



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Marines to start off arts season

The first program of the Western Plains Arts Association season, the U.S. Marine Band, co-sponsored by the *Colby Free Press*, is set for 3 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

Word has been received that the director, Lt. Col. Jason Fettig, will not be present Sunday due to a major event in Washington.

"Given our high profile mission back in D.C., this occurs from time to time while we are on tour," the colonel said. "The band will be in the very capable hands of my assistant director, 1st Lt. Ryan Nowlin, and I promise that the performance will be so successful that you won't even notice

I am not there."

Established by an Act of Congress in 1798, the Marine Band claims to be America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Its primary mission is to provide music for the president of the United States and the commandant of the Marine Corps.

Free tickets are still available, though it is too late for them to be mailed. Pat Ziegelmeier of Western Plains said she will bring those tickets to the concert and have them in the lobby. Doors open to the general public at 2:15 p.m.

For information, call Ziegelmeier at (785) 460-5518.

## Jail bidding may be skipped

The contract for Thomas County's jail project may be awarded to an architect on a design-build basis now that the commissioners have decided, at their Monday meeting, to pursue that method rather than the more common design-bid-build.

Traditionally, projects are designed by one firm, then general contractors bid on the cost to build the designed building. State

law allows the design-build alternative in which the same firm handles the design and general contracting. But the county must first have a public hearing on the issue, said County Attorney Kevin Berens.

Commissioner Mike Baughn emphasized he wants a process in which the county selects the archi-

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## Kite festival in second year

Colby's kite festival will mark its second year this weekend at the high school.

The second annual "Winging It on the Plains" will run from 11 a.m. until dark Saturday. Premier Kites and Designs, a "world-class" kite maker, will show off everything from small toy kites to some of the largest ever made. Admission to the festival is free, as is parking. Organizers encourage people to bring their lawn chairs and sunscreen.

In case the festival gets rained out, the makeup day for the event will be Sunday. In fact, organizer Curt Giebler said, if the festival goes well enough on Saturday, it will be stretch over two days anyway.

"Winging It on the Plains" started last year when Giebler, who owns a retail store, Stuff, decided to bring a kite festival to Colby.

"Last year seemed to be a huge success," he said. "You know, we did it with last-minute advertising and planning."

He said is hoping for better weather and lots of people this year. Through his retail outlet,

Giebler said, he holds 15 similar festivals across the country, including one in Scottsbluff, Neb., every Labor Day weekend. Last year, he decided to bring yet another festival to Colby which reflects the town's motto, "The Oasis on the Plains." His daughter Nicole Weigel of Colby, owner of Nicole's School of Dance, is helping to make the event a reality again this year.

There are several big festivals on the coasts, he said last year, but he would like to bring them to the Midwest. This year's Scottsbluff festival lasted for three days and drew thousands of people.

The company plans to bring back its giant Rieleit Foil, a 75-foot-long kite that was visible across town last year, and a 50-foot-long, hollow Wind Turbine. There will be more practical kites on hand for people looking to make a purchase, including the still-large Giant Flo-Tails and Deltas and Dual Line and Quad Line stunt kites, along with experienced kite pilots to teach people how to fly.

## Oakley man charged in death

An Oakley man made a first appearance Friday in a murder case involving the death of an infant over 2 years old.

Jason Scott Force, 36, was arrested around 10 p.m. last Thursday night and charged with first-degree murder and child abuse, both felonies, said Jennifer Rapp, interim director of communica-

tions for the Kansas attorney general's office. Bond was set at \$1 million for Force, who is being held at the Trego County Jail.

Rapp said that Assistant Attorney General Nicole Romine, who is stationed in Goodland, will be prosecuting the case, but declined to comment further.



Jerry Hill (top) talked about how he prepares stones for jewelry, describing the materials he uses to polish and cut the stones, Friday at Colby Community College. Hill was the first guest for the college's Studio Friday series this fall. Rebel

Jay, (below left, at right) the art instructor at the college who holds Studio Friday in her classroom, spent some time chatting, and some people worked on their own projects (below right), but most spent a lot of time watching Hill work.

## Facets of jewelry in studio



## Tolling bell marks 9/11 today

Rachelle Blidner  
and Jonathan Lemire

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — With the solemn toll of a bell and a moment of silence, the nation paused today to mark the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks at the hallowed site just hours after President Barack Obama promised to root out and destroy a new group of terrorists threatening the U.S. Family and friends of those who died read the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in New York, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pa. Thelma Stuart, whose husband, Walwyn Wellington Stuart Jr., 28, was a Port Authority Police Department officer, said the nation should pray for its leaders, "that God will grant them wisdom, knowledge and understanding on directing them on moving forward."

