



County votes to fill hole in road

County road crews will fill a controversial hole in County Road 28 where the township has refused to replace sand removed for work on other roads, the commissioners decided at their Wednesday meeting.

Linda Sowers, wife of Commissioner Byron Sowers, raised the issue again at the meeting after visiting privately with Road Department Supervisor Clair Schrock.

She said Schrock told her he "didn't think it would cost that much" for the county to fill the hole, which had been dug by the township board's president, Lonnie Wilson. Wilson ran against Byron Sowers in primary elections held earlier this year.

Wilson previously said the area had washed out in a heavy rain, revealing sand that was good for

use on other township roads. So, he removed more of the road and right-of-way to harvest more of the sand. Wilson previously said he planned to fill the area, but Linda Sowers said the open pit has been there for three years without any efforts to refill it.

Commissioner Paul Steele said it is unlikely that the township will repay any of the cost to fill the hole. But he said he supported the idea of having the road department fix the problem.

Byron Sowers jokingly suggested the road department could get the fill dirt from the pasture next door to the hole, which is Wilson's pasture.

"Are we willing to eat the cost, or are we willing to sue the township to pay us back?" asked Com-

See "ROAD," Page 2

School honors founders' work

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkansas.com

Heartland Christian School recognized its founders during the school's annual banquet, talking about the school's history and how the three men helped it to grow.

To start the festivities Mark Myers, Lynn Goossen and Randy Regier rose to be recognized while a crowd of around 220 guests at the school's annual "Partners for the Future" banquet Nov. 21 applauded them. The men founded the school in 1995 as a place for their children to get a good Christian education.

Students at the school sang and recited Bible verses to start the banquet, then organizers played video interviews of the founders. Goossen and Regier recalled the conversation they had at a feed-lot 20 years ago. The men made

up their minds they could not let their children go through public school, considering the sorts of things they were likely to learn there. It soon became apparent to them that to get their kids a Christian education, they would have to build a school themselves; no other one would provide what they were looking for.

When the school first started at Mingo Bible Church, it had 28 students. The next year, there were over 50 of them, and today there are 71.

Since Heartland was founded at about the same time Colby High School was built, its founders were able to get modular classrooms from the public schools which they hauled to Mingo on flatbed trailers pulled by tractors.

The founders saw the hand of God at work in them finding

See "SCHOOL," Page 2



Santa season starts up here

Christmas cheer was in the air Sunday as a local resident playing Mr. Claus (above) greeted Annica Prochazka, 3, at Santa City in the Scout Hut at Fike Park, the second day Santa City was open. On Saturday, Joyce Faidley (right), a Colby native who lives in Sacramento, Calif., stopped to speak with Ray Imhoff at the holiday craft fair in the Community Building while she was home to visit family and friends over the holidays.



SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press

Speaker wins second term

By John Hanna
AP Political Writer

TOPEKA (AP) – Kansas House Speaker Ray Merrick easily won a second term today as the chamber's top leader, despite a recent controversy over his comment in an interview that government employees "produce nothing."

Merrick's fellow Republicans appeared to

ignore complaints from state workers and a public campaign against him from the Kansas Democratic Party. GOP House members and members-elect voted 80-16 to retain Merrick as their leader for the next two years.

Meanwhile, House Democrats picked veteran Rep. Tom Burroughs of Kansas City to serve as the chamber's minority leader. The job was open because former Minority Leader Paul Davis of Lawrence gave up his House

seat to run unsuccessfully for governor. Burroughs prevailed in a 17-11 vote over Rep. Jim Ward of Wichita.

Lawmakers met at the Statehouse to pick leaders for 2015 and 2016. The entire House must ratify Merrick's selection as speaker when members open their 2015 session in January, but that's considered a formality because

See "SPEAKER," Page 2



Angels hope to make kids' Christmas great

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is supporting the children in its program this holiday season by collecting money and gifts for the organization's Christmas party.

A handful of kids – "littles" and one "big" who are part of the organization – gathered at Orscheln Farm and Home on Tuesday afternoon to decorate an "angel tree" in front of the store. Angels with the names of littles who need gifts written on them were hung on the tree, with the hope that someone will take one and buy the child a

gift.

The organization asks people to deliver presents to the United Methodist Church by Wednesday, Dec. 17. Director Orvella Romine said gifts will be given out at the party on Dec. 20.

Children in the program, known as "littles," are matched with mentors, or "big," who might be adults or teens who are still in school themselves. Aricka Bryant and Caelen Arendt, both 10, and Lendon Clapper, 9, showed up at the store to help decorate the tree, along with Bridget Bickner, 18, a

senior at Colby High School who is a big in the in School Program. Littles in that program interact with their bigs during school hours.

The organization will also have its second annual stocking drive to support the program. Stockings will be mailed out to people with notes asking them to make a tax-deductible contribution to the program. You can also buy a stocking at Dillons for \$1; the cashier will hang up the stocking with your or a family member's name at the front of the store.

The organization has 41 matches this year, and is looking for 50 in the coming year.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press
Caelen Arendt (left), and Aricka Bryant, both 10-year-old "littles" with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County, hung decorations on the organization's Angel Tree, Tuesday at Orscheln Farm and Home, in the hope that customers will buy a gift for one of the "angels" on the tree. Bridget Bickner (right) a Colby High senior and a big with Big Brothers Big Sisters, helped them.



Weather



National Weather Service Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 15. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny; high near 57. South wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. Light and variable wind becoming north 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 50.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Sunday: A 40 percent chance of rain. Cloudy; high near 51.

Wednesday: High, 48; Low 19 Thursday: High, 61; Low 25 Friday: High, 77; Low 27 Saturday: High, 71; Low 18 Sunday: High, 21; Low 7 Precip: None

November: 0.05 inches Year: 16.84 inches Normal: 20.65 inches (K-State Experiment Station) Sunrise and Sunset Tuesday 7:46 a.m. 5:21 p.m. Moon: waxing, 84 percent Wednesday 7:47 a.m. 5:21 p.m. Moon: waxing, 91 percent (U.S. Naval Observatory)

School honors founders

From "SCHOOL," Page 1

land in Mingo to locate their first school, and again in 2002 when they moved the school to its current location in the old Colby Plaza, an empty shopping center on the northwest side of town. The state had historically bad weather that year, they said, which meant people who couldn't farm spent their time working on the school instead. Furthermore, the owner of the

building, which had last sold for \$800,000, eventually agreed to sell it to them for \$125,000. Regier said anyone who could not see the hand of God in that deal is blind.

The founders took the stage near the end of the presentation, giving the credit to God for putting them in the right place, and challenging the crowd to find out where God wants them. It could be giving money to the school, sending their kids there

or taking up a leadership position. Mostly, they said, people should be praying for the school.

Other interviews were shown with students and teachers talking about what their education has done to help them. Many of the teachers attended the school when they were young, and Regier pointed out the he is not longer working to keep the school going for his children, but rather his grandchildren.

County votes to repair road

From "ROAD," Page 1

missioner Mike Baughn. Steele said he felt a lawsuit would just cause more expense in legal fees, so he suggested capping the expense at \$1,500 and forgetting about a lawsuit.

During their discussion on this issue, the commissioners received a call from the county attorney on another matter but did not ask him any questions about the county's liability if someone gets hurt on that road or whether the county was permitted to fix the problem at all.

