



Second ambulance necessary

Thomas County will be getting a second replacement ambulance for \$67,019 plus the cost of the chassis, commissioners decided at their meeting last Wednesday, but they postponed signing a lease to finance both replacement ambulances.

The ambulance called Thomas 3 needs to be replaced, Emergency Medical Services Director Joe Hickert said. Its engine is likely to have serious problems, he said.

The commissioners approved a similarly priced replacement for Thomas 1, which had failing brakes and rare parts, at meetings earlier this fall.

Hickert brought two unsealed bids to the commissioners for this second replacement from Arrow and Professional Ambulance. Although the bid from Professional Ambulance was \$6,500 less than that from Arrow, the cheaper company did not have a loaner ambulance available.

After lengthy discussions and much hesitation, the commissioners ultimately voted for the more expensive but better option.

The four-year lease itself had a few areas of concern, noted by County Attorney Kevin Berens. The board had accepted a funding proposal from Western State Bank at an earlier meeting.

The commissioners received a copy of the bank's proposed lease

with Berens' comments just a few minutes before the meeting.

Bank representative J.L. Evins had already resolved some of the attorney's concerns by the time he came to the meeting, but Commissioner Mike Baughn said he wanted more time to digest Berens' comments before voting to approve the lease.

"I am not comfortable approving this at this time without making a full study of what is in here and addressing some of these other issues..." Baughn said. "I'm not going to vote for this today."

Baughn said he would not object if the other two commissioners chose to approve it. The commissioners tabled the matter for their next meeting on Monday.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Refused to hire a paramedic leaving the Rawlins County ambulance service without first opening up the position to the public. Hickert had already tentatively offered a job to the woman, even though the commissioners had not yet approved the extra position.

"I'm certainly in favor of upgrading our service with another paramedic if we can fit it into our budget..." Baughn said. "I have a concern about creating a new position without opening it up to

See "AMBULANCE," Page 2



JUDY ROGERS

Brielle Eatherly explained to Santa what she wants for Christmas during the Selden Winterfest Friday.

Great Winterfest weather draws shoppers in Selden

By Judy Rogers

Everyone was a winner Friday night at the Selden Winterfest. With beautiful weather for the annual event, participants enjoyed

wandering the streets in Selden, visiting businesses that stayed open late for the evening. Most had snacks and treats for their visitors, who were able to register for prizes given away later in the evening.

Businesses participating included The Bank, Karls Cash Store, the Selden Public Library and post office, Lisa Stoll's Avon, Pauls Furniture, Steve's Body Shop, Selden Lumber and the Midway Motel and Cafe.

Members of the Selden Girl Scout troop helped visitors cook up s'mores at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, and a children's movie was available with supervision from Noel Ritter and Amanda Cheney.

The Selden Community Foundation served hot dogs, chili dogs, and cocoa in the Selden Community Building, with help from the Selden City Council and community volunteers.

Mayor Jacque Boultinghouse thanked all the businesses and community groups who participated and helped sponsor Winter-

fest. She also thanked the city for setting up decorations reminding residents of the Christmas Decorating Contest, with prizes to be given away at the Christmas caroling celebration Sunday, Dec. 14.

She encouraged everyone to support the Selden business community as they are making their holiday lists and reminded them that they could buy Selden Greenbucks as gifts for friends and family to encourage support of their home town.

Registration tickets were gathered and, after a drawing or two, winners were announced. Lisa Stoll gave Avon prizes to two winners who registered at her booth, including a tube of hand cream won by Peg Smith and Skin So Soft hand cream and nail polish won by Amie Cheney. The library held a drawing for a notebook and pen set, which went to Wilma Ritter and Ava Brantley, and T-shirts to Amanda Cheney and Noel Ritter. The fire department gave away three smoke alarms to Kellee Snyder, Bernard Ritter and Falynn Wasinger.

Mayor Boultinghouse, conducted the drawing for Selden Greenbucks sponsored by the city and foundation. These certificates can be used at any Selden area business. Jennifer Eatherly won \$100; Walter Brantley, Brooke Stoll, Robert Ritter, Mariane Garza, Will Bruggeman and Mrs. Cheney \$50; and Kash Schiltz, Kristi Satter, Bryce Ter Haar, Melissa Wessel, Wyatt McDonald, Paxton Shaw, Kristi Satter and Kaylie Wessel all \$25.

Following the drawing, fireworks were set off in front of the Community Building to let Santa know where to come. He arrived on the fire truck courtesy of the Selden Fire Department. Children of all ages lined up to let him know their Christmas wishes and he gave them each a bag of treats provided by the Selden Senior Citizens.

"We really appreciate everyone who came out to enjoy this year's Winterfest," said Mayor Boultinghouse, "with special thanks to the businesses and volunteers who make this event possible."

Studio to 'zentangle'

Colby native Jatón Denneler will be the featured artist for Studio Friday at Colby Community College this week, demonstrating zentangle, an abstract drawing created using repetitive patterns.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. in Rooms 502-503 of Ferguson Hall.

Denneler, a graduate of Colby High School and Colby College, decorates and stages homes. She works at Inlow Interiors, where she stages the store and decorates the display window.

