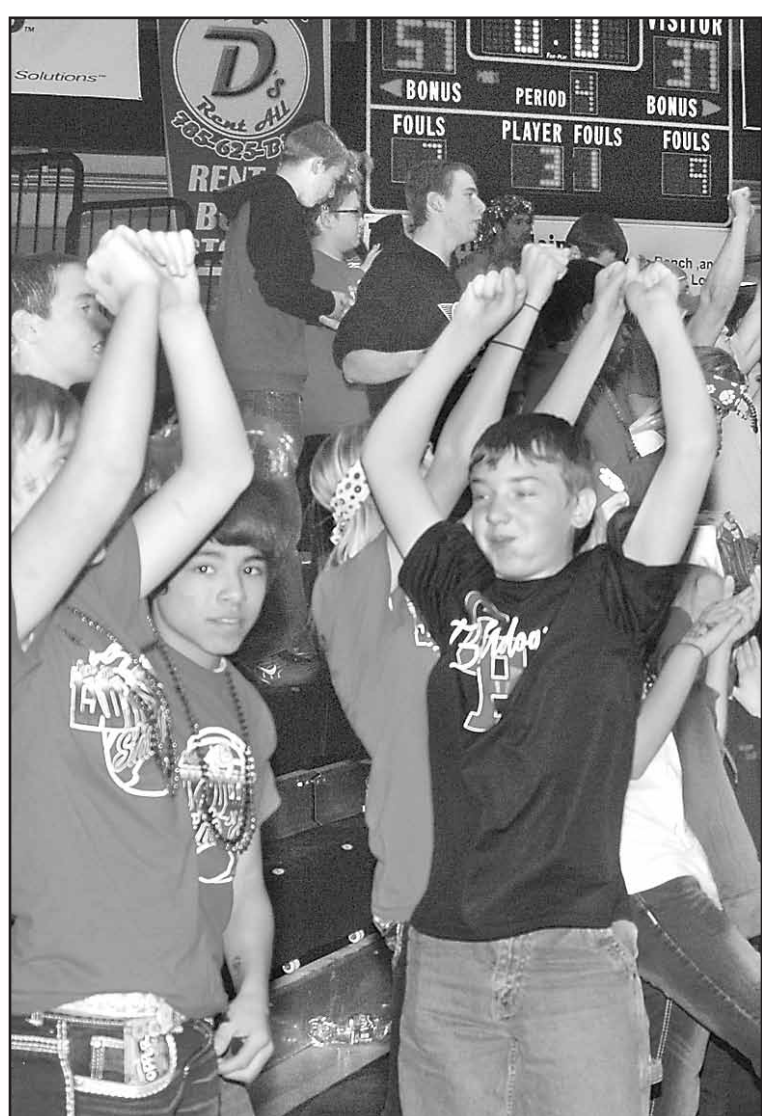
Classmate Jordan Christensen



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press Senior Macayla Easton got a lift from her teammates while helping lead Golden Plains cheers during the Bulldogs' state tourney victory Thursday.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press Golden Plains senior Jordan Christensen was cold reality for Wilson's Dreamer Roberson (22) as she scored 16 second-half points to help close the Bulldogs' quarterfinal win.



finally shook free to hit two long three-pointers. She eventually tallied 16 second-half points as the Bulldogs never looked back during their 20th victory this season.

"Jordan struggled a little early. They (Wilson) did a good job of defending her," coach Christensen observed. "But she and Hailee got going."

Jordan Christensen's second trifecta zipped through the net to make it 45-25 through three quarters.

Spreser followed with a smooth mid-range jump shot, and Christensen's steal quickly swiped away remaining Dragon comeback hopes.

J.C. drove the hoop, drew a foul while hitting her layup and finished this three-point play for a 50-32 lead.

Just like Saturday's sub-state final, Jordan's face lit up most when she found Spreser cutting near the hoop.

A Spreser three-point play made it 55-36. Overall, Golden Plains shot 47.6 percent in the second half (10 for 21) compared to 36 percent (9 for 25) during those first two periods.

Sophomore Kami Miller's perfect pass to Walz set up the final Bulldog basket.

Point guard Miller delivered a solid all-around game featuring eight points, four assists, three steals and three rebounds.

Most importantly, the Bulldogs move on into today's 3 p.m. semifinal against No. 2-seed Bucklin (21-3 record) at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Bucklin needed an overtime period to get past No. 7 Beloit-ST. John's, 56-49, earlier on Thursday.