In an address Wednesday, Obama authorized airstrikes inside Syria along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists.

Today, the president observed a moment of silence outside the White House with his wife Michelle, and Vice President Joe Biden before heading to the Pentagon's 9/11 memorial.

"Thirteen years after small and hateful minds conspired to break

us, America stands tall and America stands proud," the president said.

The shadow of a renewed threat hung over the New York City ceremony, where the sad roll call paused six times: to mark the moments when the first plane struck the World Trade Center, when the second plane struck, when the first tower fell, when the second tower fell, when the third plane struck the Pentagon and when the fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

Eileen Mora, 31, came to remember her cousin who died in the attack. She said at first she was angry about the timing of the president's announcement.

"Do it three weeks ago or do it in three weeks," she said. "We're all walking out the door today with tragic and sad and scary memories on us ... it's an invitation to fight on a day where we lost."

Joanne Barbara, whose husband of 30 years, Gerard Barbara, was a FDNY captain who died, urged all to feel for not only the lost but "those who continue to suffer from the aftermath."

"May God bless America, and may we never, never forget," she said.

Little about the annual ceremony at ground zero has changed. But so much around it has.

For the first time, the National Sept. 11 Memorial Museum — which includes gut-wrenching

artifacts and graphic photos of the attacks — is open. Fences around the memorial plaza have come down, integrating the sacred site more fully with the streets of Manhattan.

A new mayor is in office, Bill de Blasio, one far less linked to the attacks and their aftermath than his immediate predecessors. And finally, a nearly completed One World Trade Center has risen 1,776 feet above ground zero and will soon be filled with office workers.

But painful memories linger. Franklin Murray of New York wore a shirt with a photo of his brother, Harry Glenn, who worked at Cantor Fitzgerald, one of the companies that lost the most workers.

He said it gave him a "funny feeling" to know there was now a memorial. He has come to the ceremony before but "before it was getting harder, so I forced myself to get down here. Coming down to the area is rough."

For some, the increasing feel of a return to normalcy in the area threatens to obscure the tragedy that took place there and interfere with their grief.

"Instead of a quiet place of reflection, it's where kids are running around," said Nancy Nee, whose firefighter brother, George Cain, was killed in the attacks. "Some people forget this is a cem-

etry. I would never go to the Holocaust museum and take a selfie."

But for others, the changes are an important part of the healing process.

"When I first saw (One World Trade Center), it really made my heart sing," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother Charles Burlingame was piloting the plane before it crashed into the Pentagon. "It does every time I see it because it's so symbolic of what the country went through."

"I want to see it bustling," she said. "I want to see more housing down there; I want to see it alive and bursting with businesses."

The memorial plaza will be closed to the public for the day and available only to family members. It will reopen at 6 p.m., at which point thousands of New Yorkers are expected to mark the anniversary at the twin reflecting pools where the towers once stood.

The first ceremony at the site was held six months later and was organized by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and his aides. Bloomberg, who took office just three months after the attacks, remained in charge, acting as the master of ceremonies for the next decade.

He attended on Thursday, along with Rudy Giuliani who was mayor during the attacks.



Weather



National Weather Service
Tonight: Rain, mainly after 11 p.m. Low around 37. North wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.
Friday: Rain likely, mainly before 11 a.m. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 50. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 67. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Wednesday: High, 64; Low 47
Precip: Wednesday 0.03 inches
Month: 0.29 inches
Year: 14.83 inches
Normal: 17.78 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:23 a.m. 7:57 p.m.
Moon: waning, 83 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Jail bidding may be skipped

From "BIDDING," Page 1

tect based on his qualifications. And he wants to be sure the selected firm has a chance to meet with the stakeholders while creating the design.

Commissioner Paul Steele said he is concerned an architect awarded a design-build contract would design a more expensive structure. He said he wants to make sure the architect has to get approval of his design, but he thinks the design-build process might be quicker than design-bid-build.

Under either method, Berens told the commissioners, the county must send out a solicitation for qualifications and hire an architect based on the responses. Then, the county will move into cost negotiations with the selected firm.

Steele said he does not want to have any more buyouts, referring to the procedure that terminated architect Glen Strait's contract earlier this year.

Berens suggested allowing the Criminal Justice Strategic Planning Group to review the firms' qualifications and make a "short list" from which the commissioners can select the firm

they want to use.

"It's an interview process, essentially," Berens said.

The commissioners decided to go forward with the design-build alternative method and anticipated holding the required hearing on Sept. 30 after proper publication of notice. Steele emphasized that no money would be spent at this meeting.

In other business, the commissioners

• Renewed the county's audit and budget services contract with Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball for another three years at a total cost of \$83,900.