"I didn't really know that I was doing Zentangle until Alice Wolf saw my art and said it looked like Zen," she said. "My inspiration comes from my mood. I truly just close my eyes and 'scribble' what I see in my mind."

Denneler says she sees designs in everything and takes photos of things to draw.

"I get ideas, but never copy it exactly," she added. "Everything around us is full of design so it is never-ending. I love color."

Denneler said she has sold two of her works, but mostly it just fascinates her.

"It's very addictive to me," she said. "Hours go by before I know it. My kids love what I do. They are both married with kids and live in eastern Kansas."

Participants do not need to bring supplies for the free session, she said, unless they have a favorite sketch pad or pens and markers.

For more information, call art instructor Rebel Jay at 269-7065.



The art of Jatón Denneler will be featured at Studio Friday this week at Colby Community College

Science suit dismissed

By John Hanna
Associated Press

TOPEKA (AP) - A federal judge Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit alleging that science standards for Kansas public schools promote atheism and violate the religious freedoms of students and parents.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree ruled that a nonprofit group, parents and taxpayers challenging the standards did not claim specific enough injuries from adoption of the guidelines to allow the case to go forward.

The State Board of Education

last year adopted standards developed by Kansas, 25 other states and the National Research Council. The guidelines treat both evolution and climate change as key scientific concepts to be taught from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The guidelines replaced evolution-friendly standards that had been in place since 2007, and most board members believed they will improve science education by shifting the emphasis in classes to hands-on projects and experiments. The board sought the lawsuit's dismissal.

The lawsuit was filed by Citizens for Objective Public Education, a group based in the small,

Wichita-area town of Peck. It had criticized the standards as an attempt to indoctrinate students into a "non-theistic" world view and said their adoption was a "message of endorsement" telling some parents and students that they are outsiders. The group was joined by parents and taxpayers in challenging the standards.

But Crabtree said the aggrieved group and individuals didn't say how they were directly harmed by the standards, other than asserting an "abstract stigmatic injury" that isn't enough to sustain a lawsuit. He also noted that even under the guidelines, local school districts still directly control what's taught in classrooms.

Christmas serenade



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College's Sunflower Singers serenaded Dr. Greg Nichols, vice president of academic affairs at the college, with their rendition of "Santa Baby" at the Cultural Arts Center. The singers performed alongside other choirs and bands at the college's winter music concert Monday.





Free Press Viewpoint

Change may come in Court selections

The way Kansas chooses Supreme Court justices may be one of the first things to come up when the Legislature meets next month.

Big vote totals against two justices show how the public feels about the high court. Hard as it is to lose an election where you run unopposed, the justices came close.

In this instant case, people upset by the court's voiding a death penalty in a heinous Wichita murder case ran a campaign promoting a "no" vote. It wasn't much, but both men came close to losing their seats.

In most years, hardly anyone votes against appellate judges up for "retention," but this year, a lot of voters were unhappy. This unrest has been growing for several years as the high court has taken upon itself to rewrite the laws and redefine the state Constitution.

Of course, how you feel about a court decision depends a lot on the outcome you wanted, not on any objective standard. But under the Kansas Constitution, a bare majority of voters can oust any judge for any reason they like.

While the death penalty was the issue this time, in the past, the court's decisions ordering the Legislature to spend billions more on schools have drawn fire. The Legislature alone, critics maintain, has the right to appropriate money for state spending.

Judges may review laws, the theory goes, but not decide how to spend money. In the first and biggest school case, known as Montoy, the high court chose to define the word "suitable" to mean the state must spend what a consulting report said it should spend.

Others think the Legislature, elected by the people, has the sole right to balance needs and divide up the state's budget pie.

But back to the theory above: Conservatives want the Legislature to make spending decisions because they think that's right, of course, but also because they want to see spending held down.

School groups, including the Kansas Association of School Boards, want to see school spending stay up. They back the way the state now selects justices, probably because they like the results.

But the current process is about as far from democratic as you can get. A state Bar Association dominates a Supreme Court nominating commission that gets little input from the public or elected officials. The governor gets to choose from among three nominees sent to him by the commission. That's his only input.

At one time, Kansas elected its justices, but let's not go back to that. The most recent proposal for change is to go to the "federal system," under which the governor appoints and the state Senate must approve. This has produced a diverse and mostly fair federal bench over the years.

Will Kansas change? It seems more likely all the time. Should Kansas change? Depends on which side of the ox you're on.

But with the Republican near-sweep and the dominance of the party's conservative wing, the possibility grows by the day that justices will once again be subject to political scrutiny. And that is as it should be. — Steve Haynes

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

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Don't worry if I've been good or bad... Use your executive authority and bring me these...



Christmas letter: year brings changes

About 30 years ago, several important things happened in our lives, and we decided we needed to tell all our friends about them, so we sent out a letter in our Christmas cards.

Every year since then, we've sat down around this time of the year and prepared a letter of the year's doings — some happy, like the birth of a grandchild; some sad like the death of a parent; and some just happenings, things like trips, moves, surgeries and pets.

Last year was tough, with both our son and myself having surgery as he ran a lawn mower over his foot and I suffered a severe blood loss. It was also neat because we got to go to Turkey.

This year wasn't as exciting on either side but it did have its ups and downs, we realized as we sat down and counted our blessings and looked back over the year.