County Clerk Shelly Harms wondered aloud what the county would do if this kind of situation

happens again. Steele said the board would deal with that when the time comes.

"I want it done," he said.

Sowers moved to direct the road department to fix the problem. He and Steele voted in favor of the motion, but Baughn opposed it.

After the motion passed, Schrock said he would add the project to his winter work schedule and moved to leave. Linda Sowers followed him into the hall afterward for a private discussion.

Byron Sowers recently received a threatening, anonymous letter but it is unclear whether the letter is directly connected to this situation.

NASA launching new spacecraft

By Marcia Dunn

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - NASA's quest to send astronauts out into the solar system begins this week with a two-laps-around-Earth test flight.

The new Orion spacecraft is not going to Mars just yet; Thursday's debut will be unmanned and last just 4 1/2 hours. But it will be the farthest a built-for-humans capsule has flown since the Apollo moon missions, shooting 3,600 miles out into space in order to gain enough momentum to re-enter the atmosphere at a scorching 20,000 mph.

The dry run, if all goes well, will end with a Pacific splash-down off Mexico's Baja coast. Navy ships will recover the capsule, a la Apollo, for future use.

This initial Orion is rigged with 1,200 sensors to gauge its durability for the day when astronauts do climb aboard during

the decade ahead. Advertised destinations include an asteroid to be corralled in lunar orbit for human exploration in the 2020s, followed by Mars in the 2030s.

"We're approaching this as pioneers," said William Hill of NASA's exploration systems development office. "We're going out to stay eventually.... It's many, many decades away, but that's our intent."

Lockheed Martin Corp. built the capsule and is staging the \$370 million test flight for NASA.

Orion is NASA's first new spacecraft for humans in more than a generation, succeeding the now-retired space shuttles. Unlike the capsules under development by two U.S. companies for space station crew transport, Orion is meant for the long haul, both in time and space; it would be supplemented with habitats for potential Mars trips.

"We need a spacecraft that's

going to be sturdy enough and robust enough" to carry astronauts well beyond low-Earth orbit for weeks and months at a time, said Lockheed Martin's Bryan Austin, a former NASA shuttle flight director who will oversee Orion's maiden voyage. "That's how Orion really separates itself from the commercial field. They're there to get you to station and back. Of course, we're there to be hardened enough to sustain it for that long duration."

For this orbital tryout, a Delta IV rocket will hoist Orion from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Liftoff is scheduled for 7:05 a.m. EST, just after sunrise. The rocket, with Orion and its launch escape tower at the tip-top, stretches 242 feet high.

Future Orion launches will use the mega rocket still under development by NASA, known as SLS or Space Launch System.

Kansas House Speaker wins his second term

From "SPEAKER," Page 1

the GOP will have a 97-28 majority.

Merrick, from Stilwell, is a conservative and a strong backer of aggressive personal income tax cuts enacted in 2012 and 2013 at GOP Gov. Sam Brownback's urging to boost the state's economy. The state now faces shortfalls in the current and next state budgets totaling more than \$700 million, and Merrick has said the state has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

The speaker made headlines recently af-

ter an interview with The Wichita Eagle in which he said government employment doesn't stimulate the economy.

"Government employees produce nothing. They're a net consumer. And you got that cost forever and ever and ever because they're on the KPERS (pension) plan, they're on all the government insurance and everything," Merrick said during the interview.

A spokeswoman issued a statement calling the comments "poorly phrased" and said many state workers make valuable contribu-

tions.

Democrats launched a symbolic online petition calling for Merrick's ouster. The speaker's challenge Monday came from Rep. Virgil Peck, of Tyro, whose backers touted his experience on the House Appropriations Committee.

Peck had a serious gaffe in his past, too. In 2011, as lawmakers studied a plan to control feral hogs by allowing them to be shot from helicopters, Peck joked that if the idea worked, the state might have a solution for illegal immigration. He later apologized.

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.

Army needs help ringing its bell

Thomas County Salvation Army volunteers need people to man the red kettle at Walmart through the Christmas season. To join up, call Sue Draper at 462-7511.

Booked for Lunch to honor volunteers

Booked for Lunch at noon Wednesday at the Pioneer Memorial Library will be a special Christmas program honoring volunteers. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

Christmas coffee set at Meadow Lake

This year, the Colby PEO is sponsoring the annual Christmas coffee formerly held by the Colby Women's League. Coffee and brunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Meadow Lake Country Club. Donations accepted for area charities. For information, call Becky White at 462-6500.

Red Cross blood drive at college Thursday

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community College Student Union. For an appointment, call (800) RED-CROSS, or just stop by. For questions, call Marie Kersenbrock at 460-4797 or go to www.redcrossblood.org.

Dance planned Saturday at Legion Hall

There will be a public dance from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Colby American Legion Hall. Ray Gerver will play. For information, call Lue Duffey, (785) 269-7057.

Orchestra plans evening holiday concert

Beverly Rucker will conduct the Pride of the Prairie Orchestra at 7 p.m. Saturday in a holiday concert, "Christmas on the Prairie," at the Frahm Theatre on the Colby Community College Campus. Admittance is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and \$3 for students, or by patron season ticket. For questions, Mary Shoaff, (785) 462-2159 or Janet Hopson, (785) 462-5102.

Lions plan big feed downtown Saturday

The High Plains Lions will have a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Donations of \$5 each will go to club projects. For information, call Roger Hale at 462-1172.

Kids can shop at Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop is coming from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the board room of the Thomas County Office Complex. With the help of friendly elves, children from preschool through fourth grade may buy Christmas gifts (up to four) for parents, grandparents or guardians, for a suggested donation of \$4 per gift. For information, call the Thomas County Community Foundation at 460-9152.

Light parade Sunday; registration Friday

The 17 annual Christmas Light Parade will be at 5:45 p.m. Sunday beginning at Second and Franklin. Entries are due Friday at the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. For information, call 460-3401.

Nativity sets on display at church 'Nativi-Tea'

Come and view over 300 nativity sets on display and enjoy a cup of hot cider and a cookie at the First Presbyterian Church's Nativi-Tea from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 462-6342 for questions.

Methodist women plan homes tour Sunday

The Colby United Methodist Women plan their annual Holiday Homes Tour from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 to 12, may be purchased at the church, from any member or at the door of the homes; all proceeds go to mission projects. Homes this year are Stan and Maradith Molstad, 1045 Villa Vista; Melany and Sandy Wilks, 285 N. Garfield Ave.; Drew and Julie Barns, 1809 Harvey Court; and Terri Cloe, 230 S. Grant. For information, call the church office at 460-2761 or Kathy Calliham at 462-2081.

Construction shifts emergency room entry

Due to construction, access to the Citizens Medical Center emergency room will be through the southwest "birthing room" entrance off Franklin Ave. through Monday. Concrete work between the hospital and clinic has closed off the College Drive entrance. For information, contact Megan Carmichael at 460-1214.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

TUESDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 2, 2014

WEDNESDAY EVENING

DECEMBER 3, 2014

Table of TV listings for Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, 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 of TV listings for Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Columns include time slots (7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30) and various channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, ION, A&E, AMC, ANIMAL, BET, BRAVO, CARTOON, CMT, CNN, COMEDY, DISCOVERY, DISNEY, 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).