• Offered to let the Fair Board take over its own accounting and responsibility for meeting payroll regulations. Steele emphasized he wanted "compliance, no matter how it's done."

• Selected winners of the health department's BeeWise poster contest in which students created posters of ways to prevent the flu. The commissioners remarked that their decisions were tough to make because the posters were very creative.

• Approved the purchase of two pickups for the road and bridge department for \$49,655 from Colby Dodge. Tubbs and

Sons Ford Sales bid \$51,098 for pickups that met the county's specifications.

• Disbursed \$61,355 of money held in capital outlay funds to the Rural Fire Department in Brewster for the purchase of new equipment.

• Locked in gas rates with Secure Energy Consulting for half of the county's anticipated winter consumption at what \$4.74 per million BTUs.

• Declined to hire a part-time custodian for times when the county's full-time custodian is away from work.

• Asked Supervisor Clair Schrock about a section of right of way on County Road 11 where landowners complained about deterioration of the "back-slope" embankment. Schrock said the embankment was built many years ago and his department has tried to fix it in the past. He said he would look at the situation but does not know what the county's legal obligation is if the embankment is now on private property.

• Granted tax-roll corrections in favor of Raymond Oil Co. for \$1,039 and Russell Oil Co. for \$371 for approved exemptions.

Ribbon cut on K-23 project

A project to rebuild and widen 19 miles of K-23 north of Hoxie will be open to traffic within the next two weeks after a dedication on Monday.

Kansas Transportation Secretary Mike King and elected officials participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$14.5 million project Monday in Hoxie. Joining Secretary King was State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Rep. Don Hineman, Sheridan County Commissioner Doyle Kauk and Kip Spray of Venture Inc., the Great Bend contractor which did the work.

The six-month project included the removal of

old pavement, rebuilding the road base and repaving, widening the road by four feet.

"When this road opens, you're going to have a wider paved road that is safe and comfortable for you and your families," said Secretary King.

The secretary also announced that Hoxie will receive a \$700,000 Geometric Improvement grant to rebuild a 500-foot section of K-23 just north of U.S. 24. The project will tie the larger K-23 project in with city streets. It is expected to begin next summer.

Consolidation remarks questioned

TOPEKA (AP) - Gov. Sam Brownback and some Republican state senators say a man appointed by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Paul Davis to a school efficiency task force should be removed because of comments he made about school consolidation.

Davis appointed John Vratil, a Republican who is a former vice president of the Kansas Senate, to a task force that is studying ways for schools to use more of their state funding for classroom instruction and less on other expenses.

During a debate Saturday at the Kansas State Fair, Brownback brought up comments that Vratil made in a 2011 article published by The Topeka Capital-Journal, the Lawrence Journal-World reported (bit.ly/1uJJ4vi). Vratil was cited as saying that in spite of more bud-

get cuts coming, Johnson County schools would be able to sustain themselves for a number of years. But he said rural schools should need to face the reality that they might be forced to consolidate and that taxpayers in Johnson County were unhappy about paying taxes to prop up those schools.

"Rural school districts will be starved out of existence," Vratil was quoted as saying. "And the sooner they realize that, the better off they will be."

Brownback said he opposes the forced consolidation of rural schools and pointed out that Davis appointed Vratil to the efficiency commission. His campaign also distributed fliers to the audience claiming that forced consolidation would be part of the "Davis-Vratil Education Agenda."

Senate Majority Leader Terry

Bruce, a Hutchinson Republican, said that calling for the forced consolidation of rural schools is "essentially calling for the death of numerous rural communities."

Vratil did not immediately respond to a phone message from The Associated Press seeking comment. Davis' campaign spokesman, Chris Pumpelly, said Davis opposes school consolidation "as strongly as he opposes Sam Brownback's massive cuts to education."

Throughout his first term in office, Brownback has been harshly criticized by education groups for cuts in base state aid for public schools. Brownback has said those cuts were the result of the federal government phasing out stimulus aid to states. But his critics say the state could have replaced that money.

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.

Blood drive planned at Brewster High

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. next Wednesday at Brewster High School. For information or to make an appointment, call Rae Steward at (785) 694-2236.

Mops group to begin at Methodist Church

The newly formed Colby Mops group will have its first meeting at 9 a.m. Friday at the Colby United Methodist Church with a morning of fellowship and a segment on courage. Mops aims to encourage, equip and develop every mom to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader. Expectant mothers through moms of fifth graders are welcome. For information, contact Brittney Johnson at (785) 421-8466.

Agora coming to Colby on Saturday

Agora, the Market Place, will make its third appearance from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave. The fair will feature vendors, arts and crafts, rummage and bake sales and a food booth. For information, call Lynette Ball at (785) 675-8606.