On the plus side, we had a wonderful time visiting several places we've never been before.

In the spring we flew to Washington for a conference. After the conference was over we went home with some friends who live in New Jersey. They gave us a tour of the Capitol at Trenton and the university at Princeton. We visited several places where Washington slept



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

and the point he crossed the Delaware River.

Then it was on to New York City to visit Times Square, Hell's Kitchen and Greenwich Village. Then we took a train from New Jersey to South Carolina, driving to Augusta, Ga, to see our daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren.

During the summer, we flew to Boston and took the train up to Maine for another meeting. Steve tried to eat all the lobsters in the state, and I checked out the wild coastline and drooled over the \$1,000-plus purses at a Coach outlet store.

In the fall, our travels took us to San Antonio, where our hotel was right on the River Walk. We toured the Alamo, took a boat ride and walked all over the place.

But the year wasn't all fun and travel. We realized that we had some losses, too, includ-

ing a bunch of pets.

Our dog Annie died in the spring. She had been with us for about 14 years, and it's still pretty weird not to have her around. The next to go was Jezebel. Jez was daughter Lindsay's cat. We took her in when her husband Brad, who is allergic to cats, joined the family. Both Annie and Jez were old and just worn out, but it was sad to have them go.

Then Tigger, *The Oberlin Herald's* office cat for almost 16 years, died.

In February, we brought home Larry, a shelter cat who'd lost two-thirds of his tail and about half an ear to a big freeze. Larry was a great cat, and loved getting into things. Unfortunately, the same love of adventure that lost him his tail cost him his life after he'd been with us for about six months.

It's been a good, bad, fun, sad, exciting and interesting year. Pretty much like all of them.

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

Adoption: give a child hope, home

What does your congressman have in common with "Little Couple" stars Bill Klein and Dr. Jennifer Arnold, "Scandal" and "Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes and Jockey Chairman Debra Steigerwaldt Waller?

All of us have an adoption story and were recognized at the recent Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Gala for our efforts in making a difference in the lives of children who needed permanent, loving families.

All human life is precious and worth protecting. This belief compelled my wife Angela and I to adopt our four children. In fact, I still remember meeting our two daughters for the first time, at airports of all places.

First it was in 1997 when Angela and I flew to Miami and were nervously looking forward to that first time we were going to hold our oldest daughter Natasha. Two years later in Kansas City, I held Natasha in one hand and a dozen roses in the other waiting for Angela to step off the plane with our second daughter, Rebecca. 400 miles later, we arrived at home just in time for Christmas Eve Mass. What a Christmas gift indeed!

I know that our story is not unique, but shared by countless other adoptive families.

Around the world, millions of vulnerable children are still searching for a family to call their own. Americans understand that the family and marriage are the bedrock of any soci-



U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp

• Capitol Notes

ety, and children deserve the long-lasting love, care and protection of a family. Here in America, more than 400,000 children are living in foster care. About 100,000 of these are eagerly awaiting mothers and fathers to adopt them. In Kansas, more than 5,000 children are in foster care, with just under 900 ready for adoption.

As a member of the Foster Youth Adoption Caucus, I have been an advocate for adoption, promoting tax credits to assist adoptive parents, cutting through red tape restricting adoption and honoring birth families.

Members of Congress may nominate a family in their district to be recognized as "Angels in Adoption," an award sponsored by our Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. This year, I was privileged to honor Eric and Sara Webster of Pretty Prairie, who welcomed their sons Joe and Josh into their family in 2013.

Adoption is a blessing that celebrates the ultimate gifts of life and family. This November

marked National Adoption Awareness month, and I encourage any family who feel called to adopt to step forward and prayerfully consider this loving option. Trust me: if you are blessed with adoption, you'll never forget those precious moments when they become your own.

Congressman Tim Huelskamp represents the 1st District of Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives and is the proud father of four children by adoption.