LORI TRUETKEN
Sacred Heart Catholic School
Cassandra Zimmerman
(left) and Kamrynn Elling set
up in business as Kamrynn
& Cassandra's Yum Yum
Treats when the Sacred
Heart fourth graders flexed
their entrepreneurial skills
recently.

Fourth graders learn about business

Lori Truetken's fourth grade class at Sacred Heart School recently completed a project on entrepreneurship.

Partners chose a recipe for a treat they believed would sell

well, calculated how much money they would need for ingredients, advertising, and building a store front, etc. After preparing a business plan, students went on a field trip to Peoples State Bank,

where they went through the loan application process.

For three days, they sold their treats to the third and fifth grade students, who had been given a limited amount of play money.

Each day, students kept a ledger of their income and expenses.

When the sale was complete, students made their bank payments plus interest.

Many changes mark her tenure in office

As I near the end of my stewardship as Kansas Insurance Commissioner, I found some interesting statistics about the insurance industry in Kansas while cleaning out some old files.

The comparisons below show how insurance in Kansas has changed over the past dozen years. Because most of the information is based on fiscal years (from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next), I thought I would share with you how the numbers looked in Fiscal Year 2003 compared to the most current fiscal year numbers we have available.

- Money sent to the state general fund: In 2003 the Kansas Insurance Department passed \$94.9 million to the state general fund budget in collected fees and insurance taxes from companies and agents. In 2014, that number was \$173.438 million.

- Consumer complaints: I believe that every year I have been commissioner we have had fewer consumer complaints about insurance issues. In 2003 we had 5,757 actual filed complaints. In 2013 the number was 2,696. I think our emphasis on consumer education, and our advocacy for policyholders when they had issues with companies, have contributed mightily toward that decline. Being a savvy insurance consumer means taking care of concerns



Sandy Praeger

• Kansas Ins. Commissioner

before they become issues.

- Recovery of money for consumers: With the number of consumer complaints going downward year after year, that means that the amount of money we can recover from companies goes down too. In 2003 we recovered \$7.58 million in money for policyholders over and above what the company offered in initial settlements; that number in 2013 was \$3.83 million. Again, savvy consumers and Insurance Department advocacy stopped concerns from becoming complaints.

- Number of licensed agents: With products and markets increasing, the number of licensed agents in Kansas has boomed during the past 12 years, mostly in the number of nonresident agents doing business in the state. In 2003 there were 23,292 resident agents and 33,768 nonresident agents. As of late Novem-

ber 2014 we had 22,535 resident and 92,284 nonresident agents for a total of 114,819. With that number, I think you could say the insurance potential for agents looks pretty good.

- Number of department employees: When I began my tenure in 2003 the department had 157 full-time employees. Presently we have 123. We have been able to reduce the number of employees because of enhancements to our computerized processes, natural job attrition and the hard work of the long-time employees who absorbed the workload.

- Growth of the industry in the state: In 2003 the insurance industry in Kansas was an \$11 billion economic force. Today that number stands at \$17 billion. Through careful use of free market principles and judicious regulation, the department continues to oversee a vibrant industry that serves both consumers and companies fairly.

- One other growth item: More than 240 additional companies have been licensed to do business in the state since 2003.

I'm proud of the accomplishments of the department and our staff members during my tenure. I believe, on the whole, we have done a good job of balancing the three-legged stool of regulation, education and advocacy.

Nominations sought for water leadership teams

The second draft of the Long-Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, available at www.kwo.org, outlines a process for establishing goals by region as a means for measuring success and implementation of the Vision.

One step in the goal setting process is to identify up to a five-person Regional Goal Leadership Team for each of the 14 planning

areas, shown in a map in the document. These individuals should represent various water resource categories – industry, stockwater, municipal, irrigation, conservation, etc. The role of each team is to participate in a public scoping process in their region, develop draft goals for their region based on public input and available resource condition information as

well as present the draft goals to the Kansas Water Authority.

The Kansas Water Authority is seeking recommendations for team members, to serve from January to August 2015.

If you are interested or have a recommendation, please provide the following by Wednesday, Dec. 10, to Susan Metzger at susan.metzger@kwo.ks.gov.

- Name of recommended individual.

- Email address for individual.

- Home city.

- Brief statement of qualification of the individual.

For more information or to read the second draft of the Long-Term Vision go to www.kwo.org.

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

Break-in actually a stunt gone awry

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) – A Maine man who authorities originally said fell to the sidewalk while rappelling down a fire escape after breaking into a Portland flower shop was actually part of a stunt that had gone awry.

Ronald Podlaski told the *Portland Press Herald* (bit.ly/1qCaHDU) Nov. 10 he was trying to surprise a friend by sneaking up the fire escape and climbing in her apartment window. The 29-year-old Podlaski, an artist who uses the name RookSye, says he got the wrong building and ended up in the florist.

He says he fell from a third-

floor window after realizing his mistake and tripping the alarm. He suffered minor injuries.

He says he'd been drinking beer and what he did was "foolish."

Authorities have decided not to charge him. But he plans to apologize to the florist.

Deaths

Glen D. Close

Glen D. Close, 88, Oakley businessman, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2014, at the Logan County Hospital.

He was born March 23, 1926, in Monument, to Gilbert and Bernice (Huddelston) Close. In 1944 he graduated from Monument High School and joined the Air Force. He was discharged as a sergeant in August 1946.

On Nov. 8, 1953, he married Ruth "Marie" Gidley in Page City.

He farmed for his brother-in-law, Charlie Hockersmith, in Gove, and then with his brother Stuart Close. Together they bought the John Deere/GMC dealership in Oakley; later he was the sole owner.

He was a former chairman of the Logan County Hospital board of trustees, chairman of the Logan County Healthcare Foundation and on the board of directors of the Farmers State Bank. He was a member of the Gove Masonic Lodge and the Gove United Methodist Church. He enjoyed collecting old tractors and cars and had a

large toy tractor collection.

Preceding him in death were his wife; a son, Greg Glen Close; three sisters, Lural Barrand, Lora Dell Hockersmith and Mary Lou Shipley; and two brothers, Boyd Close and Stuart Close.

Survivors include a daughter, Melinda (Mike) Moeder, Oakley; three granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, at the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center in Oakley, with burial in the Monument Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Baalmann Mortuary in Oakley.

The family suggests memorials to the Oakley Emergency Medical Services, the Oakley Fire Department or the United Christian Church building Fund, in care of the mortuary, Box 204, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

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

High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club met Nov. 11 at the Colby United Methodist Church with 12 members present.

Marian Boyd was scheduled to have the program, but due to her recent hospitalization was not present. President Marlene Carpenter gave a presentation about Dr. John Cody and his love for painting silk moths. She passed around the book "Wings of Paradise" for everyone to see.

Carpenter called the meeting to order and reports were given.

Barb Highland visited with the secretary at Heartland Christian School about what to do for the art show. She suggested the club purchase ice cream treats for them to have after football practices. She also said the students enjoyed helping and will help every year.

Ideas for changes for the next art show were discussed. Suggestions included:

- Changing the reception to Sunday so people from out of town would only have to make the trip to bring their artwork on Friday, then the reception could be the same day as pick-up.