Once a Month Lunch coming up Saturday

Once a Month Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St. This free meal is served to all who come the second Saturday of each month. No reservations. For questions, call Leisa Hansen at 460-2710.

Citizens plans classes on chronic conditions

Citizens Medical Center will hold a series of six classes designed to help people manage chronic conditions from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Mondays, beginning next week in the hospital conference room. Topics include how to become more active, make healthy food choices, deal with emotions, set and achieve weekly goals and identify and solve problems. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown in the hospital's education department, 460-4850.

Orchestra starts rehearsal, seeks players

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra has started rehearsals. Everyone interested in playing is invited to rehearsals at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at the Colby Community College band room, in the Cultural Arts Center. For questions, call Mary Shoaff, (785) 462-2159, or Janet Hopson, (785) 462-5102.

Pets ready for adoption at animal clinic

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a female corgi, a male minpin mix and an American bulldog-pit mix available for adoption. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Divorce recovery class running at bank

Nine weeks are left of a 10-week divorce recovery class and support group for women which meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays in the basement of the Sunflower Bank in Colby. All women are welcome. For information, call Lynette Ball at (785) 675-8606.

Volunteer training offered for emergencies

Thomas County Emergency Management will hold emergency response training from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. over four Saturdays beginning Oct. 11 at the Colby Fire Department. Register by Tuesday, Sept. 23. For information or to register, call Autumn AraSmith or David Becker at 460-4516.

Health Department offering flu shots

The Thomas County Health Department is holding flu clinics as long as vaccine supplies hold out. No appointment is necessary; just fill out and print a consent form at www.thomascountyks.com under the Health Department tab. Remaining dates are 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept 23, at the 4-H Building on the fairgrounds; and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Health Department, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 2. For information, call 460-4596.

Senior center needs delivery help

The Senior Progress Center is looking for two volunteers to deliver meals to people's homes from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. every Thursday. Mileage may be reimbursed. Talk to Kaila DeBoer at 460-2901 for information or to volunteer.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

SATURDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 SUNDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 14, 2014

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAMILY, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NICK, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, HBO, MAX, SHOW).

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and rows for various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, E!, ESPN, ESPN2, FAMILY, FOOD, FX, HGTV, HISTORY, LIFETIME, MTV, NICK, SPIKE, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TRAVEL, TV LAND, USA, VH1, WGN, HBO, MAX, SHOW).





## Other Viewpoints

### Judicial selection system worked OK

If the screening of applicants by the Supreme Court Nominating Commission ensures that only liberals reach the state's high court, as critics charge, how did it happen that Gov. Sam Brownback's first chosen justice was someone as conservative as he is, his former chief counsel Caleb Stegall? That's because the critics are wrong and the system works.

Kansas is among the two-thirds of states that select at least some Supreme Court justices through a commission-based gubernatorial appointment process. As the University of Denver's Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System said in releasing a new study on how states choose justices: "Commission-based gubernatorial appointment, with a well-structured and operated nominating commission, is a proven, effective alternative to other selection methods, which often politicize judges and emphasize campaigning over experience." The system means attorneys "need not have political connections, a campaign war chest or the support of special interests to apply" and that the decision "focuses on candidates' experience, character and qualifications," according to the study.

That's what Kansas' nominating commission has done for 56 years to help governors fill Supreme Court openings. It had done the same for the Court of Appeals until last year's unneeded reform by the Legislature, which gave the governor free rein to choose those judges subject to state Senate confirmation.

When Brownback went for the person he knew and trusted best among the three names the commission recommended last month for the Supreme Court, he was only exercising the discretion afforded him by the state constitution.

He also happened to be making a sound choice, which makes partisan critics of Stegall as off base as partisan critics of the court. Though Stegall's time on the Court of Appeals has been brief, his reputation, intellect and legal experience, including as Jefferson County's elected prosecutor, have earned him bipartisan praise. Before his addition to the Court of Appeals he was described as "well-qualified" by House Minority Leader Paul Davis — now the Democratic gubernatorial nominee — who looked political himself last week in criticizing Brownback for putting "his own political agenda before the best interests of Kansans" in elevating Stegall to the Supreme Court.

Those concerned about some of Stegall's past clients and writings should trust his references and his statement last week that he is "devoted to our democracy's promise of a fair, impartial and independent judiciary that is committed to the rule of law."

It's probably too much to expect the governor to say he misjudged the state's system of picking Supreme Court justices — which he said last year failed "the democracy test" and was controlled by a "special interest group." But in the wake of Stegall's selection Brownback should at least call off the legislative dogs who'd like to further underfund and undermine the high court and to abolish the nominating commission entirely.

— *The Wichita Eagle, via the Associated Press*

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor@nwkansan.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.