Where to write, call

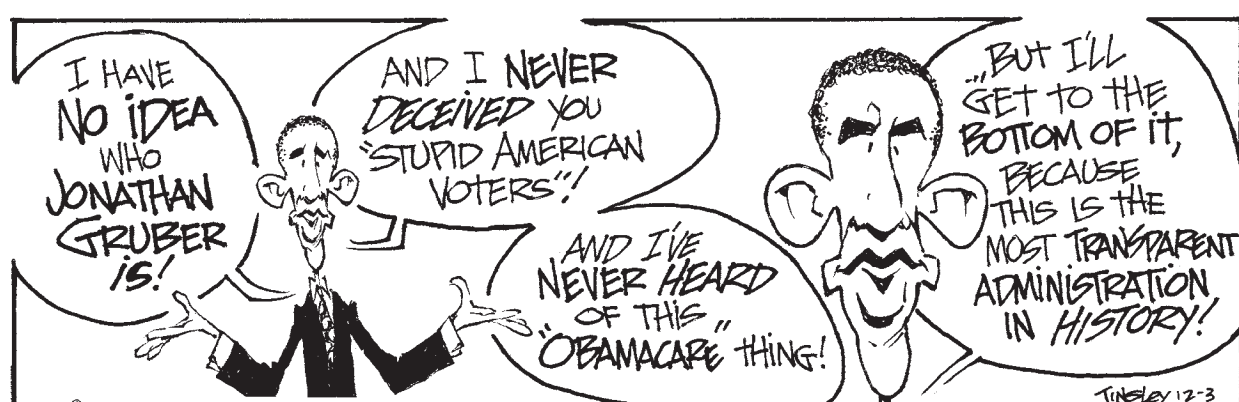
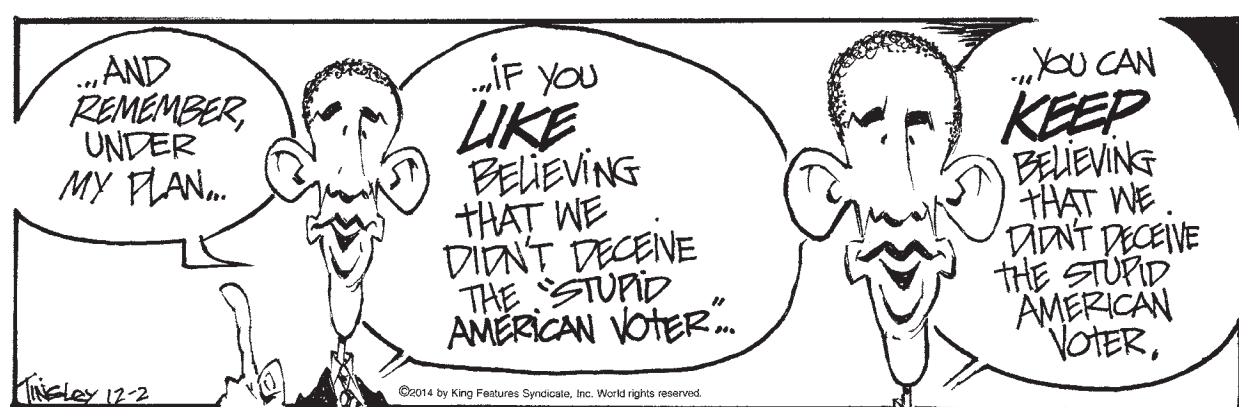
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roberts.senate.gov/public/

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U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

Mallard Fillmore

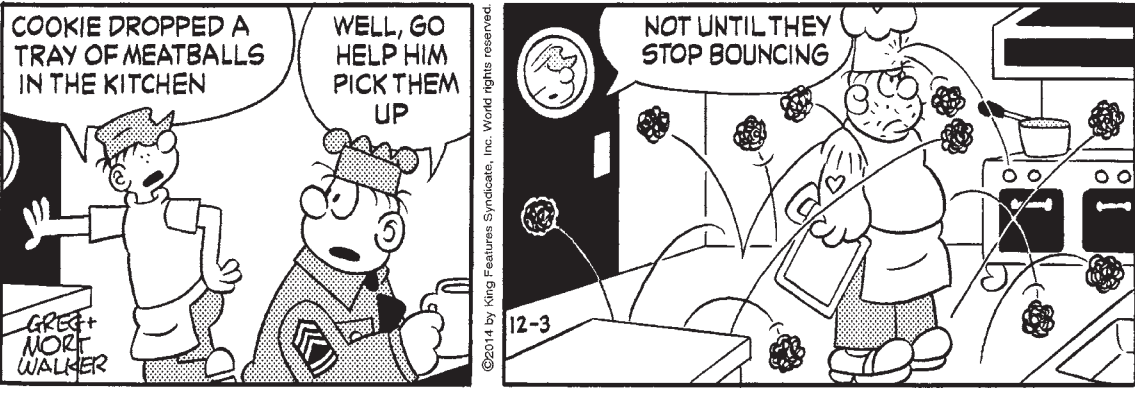
• Bruce Tinsley



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



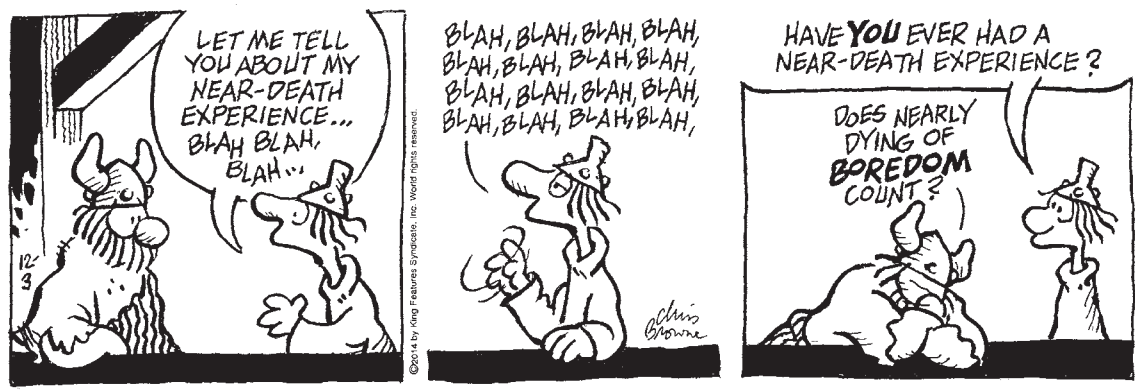
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