- More people helping hang pictures.

- Change pick-up time to be 4 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

- Only one person be in contact with the judge, the art show coordinator.

- Make changes to entry forms: if possible list the prize money to be paid and make the entry deadline date closer to the art show date. Include biography of judge.

- Put numbers on plaques beside the picture for use in voting for "peoples choice."

- Provide emcee with a list of winners to announce.

- Put up more flyers and use local billboards.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers: Bev Kern and Ruthie Hughes as copresident and vice president; Alice Wolf, treasurer; Kathie Payton, secretary; Marj Brown, historian; Alice Wolf, art show coordinator. With no nominations from the floor, these were unanimously elected as 2015 officers.

Brown's workshop on watercolor techniques was presented after the lunch break.

Next meeting will be the annual Christmas party Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Montana Mike's.

– Alice Wolf, secretary

5 p.m. on Sunday.

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– Alice Wolf, secretary

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.

Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.12
Corn (bushel)	\$3.69
Milo (hundredweight)	\$6.61
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.27

General Public Transportation Van
Hours: 8 am to 4 pm
Days: Monday - Friday
Phone:
460-2901 (8 am - 12:30 pm)
443-9208 (12:30 pm - 4 pm)

If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.

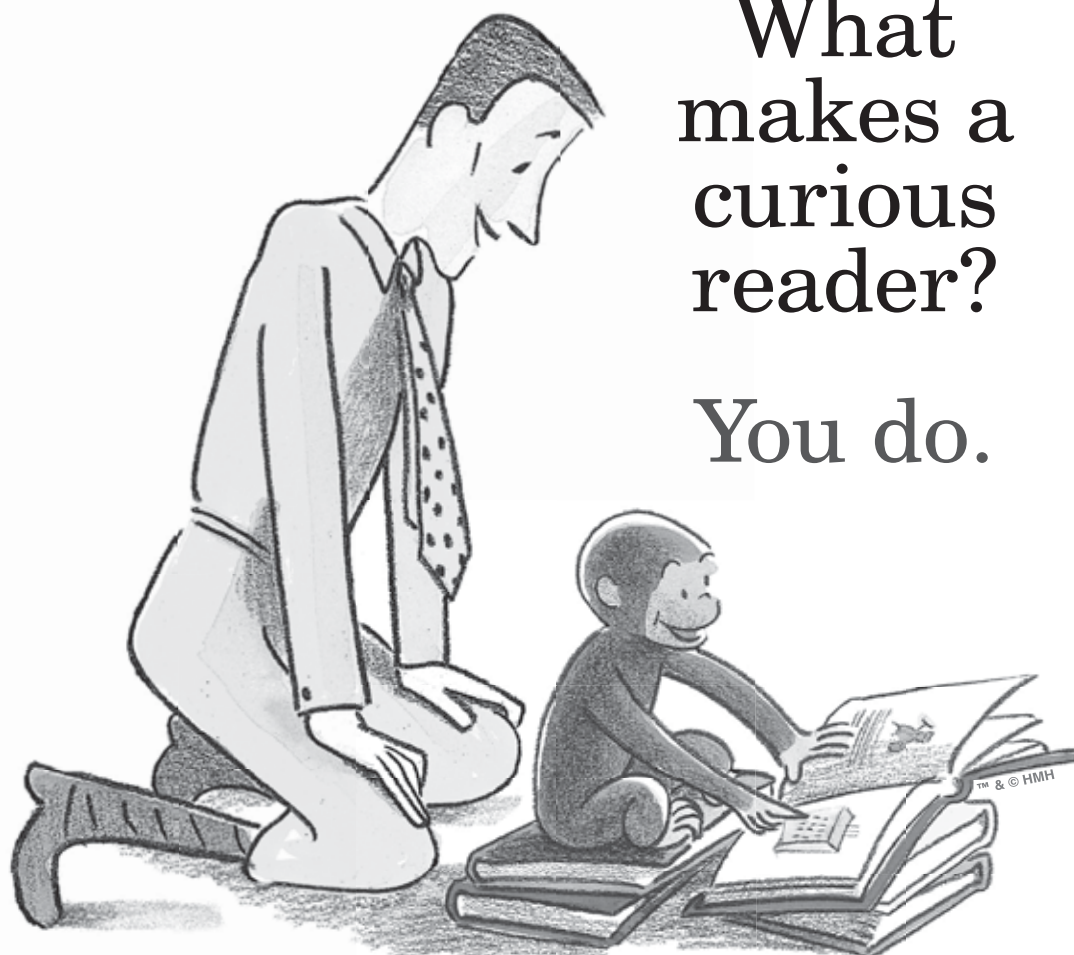
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Other Viewpoints

Pipeline approval should fall to states

When Congress – not if – sends the president a bill authorizing the Keystone XL oil pipeline, he ought to sign it contingent on approval by the legislatures in the states affected. The fixation on this pipeline has become irrational, and it shouldn't be decided by irrational politicians.

The Keystone is what is called a red herring. It's a distraction from more important issues. But it's one Republicans use to generate emotional capital they can use against the president.

The reality is both the concerns against and the benefits touted about the pipeline are exaggerated. The jobs would be temporary, so the economic benefit is grossly over promoted. It isn't about gas prices, which already are low and falling. At the same time, the environmental concerns seem hollow. Canada already is mining the oil, and the U.S. State Department has concluded the risk of an oil spill is slight.

First, know that two-thirds of the pipeline already is completed. It already carries crude from oil sand fields in Canada to Oklahoma, where it can get to the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed XL portion provides a couple of additions.

Consequently, it seems like the proverbial horse is already out of the barn, so why such a fight is being waged at the federal level is puzzling. But that's politics. And why this is another red herring – much like all the fuss over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

The Keystone XL project fell a single vote short of proceeding in the Senate Nov. 17. Doesn't matter. It will be approved once Republicans take control of the Senate in January.

In the meantime, it's more fodder for politicians. Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran of Kansas go on ad nauseam about it. It's a favorite talking point.

The debate shouldn't be in Washington but at the state level, and Roberts and Moran haven't done their constituents any favors by their role in the political crusade for this pipeline.

The fight should be in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, where the state supreme court is still reviewing the route.

The debate is done for Kansas, where the pipeline already has been built. Here, state lawmakers gave TransCanada full latitude to use eminent domain to build wherever they wanted, nearly \$50 million in income tax credits and a 100 percent, 10-year tax exemption.

Landowners and county governments got ignored when TransCanada built the 210-mile pipeline through six counties. Those counties – Washington, Clay, Dickinson, Marion, Butler and Cowley – lost about \$8.5 million a year on the deal. That while being tasked with providing fire and emergency service in the event of a pipeline explosion or other accident.

Given the limited economic benefit – the pipeline only sustains 50 jobs after construction – we shouldn't be giving tax incentives to a Canadian company to build an oil pipeline.

It isn't fair for politicians to cast away the interests of the local citizens who will live with the pipeline for their own political gain.

As for Kansas, if Roberts and Moran – and our House delegation – acted in our best interest, they would oppose more pipeline construction. From a provincial self-interest, we should prefer that oil be transported by rail. That would be to the benefit of a new industry we just attracted to our state – a rail tanker car refurbishing plant to be built in Hutchinson that will employ three times the number the Keystone XL will.