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### Reclining airline seats just cause trouble

It seems airline passengers are getting into scuffles over space lately when someone tries to recline their seat.

Time was, you could lay your seat back and relax during a flight, maybe take a nap. Those days are gone.

Today, the rudest thing a person can do on an airliner is recline their seat. The airlines have moved the rows so close together, it puts the seat right in the lap of the person behind.

If the poor guy happens to be working on a computer, or watching a movie, he has to fold it up. It's no wonder people get irate. People are already irate over the ever-shrinking space they get for ever-increasing ticket prices. Then add some bozo who's so thoughtless as to recline his or her seat....

Of course, when customers get into a fight over seat backs, the crew has to intervene. That escalates into calling the pilot, who has to divert to a nearby airport and turn the miscreants over to the authorities.

And that inconveniences everyone on the flight, especially the ones involved in the dispute — who sometimes wind up in jail and always wind up being put off their flight.

People ought to have more sense than to fight about the "right" to lean a seat back, of course. But the airlines should just disconnect the recline button at this point. It doesn't do



Steve Haynes

#### • Along the Sappa

anything today but cause problems.

And that may be coming. In fact, one consultant has actually proposed something I predicted several years ago: Seats that fit so close together that passengers stand through the flight. The "seats" have a padded back to lean on and a little ledge to park your derrière on, but you couldn't really sit down. And recline the seat? Ha!

This guy actually has built a prototype. Maybe I should charge him something for stealing my idea, but seriously, this can't be good for the public. Jets are quick and efficient, but imagine standing from, say, Denver to Kansas City. You'd be belted into the "seat" to protect you from turbulence, of course, but I'm not so sure about a tray table for your soda. Assuming they still serve you soda.

Handicapped? Can't stand for two hours? Good luck.

Airline travel used to be romantic, an ad-

venture. Pilots were like gods and stewardesses certainly looked like goddesses, a far cry from today's overworked, harassed "cabin attendants."

Today, one airline president says, you just have to realize that a 733 is just "a bus with wings." And really, that's the problem. We haven't adjusted our vision to the era of cheap, frequent flight, no amenities and precious little space. We're still stuck in the DC-7 era.

An airline is a business, of course, and to keep flying, it has to make money. That's been a problem of late, with nearly every major airline going through at least one bankruptcy. The little ones often just fade away.

Today, most are making money, thanks to added fees for everything from checked bags to an extra inch of space in coach. But the average airline treats its customers like dirt, scum to be jammed into a tight space and to be seen, not heard from.

Sure, we'd like to return to that earlier era, but it ain't gonna happen. If you have to fly, just suck it up and whatever you do, don't lean your seat back on the guy behind you.

*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.*

### Action taken to reform Veterans Affairs

In a year when Kansans have been inundated by news reports of mismanagement and even deaths caused by failures at the Department of Veterans Affairs, there is finally good news to deliver:

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives came together to pass compromise legislation to overhaul access to veterans' health care by offering the choice of utilizing care outside the government system if needed. In August, the Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (H.R. 3220) was signed into law.

I was proud to sponsor this bill, which was developed as a consequence of the deplorable situations veterans have been experiencing at veterans' medical facilities all across the country. Over the past few months, Kansans reached out to me every day to share their troubling experiences. The stories came from veterans, their family members and even fearful employees, who spoke of turmoil in the system and veterans being made to feel like a number — rather than like patriots deserving of care from a grateful nation.

I am pleased the Senate and House did not walk away from this issue, and called on the department to live up to its commitment to care for those who have sacrificed for our country. While HR 3220 offers hope to veterans by including some of the most significant reforms in decades, it is just the beginning. Congress now has the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of these change.

First and foremost, this law takes an important step toward ensuring veterans no longer struggle with unacceptable wait times at department facilities. Instead of waiting months, veterans will now have the new "Choice Card," which gives them the option of seeing their local doctor if they are not offered an appointment within a reasonable time.

Another important issue it addresses is the burden of distance and travel time rural vet-



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

#### • Moran's Memo

erans face when seeking care. Kansans understand this all too well, since the average driving time to a veterans facility in our state is two hours. If a veteran lives more than 40 miles from a facility, they may now select a community provider to get the timely, quality care they deserve. This is of utmost importance to the 41 percent of veterans in the system who live in rural areas.

This provision to serve rural veterans is modeled after a pilot program I led in the House, which became law in 2008, called Access Received Closer to Home. I am pleased the compromise reform legislation also extends this program in the five pilot sites already operating across the country, including Pratt, Kan.

Veterans from the five pilot sites are overwhelmingly satisfied. I hope the new secretary, Bob McDonald, will authorize the expansion of the program to serve the entire state.