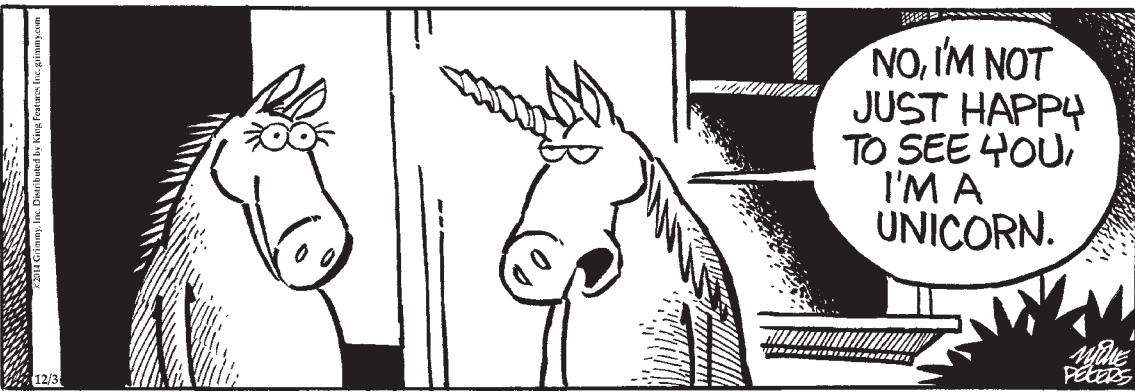
Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



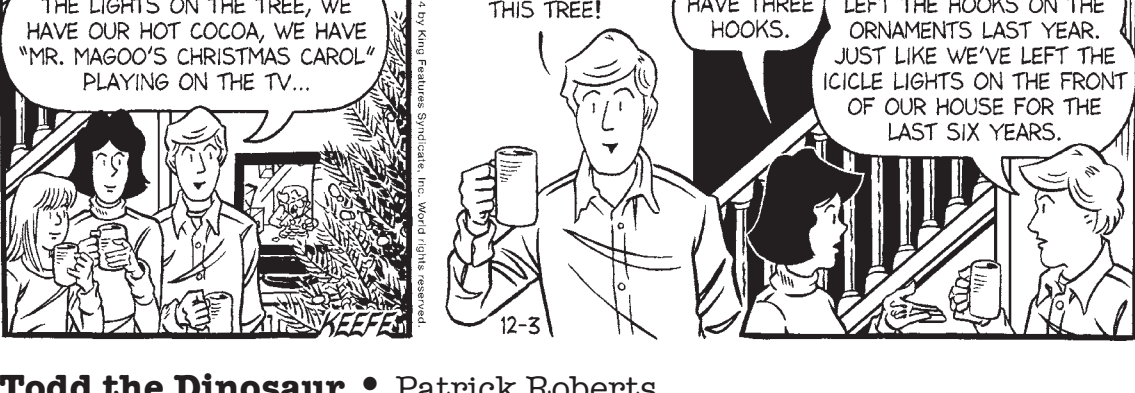
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



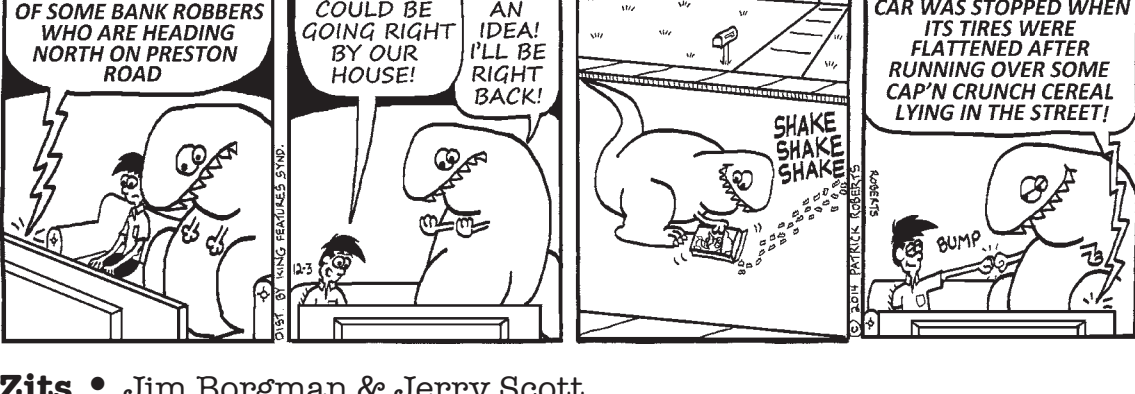
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise

- Hints from Heloise

Kitchen troubles just keep coming

Dear Readers: As promised, here are more kitchen mishap stories, and boy, are some of them a hoot:

- Connie F. in Texas wrote: "I made tuna casserole many times. One day, we sat down to eat, and the casserole was horrible. I checked the tuna can and discovered that I had used cat food — one of the smelliest-fish cat foods ever. P.S.: Even the cat wouldn't eat it."
- Stephanie R., via email, said: "I was married only two weeks and cooking my first Thanksgiving dinner. I had many dishes to prepare. When it came time for dessert, I cut the pecan pie. It seemed very oozy, but my husband said it was wonderful anyway. Later that day, I realized I had forgotten to bake the pie! It looked done, since I had prebaked the crust!"
- Diana C., via email, said: "My mom was visiting and decided to make monkey bread. She let it do a quick rise in the dishwasher, which had just run and was still warm. We watched TV, forgot about the bread, and in the morning found sloppy, gloppy dough everywhere in the dishwasher."