– *The Hutchinson News, via the Associated Press*

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ON THURSDAY...



BE THANKFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE.

ON FRIDAY...



CONCLUDE IT'S NOT ENOUGH.

Where will spanking furor lead?

All this furor over spanking. Where will it lead? What does it all mean?

When I was growing up, spanking was just an accepted part of child rearing. If I knew anyone whose parents did not spank them, I can't remember.

At school, teachers were allowed to spank or paddle children. It never happened to me, and in grade school, it was rare. But in junior high, when the boys started to get cocky – and mouthy – it happened all the time.

The principal could have you paddled, of course, but the individual teachers had paddles in their classrooms. Some of the men had them on display. Mr. Collier, who taught social studies, had a fearsome reputation, and I knew boys who felt his board.

Not me. I was an "A" student in geography. At home, my dad was the disciplinarian, and when we were way out of line, he used his belt. We boys had to bend over a chair to give him a good shot, and looking back, I think the anticipation was almost worse than the blow.

My mom seldom spanked us, but if we really crossed her, she'd march us out to the forsythia bush in the back yard and cut a long, slender switch. If we'd been really bad, she might switch us all the way back to the house.

That switch stung, and I think we dreaded it more than dad's belt.



Steve Haynes

- Along the Sappa

Sure, it hurt, and sometimes it took your dignity away. Sometimes it just made me mad. I never injured us, even if it left a red spot or a little welt. I don't think I bring any shame to my family to talk about it, either. It was the way things were.

The four of us grew up to be decent, law-abiding, hard-working, successful people. Our child-rearing practices differed widely. Cynthia and I did spank our children, though not as often. I don't ever remember using a switch, certainly not a belt. Spanking was not a regular thing.

But that was the 1970s and '80s, and times have changed. If you leave a mark on a child today, you're liable to wind up facing felony charges. The old standards are gone, but no clear consensus has emerged on just what's allowed. Spanking in school, while still legal in some places, is next to unheard of.

And people from professional athletes to

your next-door neighbor wind up in the news for punishing their kids. It's hard to tell fact from fiction sometimes. The Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, for instance, was indicted for felony child abuse for using a "switch" to punish his 4-year-old son.

One court document referred to it as a "tree branch," however, and the prosecution alleged the punishment left the boy with raised welts and bleeding. Mr. Peterson said he was just doing things the way they were done when he was a boy in East Texas. But breaking the skin would not be right, especially for a 4-year-old.

I'm still up in the air about all this. One comment by a self-appointed expert did make sense to me, though. A parent should never strike a child, she said, adding: "We shouldn't be teaching them that hitting someone is ever the answer."

That hit home, especially when you think about the consequences of young adult men running around, planning to "teach somebody a lesson" with their fists. Or about the case after case of public figures accused of slugging their wives or girlfriends.

Maybe hitting isn't the answer, huh?

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.

Short-term government no long-term fix

The current immigration hissy fit reminds me of two seventh-grade boys arguing, red-faced, nose-to-nose over some dispute on a ball field.

I taught seventh-graders once. Their level of maturity was actually greater than what we are seeing in the Halls of Congress. Similar to kids on a ball field, politicians on both sides are taking a short view, arguing about the immediate moment and failing to look way down the road. This petty gridlock of the past decade threatens to become perpetual gridlock unless we make a major change in our system or our representatives.

No one is looking at any possible long-term actions that could be taken. One might be to set a long-term target: perhaps in 50 years, all individuals could cross borders with virtually no restrictions, similar to the European Union. If a country started from allowing none, entry level would increase two percent a year until at the end of the 50 years there was total free flow. Visa policies and income-leveling would allow for reasoned and gradual adjustment in citizenship requirements. This looks far down the road, far beyond the time our politicians are in office.

Another advancement the U.S. will never have is high-speed electric trains. France, China and Japan long ago took the long view and made the commitment to build a successful system that is paying back over 30 years. We are unwilling to look beyond a few year's investment return, just as our politicians cannot look beyond the next election cycle.

The distinguished conservative diplomat George Kennan – who kept the Cold War from becoming a hot war – described the problem bluntly. Under our two-party system and short election cycles, politicians were forced into "vulgarity." By this he meant that more and more, elected officials had to do what appealed to the masses in order to be re-elected.

Kennan clearly saw that the United States



John Richard Schrock

- Education Frontlines

was a republic, not a pure democracy. Many great acts, such as Eisenhower's interstate system, were funded and built by votes of intelligent representatives who could take that long view when their constituencies could not. Some southern senators voted for the Civil Rights Act even though they knew the majority of their citizens opposed it. With fewer media networks and news cycles, they could survive. Now politicians focus on garnering votes with various constituencies rather than providing long-term legislation.

Every winning party declares that "the people have spoken" after every election. But the majority of people did not speak at all – they stayed away from the polls. America has an abysmal election turnout. No party can ever claim to speak for the majority. At best, they are a majority of the minority.

But anyone who thinks that everyone who voted Republican is of one mind ignores the major split between tea party and moderate Republicans. And the same can be said between the liberal wing and moderates of the Democrat Party.

With another 2.5 billion people on earth by 2050, we cannot live and consume resources at our current rate. Our policies on food supply, banking, travel, housing and immigration will have to be altered dramatically and intelligently.

George Kennan advocated for professionalism in politics. We need statesmen of proven ability and judgement who can avoid the whims and pressures of public opinion and the

"vulgar" requirements of seeking and maintaining elected office. Kennan felt that liberty "possessed a value only in a well-ordered society. Otherwise, it degenerated into license."

Yes, our election cycle is too short to solve long-term problems. And our two-party system reduces every complex problem into simple-minded polarized alternatives.

Kennan realized that if he publicly discussed these shortcomings of our democratic system during the Cold War, he would be charged with supporting tyranny. With gridlock now the order of the day, and no Cold War afoot, it is perhaps time to question the two-party system and begin sending representatives into government who take the long view, and worry less about being re-elected.

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

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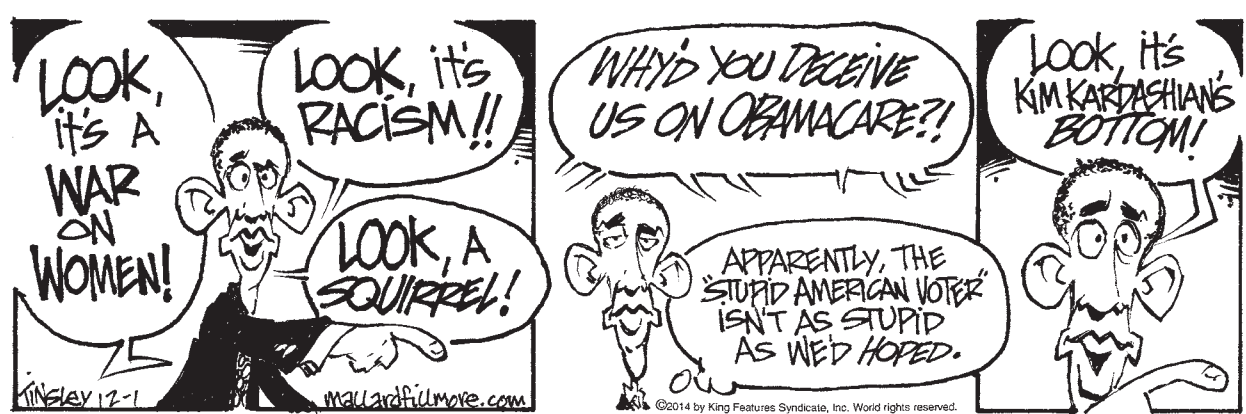
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Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley



KINSLEY 12-1

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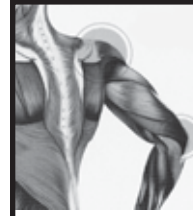


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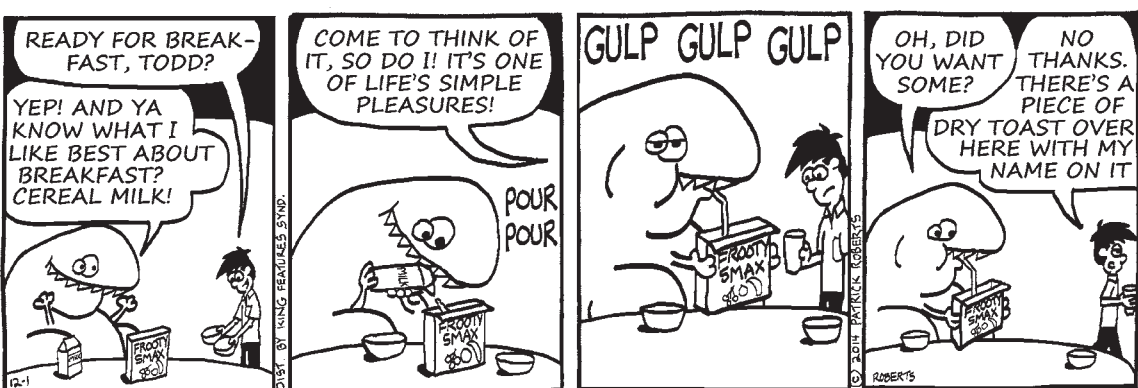
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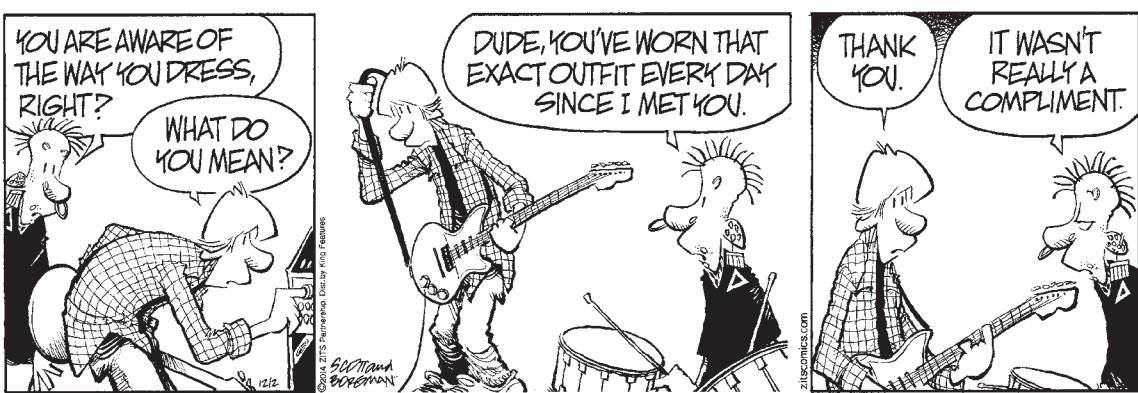
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Store figures worth big bucks

Is an old barber pole or carved cigar store Indian worth as much as an oil painting of the same age? Some collectors today think so.

One bidder paid \$42,550 for a well-documented Indian maiden cigar store figure at a 2014 antiques auction. The hand-carved figure was pictured in the 1970s book, "Treasury of American Design," which discusses a 1935 WPA project. Jobs were scarce during the Depression and the project gave jobs to artists who created watercolors of important American folk art.

The wooden Indian was the accepted sign in front of a tobacco shop by the 1840s, but it was almost gone by 1900, replaced by flat signs with store names. The term "cigar store Indian" today includes all the wooden or metal figures used as store signs in the past. Most of them did represent American Indians and were dressed in traditional feathers and robes. Many held tobacco leaves.

The record price for a Santa Claus figure, set at Sotheby's in January 2014, is \$875,000. The Santa Claus figure was made in 1926 by Samuel A. Robb, who also carved American Indians. Even if a figure is a clown, dandy, Turk, soldier, young girl, Chinese man, Scotsman, Santa Claus or anyone else, all are referred to as "cigar store Indians."

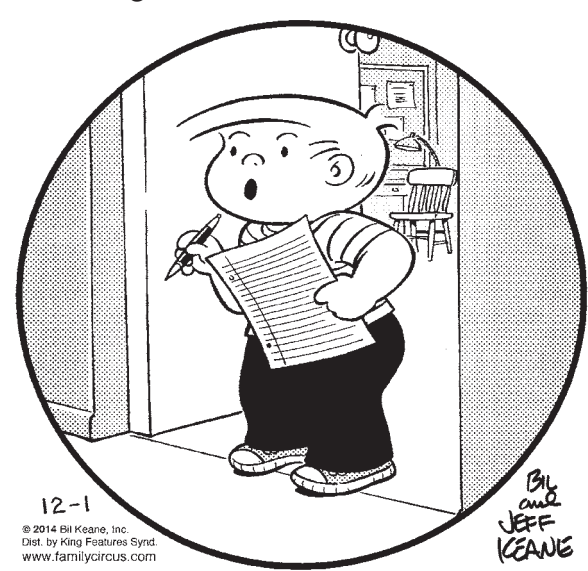
Tip: Be careful when you're eating at your Thanksgiving dining-room table. The hardest stains to remove from a tablecloth — or a blouse — are gravy and Merlot wine.

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Antique cigar store Indians continue to be popular with collectors. This 19th-century figure of an Indian maiden, 68 inches high, sold for \$42,550 at Cottone Auctions in March 2014.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I wrote, 'Dear Grandma. I'm fine. How are you?' ... Do I need anything else before I write my wish list?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 12/01

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.

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

Cryptoquip

XGWDE WUXW WDDWDE -
WAWWDE RXI MBIWXQQDO
AB WUD IUAED, X QAW AG
FDAFQD IDDIRDO IDXIMOD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO REFUSES TO BE INTIMIDATED, HE REALLY STANDS OUT FROM THE COWD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 - 1 Sphere
 - 4 Lingerie piece
 - 7 Eden denizen
 - 11 Union payment
 - 13 Have a bug
 - 14 Loosen
 - 15 Jacob's brother
 - 16 Sticky stuff
 - 17 Pack down
 - 18 Baffle
 - 20 Vegan staple
 - 22 Fellows
 - 24 Opposite of 22-Across, in France
 - 28 One-time 007 portrayer
 - 32 Pass, as a law
 - 33 Eastern potentate
 - 34 Visored headgear
 - 36 Enticement
 - 37 Ballroom favorite
 - 39 Got smarter
- DOWN**
 - 41 Collar stiffener
 - 43 Tiny legume
 - 44 Greek vowels
 - 46 Use
 - 50 Pinnacle
 - 53 Siegfried's partner
 - 55 Differently
 - 56 French restaurant
 - 57 Mobile device, usually
 - 58 Un-matched
 - 59 Relaxation
 - 60 Sturdy tree
 - 61 "A mouse!"
 - 23 Fallon's network
 - 25 Tennyson poem
 - 26 Beige
 - 27 Dance lesson
 - 28 Not so much
 - 29 Latin 101 verb
 - 30 Coors brand
 - 31 Deviate off course
 - 35 Domino spot
 - 38 Performance
 - 40 Vast expanse
 - 42 Silent Marx brother
 - 45 Pop additive
 - 48 Capri, e.g.
 - 49 Onion's kin
 - 50 Top card
 - 51 Half a dance
 - 52 — amis
 - 54 Tibetan critter

Opening lead — two of hearts.