These important changes are already making a difference in the lives of Kansas veterans. Lee Mahin of Smith Center recently reached out to my office to share good news. He was surprised to receive a phone call from the department letting him know he would no longer be forced to travel four hours to Omaha for his colonoscopy and would now be allowed to have the exam in his home town.

In addition to ensuring timely, high-quality care, increased accountability at the department is fundamental to change. The reform bill gives the secretary authority to fire or demote executives based on their performance

and/or misconduct. On the day of his resignation, former Secretary Shinseki said he "was too trusting of some" and could not "explain the lack of integrity amongst some of the leaders of our health care facilities." I hope Secretary McDonald wastes no time in using this authority to develop a workforce that is committed to serving veterans and changing the culture of indifference.

By offering veterans choice and flexibility — and making certain bureaucrats are held accountable — this law will begin to improve the lives of countless veterans who have lost hope in the agency that was created to serve them. I was proud to support passage of this important bill, but our work continues. I will work to make certain Kansas veterans have a Department of Veterans Affairs worthy of their service and sacrifice.

*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, 361-A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6527. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

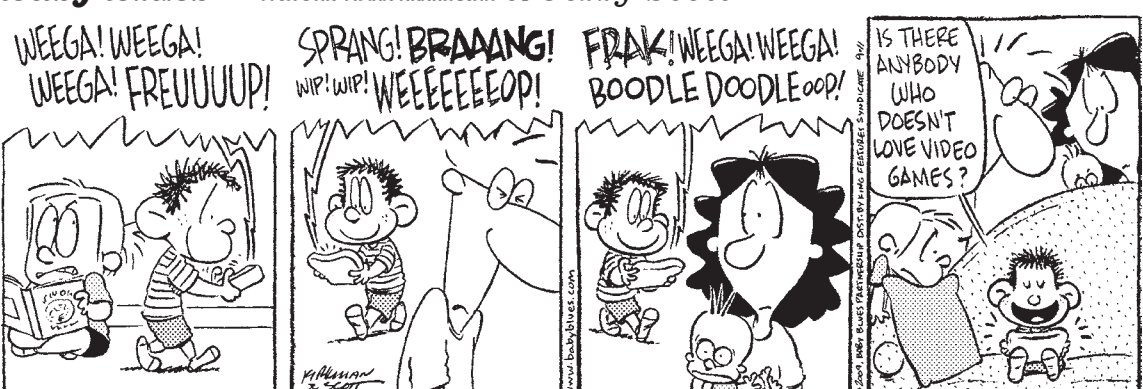
U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



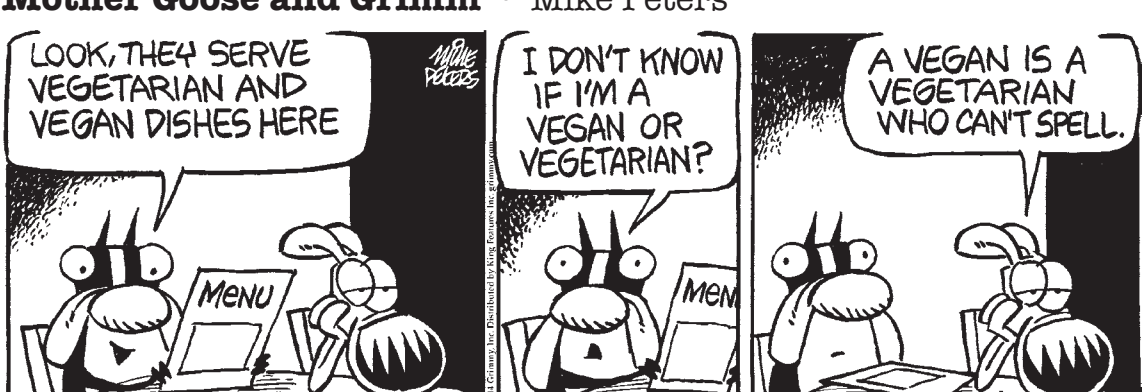
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