Readers, keep them coming! We've all had a cooking/baking bummer! — Heloise
SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
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 Email: Heloise@Heloise.com

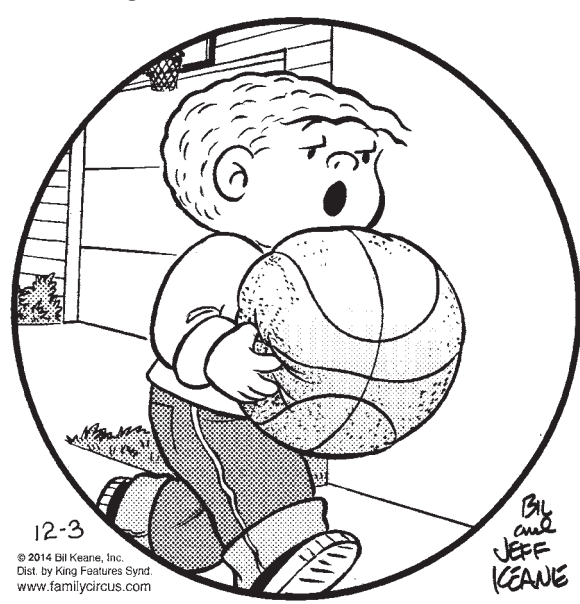
SAVE MONEY
 Dear Heloise: I like to have a few plain almonds, walnuts or pecans each day because it is healthy. The ones from the produce section of the grocery store are cheaper than ones in the baking aisle. With Christmas baking season coming up, this could be a way for bakers to save a little dough. — Jeanette M., via email

Yes it is! Remember this all year! — Heloise

OPENING JARS
 Dear Readers: Wow! So many of you wrote about how you open glass jars, after reader Olga had asked in a previous column. Here are some of your hints:

- Pia H., via email, said: "Use the round end of a can opener to lift the lower edge of the jar lid. This breaks the suction, and the lid unscrews easily."
 - Lois S., via email, said: "Hold the jar firmly and give one hard pop on the lid with the palm or heel of your hand. Sometimes it takes a second pop, but I've never had it fail."
 - Margaret S. in Arkansas wrote: "Insert a spoon handle backward under the edge of the lid. Then press down on the spoon, and you will hear a pop. That is the vacuum seal being broken. The lid will easily twist off."
 - Shirley W. in Oklahoma wrote: "Simply put on rubber dishwashing gloves!"
- There is more than one way to open a jar! — Heloise
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

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.

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

Cryptoquip

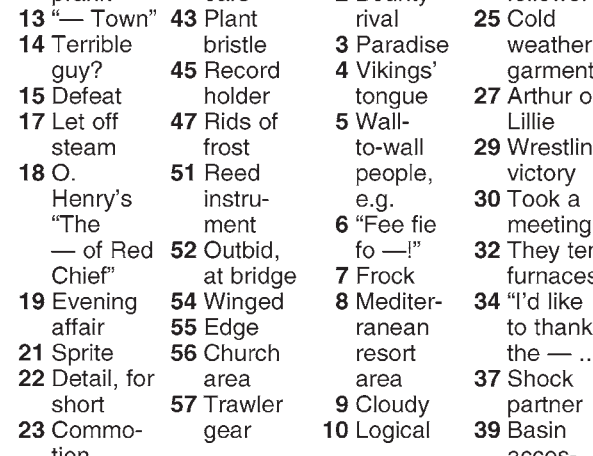
SP UCJV GEO ANEWN R ST
 VCJSAWSVVN SA XLGJXVVO X
 ACO UECRJLG, SA GQXG
 INTGJLIO PEXJR LQSLINT?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THAT TEETER-TOTTER WAS INSTALLED ON THE SHORE, A LOT OF PEOPLE SEESAWED SEASIDE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals I

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pizzeria fixture
 - 5 Old mailing abbr.
 - 8 Parks or Bonheur stick
 - 12 Playful prank
 - 13 "— Town"
 - 14 Terrible guy?
 - 15 Defeat
 - 17 Let off steam
 - 18 O. Henry's "The — of Red Chief"
 - 19 Evening affair
 - 21 Sprite
 - 22 Detail, for short
 - 23 Commotion
 - 26 Vessel for three men
 - 28 Weapons of mouse destruction
 - 31 Cleveland team, briefly
 - 33 Meadow area
 - 35 Largest of the seven
- DOWN**
- 36 Iota preceder
 - 38 Black-jack component
 - 40 Potent oars
 - 41 Uses bristle
 - 43 Plant holder
 - 45 Record of frost
 - 47 Rids of instrument
 - 51 Reed at bridge
 - 52 Outbid, winged
 - 54 Winged edge
 - 55 Church resort area
 - 56 Church area
 - 57 Trawler gear
 - 58 Spring period
 - 59 "Monopoly" card
 - 1 Blood-hound's clue
 - 2 Bounty rival
 - 3 Paradise
 - 4 Vikings' tongue
 - 5 Wall-to-wall people, e.g.
 - 6 "Fee fie fo —!"
 - 7 Frock
 - 8 Mediterranean resort area
 - 9 Cloudy
 - 10 Logical
 - 11 Initial stake
 - 16 Filly's brother
 - 20 Make up your mind
 - 23 Do something
 - 24 Doo follower
 - 25 Cold weather garment
 - 27 Arthur or Lillie
 - 29 Wrestling victory
 - 30 Took a meeting
 - 32 They tend furnaces
 - 34 "I'd like to thank the — ..."
 - 37 Shock partner
 - 39 Basin accessory
 - 42 Blizzard
 - 44 Type of battery
 - 45 Jett or Baez
 - 46 Competent
 - 48 Part of a Batsuit
 - 49 Other-wise
 - 50 Coaster
 - 53 By way of