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ A Q 7
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ 10 9
♣ A 8 6 5

EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ 10 7
♦ Q 8 7 6 4 3
♣ Q 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10 4
♥ A K Q J 9 6
♦ A 2
♣ K J

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 2NT Pass
3♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠

Famous Hand
The 1991 world team championship produced a major surprise when Iceland, not one of the pre-tournament favorites, won the title in a field of 16 star-studded teams. On the way to victory, the Icelanders ousted the United States and Sweden before defeating Poland handily in the 160-deal final.

This deal from the final produced a big gain for the winners. When an Icelandic pair held the North-South cards, they reached four spades as shown. South's two-diamond opening showed a powerful hand, and North's heart responses were attempts to get South to bid spades. After the second attempt, South accepted the transfer and became declarer at four spades.

West led a heart to South's jack, and declarer, Thorlukur Jonsson, immediately played the king of trumps. West won and returned a low trump to South's ten, after which Jonsson had an easy path to 10 tricks. He ran his hearts until West trumped in, and his only other loser was the ace of clubs.

At the other table, the Polish South wound up in four hearts, and West led a diamond. Declarer won with the ace and played four rounds of trumps, on which he unaccountably discarded two of dummy's spades.

The spade ten was then led to West's queen, and his diamond return was taken by dummy's king. Declarer ruffed a diamond and led the spade king, but because of South's spade discards from dummy, West, Om Arnthorsson, was able to present declarer with a problem.

After taking the spade king with the ace, Arnthorsson exited with a spade to dummy's jack. With dummy now comprised of only the 10-7-3 of clubs, declarer had to lead a club toward his K-J. When he misguessed by playing the king, the defenders scored two club tricks for a one-trick set and a gain of 12 IMPs.

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Saturday's answer 12-1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13			14
15						16			17
18						19			20
						21			22
28	29	30				31			32
33						34			35
37						38			39
41						42			43
						44			45
50	51	52				53			54
56						57			58
59						60			61

Trojans split two

Freshman Brian Starr went supernova on Northeastern (Colo.) Junior College Saturday as his 18 points and 14 assists fueled a 74-67 Colby Community College basketball victory.

The Trojans (7-4 record overall) salvaged a split of their two Garden City Thanksgiving Classic contests. They shook off Friday's 100-80 setback against unbeaten Hill (Texas) College.

"They (Northeastern) are very comparable to what we'll play in the Jayhawk Conference," coach Rusty Grafel said as the Plainsmen (8-3 record) were returning from a 73-71 win over Garden City on Friday. "And after losing a game like we did yesterday, you have to find a way to turn right around and get a win. We did that. We can play at a high level if we put it all together."

Colby put together an attack featuring four double-figure scorers, including an excellent outside-inside combination of guard Khyree Wooten (15 points) and post player Ahmed Ismail (13 points, 10 rebounds).

Bruce Watkins, Jr., added 11 points, but it was Starr who really sparked the Trojan attack.

"Brian's capable of starting every game," Grafel explained about moving the Kansas City, Mo., native into Colby's lineup Saturday. "He's a true point guard for us."

Hill College played like a 7-0 team on Friday. The Texas team shot ahead 53-32 by intermission and never really cooled off behind guard Jermerrio Jones (28 points on 12-for-17 shooting).



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College's Brandon Trotter (3) was one of two Trojans to go for this block during a recent home basketball game. Trotter blocked three shots apiece against a pair of foes during last weekend's Garden City Thanksgiving Classic.

Watkins' 23 points paced the Trojans but Starr (10) was their only other to reach double figures.

Colby plays next at KSU-Salina Wednesday night.

Hill College 100, Trojans 80
Colby — Bruce Watkins, Jr., 23 points; Brian Starr 10, Hassan Attia 8, Khyree Wooten 8, Joey Meyer 7, Troy Mix, Jr., 7; James Yarnton 6, Brandon Trotter 5, Layton Leydig 4, Ahmed Ismail 2. Three-pointers: Watkins 3, Yarnton 2, Meyer 1. Rebound leaders: Leydig 7, Attia 7. Assists: Watkins 3, Starr 2. Steals: Watkins 3.

Trojans 73, Northeastern 67
Colby — Brian Starr 18 points, Khyree Wooten 15, Ahmed Ismail 13, Bruce Watkins, Jr., 11; Layton Leydig 6, Brandon Trotter 4, Hassan Attia 4, Joey Meyer 2. Rebound leaders: Trotter 10, Ismail 10. Assists: Starr 14. Steals: Wooten 4, Starr 3, Trotter 2. Blocked shots: Trotter 3, Attia 2, Ismail 1.

Broncos kick Chiefs all over Arrowhead

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When Denver signed Connor Barth to take over their kicking duties this week, the veteran asked to wear No. 1 in honor of longtime Broncos kicker Jason Elam.

Seems only fitting in retrospect. Barth returned from a lengthy absence from the NFL to connect on all five of his field-goal attempts Sunday night, matching Elam's franchise game record and lifting the Broncos to a 29-16 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

"It's crazy," said Barth, who missed all of last year after tearing his Achilles tendon in a charity basketball game. Peyton Manning threw touchdown passes to Demaryius Thomas and C.J. Anderson, who also ran for 168 yards, as Denver (9-3) remained a game up on San Diego in the bunched-up AFC West.

The Chiefs (7-5) dropped two games back with their sixth straight loss to the Broncos.

"This was one of those fundamentally sound games," said Denver pass rusher DeMarcus Ware, who had an interception and a sack. "This is the time of year where the whole team comes together."

Alex Smith had 153 yards passing and two touchdowns for the Chiefs, the second of them to Jamaal Charles to make it 26-16 early in the fourth quarter. But Smith's pass on the 2-point try fell incomplete, and the Broncos added another field goal to put the game away.



Getty Images

Peyton Manning threw for less than 200 yards Sunday night, but more than enough to lead the Denver Broncos' big win over AFC West challenger Kansas City Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium.

Smith was sacked six times and Denver held Kansas City to 151 yards of total offense.

It certainly wasn't the kind of performance expected of the Chiefs, who emerged in a frenzy before the game wearing all-red uniforms for the third time in franchise history.

The Chiefs were honoring veteran safety Eric Berry, who will

miss the rest of the season after a mass suspected to be lymphoma was found in his chest.

Berry has professed his love for the red-on-red look, which the Chiefs wore last year against Dallas and this year versus New England.