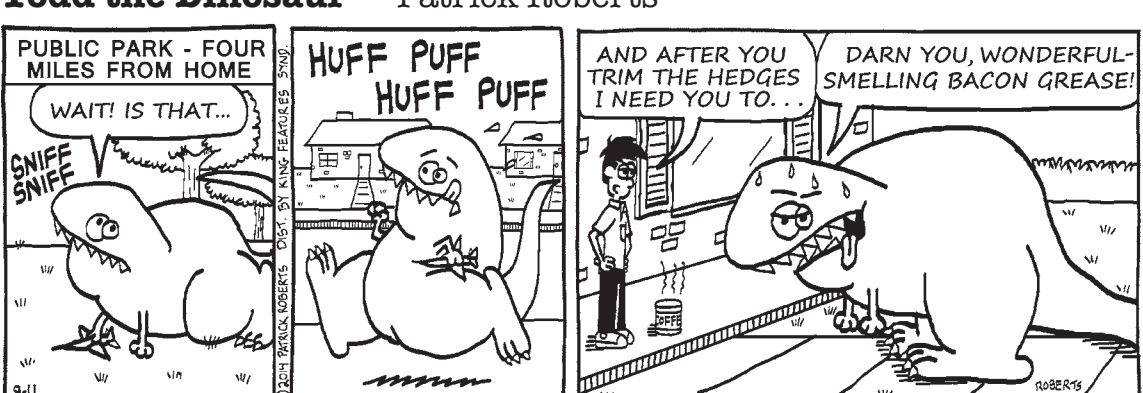
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



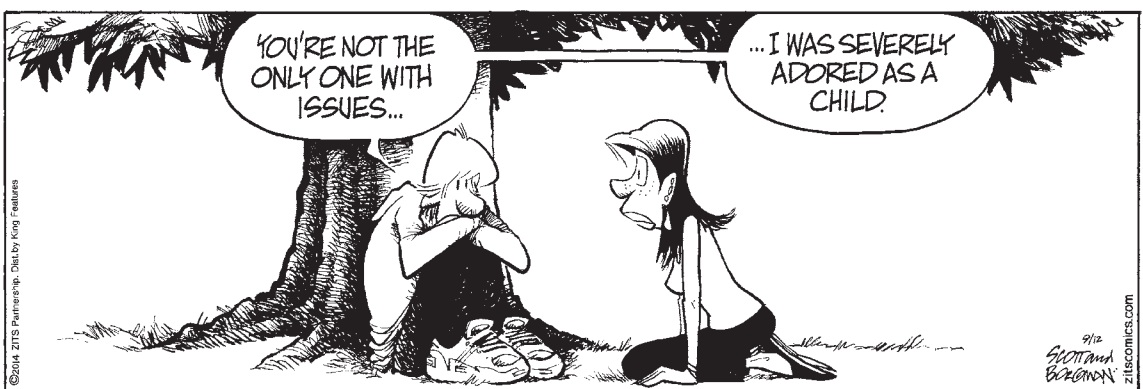
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel

Antiques and Collecting

Cobalt 'ships' not in demand

Q: My grandmother left me a cobalt-blue glass pitcher and 12 tall matching drinking glasses.

I think the set is more than 100 years old. My aunt once told me they were stored in my grandmother's china closet and rarely used.

A: Your set of Depression Glass dishes is about 75 years old, not 100. They were made in the late 1930s by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co.

The pattern was made by adding the ship decoration to Hazel-Atlas' undecorated Moderntone dishes. Pitchers and tumblers in the Ships pattern are not in great demand these days.

Q: We have a set of children's furniture that includes a crib, dresser, chifferobe with drawers and a door, and a toy box.

A: Thomas Alva Edison, the inventor, bought the Wisconsin Chair Company of New London, Wisconsin, in 1917 and changed the name to Wisconsin Panel and Cabinet Co.

Later, the company became Edison Wood Products. A line of children's furniture was introduced in 1927, sold as "Edison Little Folks Furniture" beginning in 1937.

Value of your set that has been refinished and has replacement parts, \$600.

Q: When I was 10 years old (I'm 92 now), an elderly family friend gave me his violin. It has a label inside that reads "Anno 17 - , Carlo Bergonzi, Fece in Cremona."

A: Carlo Bergonzi (1683-1747) was indeed a pupil of Antonio Stradivari, and he made violins on his own, too. We receive a lot of questions about violins and can tell you that copies of Bergonzi and other high-quality 17th- and 18th-century violins have been made since the 19th century.

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♠ Q 4 ♥ K J 5 ♦ A 10 8 5 3 ♣ Q 6 2

WEST ♠ J 8 5 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ — ♣ A K J 9 8 4 3 EAST ♠ 10 9 6 3 2 ♥ 6 ♦ J 9 6 4 ♣ 10 7 5

The bidding: South West North East 1♥ 4♣ 4♥ Pass 5♥ Pass 5♦ Pass

A Grand Slam Let's say you're declarer in seven hearts and West leads the king of clubs. You ruff and see that you're sure to make the contract unless the missing diamonds are divided 4-0.

Even in that case, the grand slam can be made by playing the diamonds correctly. Thus if West has the J-9-6-4, you can first cash the king and later finesse dummy's ten to nullify his diamonds.

Your only problem, therefore, is to try to discover which defender, if either, might have all four missing diamonds. This is not a difficult task if you go about it the right way.