Yesterday's answer 12-3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18							19	20			
		21					22				
23	24	25		26		27		28		29	30
31			32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40	
			41			42		43		44	
45	46					47			48	49	50
51					52	53					
54					55				56		
57					58				59		

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R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College cheerleaders kept the crowd entertained again throughout Tuesday night's home basketball game.

Late Knight rally tops Trojans

Trojans falter on final trip

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

An annoying fan shouting "SHOOOT! SHOOOT!" would have almost been welcome behind Colby Community College's bench Tuesday night.

Because trailing 65-62 with 17 seconds remaining, the Trojans saw all that time tick away without even launching a game-tying three against Mid-Plains (Neb.) Community College.

Huge late shots are often called "daggers" — yet this finish only pained coach Antowin Edwards in just about every mentionable body part.

"How can you not get a shot off in the last 17 seconds?" Edwards said. "Instead, we turn the ball over. We're not a young team in terms of sophomores or freshmen. We're a young team because we don't know how to win."

The Trojans (7-4 record) had won seven of 10 while showing solid improvement from last year's 2-28 struggle.

Yet they clearly should have made it eight of 11 against a Mid-Plains team that lost to Colby, 58-54, on Nov. 15 in North Platte (Neb.).

Colby shot ahead 13-2 and made it 17-7 on freshman guard Kylie Minish's speedy drive to the hoop. The Trojans also teamed on a terrific "high-low" post pass play where sophomore Amanda Miller found freshman Danielle Santos for two.

Freshman Audra Nowak followed with seven consecutive points after Mid-Plains (5-4 record) drew close.

And when sophomore guard McKenna Ortner's drive drew two defenders, the Colby High alum smartly spotted Miller to make another open three-point bomb.

Miller's shot propelled the Trojans into halftime ahead, 39-30.

"Fool's gold. While everyone else was excited about the fast start, I felt it was fool's gold," Edwards said. "They (Mid-Plains) got off the bus a little slow, but I know my team. We're not real good at starting games, and we don't play well coming out after



halftime. I take blame for it, we will get better and fix that."

Unfortunately, Edwards' remark was confirmed after intermission. Mid-Plains quickly erased the Trojan advantage and even led by six before Colby made a late rally.

Eagles alum Karly Kriss' inside basket caught the Knights at 55-55 thanks to an assist from point guard Deja Cato.

Yet Mid-Plains promptly tallied two more baskets to stay ahead until Colby wasted that final scoring chance.

"We had 25 turnovers against a

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Freshman Audra Nowak surprised two Mid-Plains (Neb.) Community College defenders as she swooped in for an offensive putback and two more of her 14 points for Colby Community College Tuesday night.

team that didn't even pressure," Edwards said as the Trojans also tallied only 23 second-half points. "We just gotta get better."

Mid-Plains prevailed despite shooting just 33.3 percent (25 for 75).

The Trojans will play next at Hesston College on Saturday in their final week before a break.

Colby's available scoring summary from Tuesday: Miller 17 points, Nowak 14, Laura Dennis 10, Santos 6, Cato 5, Minish 4, Kriss 4, Heather Cleveland 2.

No change in Cards

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Despite two straight losses, the Arizona Cardinals will start Drew Stanton again at quarterback against Kansas City Sunday.

Both the Chiefs (7-5 record) and Cardinals (9-3) will try to stop recent slumps.

Colby hoops tip off Thursday

A field of five state-rated teams will join Colby High at the basketball season-opening Hays City Shootout tournament this week.

Colby's varsity girls tangle with Great Bend, who reached last year's 5A state semifinals and finished with 22 victories.

The complete Shootout schedule with rankings and last season's records, according to kpreps.com.

Girls

Thursday: Colby High (9-12) vs. Great Bend (22-6), 3 p.m. in Hays High School; **6A No. 8 Garden City (13-9) vs. Hays Thomas More Prep-Marian (5-14), 4:45**

p.m.; Hays (0-21) vs. DeSoto (8-12), 6:30 p.m.; **5A No. 8 Newton (14-8) vs. Olathe North (2-19).**

Friday: Colby would play at 6:30 p.m. in either consolation or championship semifinal. Hays or DeSoto will be the opponent.

Saturday: Seventh place, 10 a.m. in Hays Middle School. Fifth place, 1:30 p.m. in Hays Middle School. Third place, 1:30 p.m. in Hays High School. Championship, 5 p.m. in Hays High School.