"We're assured of playing two more now," coach Christensen concluded, knowing his team's No. 1 goal all season has been to reach the Saturday state championship game. "Bucklin has two re-

ally good players. The main thing we'll have to do is defend. Play defense and get those rebounds."

Wilson's season ends with a 17-7 record. The Dragons shot free throws to Golden Plains' eight, but made only five of those attempts including a dismal 2-for-11 second-half effort.

Wilson did win the rebounding battle, 32-30. Perhaps a more telling stat was the Dragons' 17 turnovers while Golden Plains only lost seven.

Golden Plains (57) — Jordan Christensen 16 points, Hailee

Spreser 15, Kami Miller 8, Madison Walz 6, Mikayla Lobato 5, Gabrielle Schiltz 3, Rachel Ritter 2, Kynndra Rush 2. Three-point goals: Christensen 3, Miller, Schiltz. Rebounds: Christensen 4, Lobato 4, Walz 4, Spreser 3, Miller 3, Ritter 3, Rush 2, Carmen Sepulveda 1. Assists: Rush 5, Miller 4, Lobato 2, Christensen 1, Spreser 1. Steals: Christensen 4, Miller 3, Rush 2, Spreser 1, Lobato 1, Ritter 1.

Wilson (37) — Shana Steinike's 14 points paced the Dragons with Janelle Ptace added nine.

Bulldogs' next foe survives

from catchitkansas.com

When the Bucklin Red Aces raced out to a 17-4 lead after one quarter, most people thought this was just going to be another 2 seed vs 7 seed blowout in the 1A Division II girls state tournament Thursday afternoon at Hays.

The Beloit-St. John's Blue Jays had other ideas outscoring Bucklin in the second, third and fourth quarter. Brenna Eilert hit a huge three to send the game into overtime. The freshman had a monster game pouring in 24 points and pulling down 8 rebounds.

Yet the Aces once again found some rhythm in the extra frame out scoring St. John's Tipton, 13-6, for the 56-49 win. Janae Price and Morgan Hood had 18 a piece for Bucklin and Allyson Rudd added 15.

Bucklin hit three of four shots in the overtime period, while Beloit-St. John's finished three for 11.

Beloit-St. John's ended its season at 17-9.

No. 2 Bucklin (21-3 record) moves on to a 3 p.m. semifinal showdown today against No. 3 Golden Plains (20-3).

In Thursday's other state tournament quarterfinals at Gross



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press Golden Plains coach Parker Christensen high-fived Kynndra Rush, Madison Walz (left) and all his Bulldogs as they closed in on a 57-37 state tournament win over Wilson on Thursday.

Memorial Coliseum, No. 1 Baileyville B&B scored a 51-35 win over Attica while No. 5 Dighton shot past No. 4 Argonia, 47-35.

Baileyville B&B and Dighton will meet for the other 1A semifinal at 6:30 p.m. today. Baileyville B&B owns a 21-3 record while Dighton's now 17-5.

The top seeds prevailed behind three-double figure scorers in Katie Hueter (12 points), Cassidy Hulsing (12) and Ashley Sudbeck (11).

Attica finished 15-9 overall. Dighton's Shambrey Budd netted 14 points to lead a Dighton offense that only hit 32.6 percent.

Jayhawks win in overtime

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Andrew Wiggins gathered the ball along the baseline with about a minute left in regulation, turned around and put up the kind of fade-away jumper that will soon make him millions.

When it splashed through the net, his teammates on the Kansas bench leaped to their feet.

Energized by the clutch play of their talented freshman, the No. 10 Jayhawks held on to force overtime, then pulled away for a 77-70 victory over Oklahoma State on Wednesday that earned them a spot in the semifinals of the Big 12 tournament.

"My shot was falling the whole game," said Wiggins, who finished with 30 points. "They cut off the base line, and step-back is one of my main moves, and it just fell through."

The notion that Andrew Wiggins' quiet demeanor holds him back is misguided. He had 30 points in Kansas' win over Oklahoma State and continues to lead the Jayhawks, Myron Medcalf writes. Story

Wayne Selden Jr. added 14 points, and Naadir Sharpe made four foul shots in the extra session to seal the win.

Upcoming events

- Today**
Girls basketball: Golden Plains vs. Bucklin in today's 1A Division II state semifinals at Hays, 3 p.m.
- Saturday**
College baseball: Dodge City at Colby, 1 p.m.
- Sunday**
College basketball: Dodge City at Colby, 1 p.m.
- Girls basketball: Golden Plains will play either the 4 p.m. title game or noon consolation final in Hays..


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