While the Chiefs won both of those games, they hardly gave themselves a chance Sunday.

Rossville rallies past Scott City in final

from catchitkansas.com

HUTCHINSON, Kan — The Rossville Bulldogs have taken a bite out of the history books, after finally winning their first state championship in program history after beating Scott City in a 21-14 3A title game on Saturday.

"Any time you set a goal and you work together to reach that goal and you achieve it, well that's the ultimate," said Rossville Head Coach Derick Hammes.

Many considered last week's victory over Silver Lake to be the biggest win in program history, as Silver Lake had eliminated Rossville eight times in the previous 12 postseasons.

That opinion would be short lived.

"I am so happy for our seniors and proud of them, but I'm really happy for our community," said Hammes.

Scott City (12-1 record) suffered its first defeat after dominating Great West Activities Conference play and advancing to another state title.

With their backs against the wall, Scott City quarterback Trey O'Neil led the Beavers offense 84 yards to their first touchdown of the day, a 30-yard pass to Chantz Yager, to tie the game 7-7 just before halftime.

Scott City, searching for their

third state title in three seasons, knew this was its chance.

Beavers coach Glenn O'Neil braved the odds, going for it on 4th and one on the Scott 38-yard line and converting, keeping the drive alive.

As the Scott City offense marched down the field, the crowd grew louder and louder, nearly exploding when O'Neil connected with Sloan Baker for a 34 yard touchdown pass to put the Beavers up 14-7.

After driving to the Scott City 13-yard line, the Bulldogs were faced with a fourth down decision.

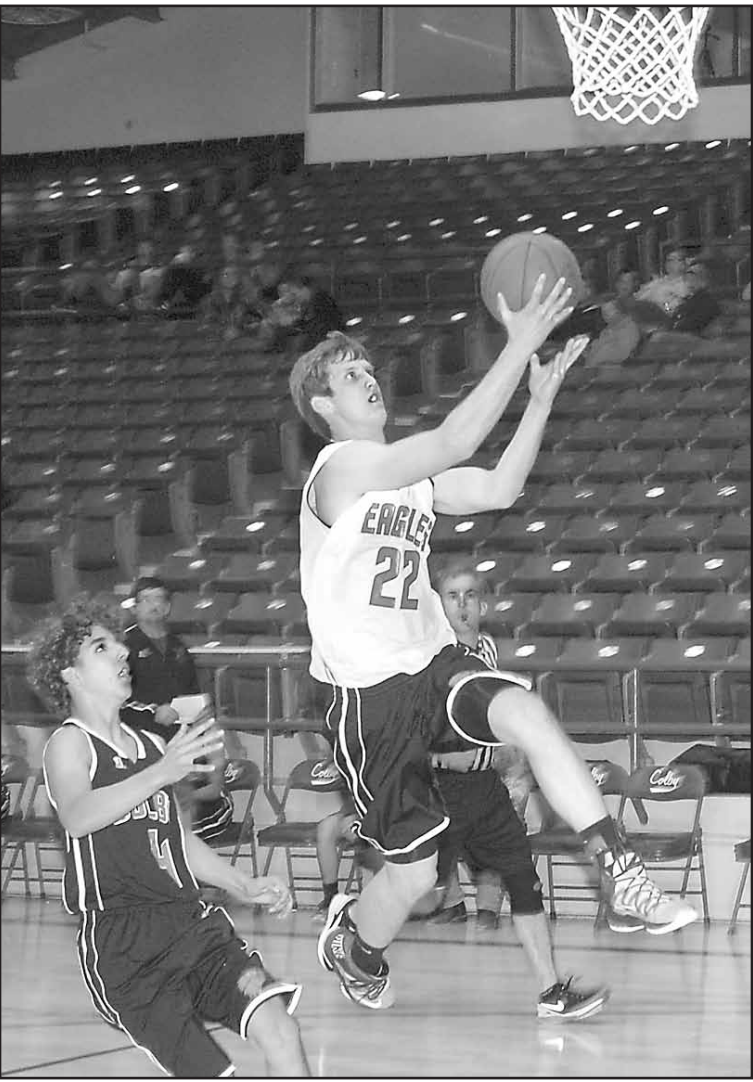
Hammes' call worked, as a hard count by Horak while putting a man in motion drew the Beavers offside, giving Rossville a first and goal on the eight yard line.

Horak would capitalize from the Scott City mistake with a five yard touchdown run to put the Bulldogs up 21-14 with less than one minute remaining in the game.

After a touchback on the kickoff, Scott City would run a double reverse, wide receiver pass from Brett Meyer to Yager for 21 yards to start the drive.

After an O'Neil spike to stop the clock, Lake Schultz-Pruner would intercept an O'Neil pass across the middle of the field, sealing the Beavers fate as state runners-up and clinching Rossville's first state title in program history.

They're back! Winter sports this week



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Austin Russ soared to a layup even though sophomore Mark Faber hustled back during the Eagles' pre-season scrimmage last week in the Colby Community Building. The Eagles tip off varsity basketball action on Thursday in Hays.

With high school basketball and winter both about to begin, here are a few dates that Colby-area sports fans should circle on their cold season calendars.

Monday, Dec. 8: Sagebrush Shootout at Brewster tips off. These are the first home games for any Thomas County varsity hoops team with both Triplains-Brewster and Heartland Christian competing. Watch for a complete tournament schedule in an upcoming edition.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Both Colby High basketball teams play Hays to start quite a weekend inside the Colby Community Building.

Friday, Dec. 12-Saturday, Dec. 13: The annual Eagle Wrestling Invitational takes place at various sites around Colby, culminating with Saturday's championship showdowns

Saturday, Dec. 20: Goodland Dual Wrestling Tournament. The final pre-Christmas varsity action will match rivals Colby and Goodland again besides several top western Kansas teams.

Thursday, Jan. 8: Goodland wrestlers at Colby. How about this dual to start the new year? Colby's holding a 4A No. 5 state ranking entering the season, exactly where those Eagles finished last year.

Goodland's not rated which might make the Cowboys more dangerous.

Friday, Jan. 9: Another rivalry resumes when Golden Plains High welcomes Triplains-Brewster into

Rexford for a hoops doubleheader. Remember, both were responding for season-ending defeats last winter. The Titans took Golden Plains' boys out of their playoffs, while those Bulldog girls went to 1A state after beating substitute finals foe Triplains-Brewster.

Golden Plains didn't stop until the 1A state championship game.

Thursday, Jan. 13: Cowboy-Eagle fun reaches the basketball floor when both Goodland teams invade Colby's Community Building.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: A great chance to see the Heartland Christian basketball teams at home in Colby against Healy.

Thursday, Jan. 22: Defending 3A state wrestling champ Norton duals the Eagles. Norton scored a big win at Colby last season.

Thursday, Jan. 22 through Saturday, Jan. 24: The annual Orange and Black Classic always brings great basketball to Colby. Those Eagle girls reached last year's tournament title game.

Thursday, Feb. 5: The Western Kansas Libery League hoops tourney heats up in Colby with finals on Saturday, Feb. 7. Triplains-Brewster tries to defend its girls' title won over Golden Plains.



Ben Detwiler hoped to make the world a better place. That hope died when he was killed by a drunk driver.

What should you do to stop a friend from driving drunk?
Whatever you have to.
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