Boys

Thursday: Garden City (13-9) vs. 4A Division II No. 8 Hays TMP (13-10), 3 p.m.; **Colby High**

(2-18) vs. Great Bend (7-14), 4:45 p.m.; 6A No. 7 Olathe North (13-9) vs. Newton (8-13), 6:30 p.m.; **4A Division I No. 3 Hays (23-2) vs. DeSoto (8-14), 8:15 p.m.**

Friday: Same potential matchups as girls with Colby playing at 8:15 p.m. in either Hays High School (semifinal) or Hays Middle School (consolation semi).

Saturday: Seventh place, 11:45 a.m. in Hays Middle School. Fifth place, 3:15 p.m. in Hays Middle School. Third place, 3:15 p.m. in Hays High School. Championship, 7 p.m. in Hays High School.



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R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Opponents like the Oakley Plainsmen in Colby High's Sept. 5 season opener learned quickly that junior Ben Matchell was one tough Eagle to tackle during this recent 2014 football campaign. Matchell earned all-Great West Activities Conference honors for offense, defense and special teams. Junior Austin Hart (left) was also honored for his efforts on both lines of scrimmage.

Eagles land on all-GWAC

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

Fearsome football words like "squib kick" and "pooch it" quickly became familiar when facing Colby High kickoff returner Ben Matchell this fall.

Yet there was no way to avoid Matchell taking handoffs behind Colby High's strong offensive line as he blasted through defenses for better than seven yards a rush.

Matchell's running and kick returning both made the all-Great West Activities Conference first team when coaches announced their selections this week.

It's no surprise since Matchell averaged more than 100 yards per game capped by one monumental 257-yard, four-touchdown Halloween night against rival Good-

land — a 55-18 Eagles victory. Matchell's 74 tackles in nine regular-season games also garnered honorable mention at linebacker.

However, junior Austin Hart was also a beast on both sides of the football.

Hart earned his spot with the all-league first-team offensive line, and his defense (four sacks, three fumble recoveries, 20 regular-season tackles) gained honorable mention.

Plus Goodland fans should still be thankful Hart didn't carry their quarterback's arm to the end zone with that dramatic first-half fumble he ripped free.

Fellow defensive lineman Ethan Jay also played a huge role in Colby's run-stuffing defense.

Jay joined Hart as all-conference first-team defensive selec-

tions. Terrific tackling safety Brady Holzmeister — another junior — completes Colby's all-league quartet for the 2014 season with his honorable mention.

Holzmeister's 39 tackles featured 33 solo stops which often tripped up potential gains or opposing touchdowns. He also scored two TDs while rushing for 463 yards, catching four passes and completing another 10.

All-around talent best describes Brady, but perhaps another word starting with "stud" covers all four Colby all-league selections.

"All these guys had tremendous years on the field, and they are great student-athletes," coach Chris Gardner said. "I'm proud of all the student-athletes within the football program. They did a great job this year."

Golden starts No. 1, Titans in state top 10

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

Their two all-staters graduated last May, but that doesn't mean Golden Plains High can't be among state title contenders again.

Kansas Basketball Association voting coaches agreed with this statement. On Monday, they announced the Bulldogs will begin this season as 1A Division II's top-ranked girls team.

Golden Plains was picked No. 1 over familiar state tournament foe Bucklin. The Bulldogs hadn't been to a 1A championship game since 1974 — until they beat Bucklin, 52-49, in last season's state semifinals.

No. 1 seed Baileyville B&B took a 59-40 final from Golden Plains before moving on to consolidation.

So only the Bulldogs (21-4 record last year) return as reigning state finalists. They also must move on without top scorers/1A all-staters Jordan Christensen and Hailee Spesser.

However, several other experienced players return including seniors Kynndra Rush and Rachael Ritter; juniors Kami Miller and Madison Walz; and sophomore Gabrielle Schiltz among others.

Coach Parker Christensen's No. 1 Bulldogs are home to start their season on Friday.

Western Plains visits Rexford for a girls-boys varsity double-header.

The entire 1A Division II top five features Golden Plains, Bucklin, Argonia, Attica and South



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

State champion Baileyville B&B (right) has disappeared into consolidation, but many basketball "experts" anticipate guard Kami Miller (left) and the Golden Plains High girls to be in 1A title contention again. The Bulldogs tip off their season Friday evening.

Barber. Just two spots below are the Triplains-Brewster Titans at No. 7.

The Titans were last year's Western Kansas Liberty League champions with a thrilling finals win over Golden Plains.

They went on to a 17-5 record, falling just one win short of state when Golden Plains got revenge

in the substate championship game.

The Bulldogs and Titans will play in different substates this season.

Senior Shayna Rogge — who just earned 1A all-state volleyball honors this week — will lead Triplains-Brewster into a Friday season opener at Logan.

Horned Frogs leap to No. 3

The Texas Christian University Horned Frogs became the latest one-loss team to leap over un-

beaten Florida State in this week's college football playoff rankings.

Florida State slipped to No. 4.

Kansas State climbed to No. 9 before Saturday's Big 12 showdown finale with No. 6 Baylor.

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