You draw three rounds of trumps, noting that West started with three of them. You next play the ace of spades, to which both opponents follow suit, and at this point the remainder of the play becomes crystal clear.

West surely must have had at least six clubs for his four-club bid, and since he's already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot possibly hold four diamonds. So, if either opponent has four diamonds, it must be East.

Accordingly, you lead a low diamond to dummy's ace at trick six. After West shows out, you continue with the ten. When East covers with the jack, you win with the king, cross to dummy's carefully preserved queen of spades and then lead another diamond, this time finessing against East's nine, to bring home the grand slam.

Note that if you had started the diamond suit by first playing the king from your hand, the grand slam would have gone down the drain. (c)2014 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"Sorry, Mommy, I'm resting my brain for my test tomorrow."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/11

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

M KCU'W YPTGG ACK LPJA MW ICGWG WC BPU Z UZWMCUZD GHZIT HBCYBZL, FPW MW LPGW FT ZGWBCUCLMIZD. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE THE COURIER DRIVES A SMALL VOLKSWAGEN WHILE WORKING, HE'LL SEND A MESSAGE IN A BEETLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Numerical datum, for short 5 Ali — 9 Tarzan's son 12 Met melody 13 Related 14 Lawyers' org. 15 International financial institution 17 Neither mate 18 Block 19 Approved of 21 2009 Pixar movie 22 Transparent 24 Audubon subject 27 Court 28 Daybreak 31 Commotion 32 Embrace 33 Whopper 34 Part of an egg 36 Navy newbie (Abbr.) 37 Huff and puff 38 Tilted 40 Greeting 41 Thanks-giving parade sponsor 43 Super-market sections 47 Can. neighbor 48 Filming schedule 51 Solidify 52 Quite some 53 Lecherous look 54 "Erie Canal" mule 55 Comic strip possum 56 Mail

Crossword solution grid with words filled in.

Solution time: 24 mins. Yesterday's answer 9-11

Empty crossword grid for puzzle.

# Classifieds

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**AGORA-"The Market Place"** 3rd Annual Church and Community Wide Event, featuring vendor show of arts and crafts, huge rummage sale with great quality used items, bake sale, and food booth. Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin.

## Notices

**Colby United Methodist Church** welcomes your donations of good, clean items for our annual rummage sale. Drop off at 950 S. Franklin Sept. 8-12, 10AM-7PM. Proceeds used for missions, and donations are tax deductible. Call 460-2761 for information.

**"Lounge by the Lake" (Atwood)** September 20 from 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Live music THE SELBY DUNKER BAND [www.facebook.com/SelbyDunker](http://www.facebook.com/SelbyDunker)

**Plum Creek Ltd. - Colby** End of Summer Sale, New Fall Arriving Daily.

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## Help Wanted

**Are you looking for the perfect part-time job?** Oakley Cleaners is now accepting applications for part-time laundry workers (2-3 days/week). You will be working days, no nights or Sundays. Will be working with just a few other employees. Call 672-1012 for information or pick up an application at 111 E 3rd St, Oakley.

## Help Wanted

**Make a Career Call** and "Taste the Success" Sales Positions - Frito-Lay, Inc. the world's snack food leader, has an immediate opening at our Colby area. Responsibilities include selling and merchandising our complete line of products to existing and new accounts. This position does require travel. Candidates must possess the following: Relevant Sales Experience (3 years of Grocery or DSD Sales), Clean Driving Record, Weekend Availability, HS diploma or Equivalent Preferred. Frito-Lay offers a competitive compensation and benefits package that includes stock options. Interested candidates must apply at [www.fritolayemployment.com](http://www.fritolayemployment.com) EOE M/F/D/V.

## Help Wanted

**An Energetic person** for full-time Registered Veterinary Technician/ Receptionist for our growing Veterinary Clinic. The right CVT will be considered. Responsible for all aspects of customer service, computer skills necessary, as well as self-motivated team player!! Dependability a must! Some Saturdays and kennel duties involved. Apply in person at the Colby Animal Clinic 810 E. 4th, Colby, KS.

**Frontier Ag in Atwood needs a** sprayer operator. Competitive pay and benefits. Will train if necessary. Contact Lane Woodworth 785-626-3932.

## Help Wanted

**Employment Opportunity:** Colby 24/7 Travel Store is currently accepting applications for part-time or full-time cashiers. Compensation includes \$9.00 starting wage plus incentives including BCBS health and life insurance, 401K, and paid vacation. Apply online at [www.24-7-stores.com](http://www.24-7-stores.com) or apply in person at Colby 24/7 Travel Store, 1980 S. Range.

**Rawlins County Extension Office** is seeking a full time office professional. Resume required, send to 406 State Street, Atwood, KS 67730, or call Jo at 785-626-3192.

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