

Native stone outcropping above creek

By Ron Wilson

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Across the pastoral landscape, a sound echoes through the air. We are visiting the little-known treasure called Echo Cliff along the Kansas Native Stone Scenic Byway.
In a previous profile, we learned about the many attractions chronicled on a new CD about the Native Stone Scenic Byway. The byway is a 48-mile highway route between Topeka and Alma, including the rural town of Dover with a population of perhaps 50 people. Now, that's rural.
According to one account, Dover was named by English immigrants who were reminded of the white

cliffs of their homeland when they came across this remarkable stone formation here in Kansas.
Echo Cliff is located two miles west of Dover, Kansas, south on Echo Cliff road. It is an impressive native stone outcropping above scenic Mission Creek, and includes a park with a canopy of ancient bur oak and sycamore trees.
This area was once known as Gibbsville. A major section of sandstone is exposed above the creek. In the mid-1970s, a portion of the cliff wall cracked and separated from the main section. More of the sandstone and shale formations were then exposed for all to see. Remnants of this slide remain at the bottom of the cliff in the creek.
Three sites near the cliffs have been studied by state archeologists

for the presence of Indian villages. These studies found evidence of the Woodland Indians of the Grasshopper Falls phase, and a Plains Indian tribe with a Pomona influence.
Fred Winter named this location Echo Cliff in 1895, based on the acoustics found here. It became a picnic and camping site.
In 1922, Charles Winter cleaned the grove and prepared it for use as a park and camping ground, which could be rented by the public and used by Sunday School classes. At one point, the grounds included cabins, miniature golf, horseshoe pits and a croquet field. The park was a location for many campouts by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Even roaming Gypsies were known to camp there.
A resident by the name of Harry

Fellows lived in the area of Gibbsville and operated a broom factory there during the early 1930's. He grew broom corn on the bottom ground along nearby Mission Creek and also purchased corn from some of his neighbors. The brooms he made in his factory were sold at general stores in Dover and Topeka.
The land where Echo Cliff is located was deeded to the Dover Grange to be maintained for use by the public. Now it is owned by the Echo Cliff Park Trust, with a board of directors from several Dover organizations.
Currently no overnight camping is allowed, but restrooms and cement tables are available for use in the park. Steel boiler tanks acquired from a demolition company and modified by local farmer Earl

Hepworth, are used as latrines. It is said that the previous toilets were "commandeered by a group of spirited individuals who rode them down the creek during a time of high water."
Earl Hepworth has been caretaker of the park for more than 50 years, emptying the trash barrels every day.
He is the creative mind and hand behind all of the signs, tables and benches.
The circular driveway is lined by boulders of Sioux quartzite from South Dakota and Minnesota that were carried into Kansas by the last glacier, along with sandstone from a local quarry.
With the construction of a new bridge over Mission Creek to the west, the old iron bridge has been

incorporated into the park also.
It provides access to the top of the cliff and is said to be a fine spot from which to fish.
Many people still come to marvel at the scenic beauty of Echo Cliff. One observer wrote, "Rappelers come to scale the cliffs, students come to learn what the rocks seem to offer and picnickers come to find solitude and contentment."
For more information, go to www.wabaunsee.com.
Across the peaceful landscape echoes a sound - a sound of laughter and conversation.
Thanks to those who made a difference and preserved this landmark, the benefits will echo to future generations.



Tyrel Purvis and Alyssa Pingel

Michigan couple plan to wed New Year's Eve

Alyssa Pingel and Tyrel Purvis, both of Niles, Mich., plan to marry on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2011 at Calvary Bible Church at Dowagiac, Mich.
The bride to be's parents are Roy and Angela Pingel of Niles, Mich. and her grandparents are Terry and Linda Pingel of Dowagiac, Mich.; Cinda Steven of Lawrence, Mich. Great-grandparents are Albert and Gloria Steven of Granger, Ind.; Andrea Gailhouse of Lawton, Mich.; and June McCausling of Lawton, Mich.
The future groom's parents are Steven and Carrie Purvis of Niles,

Mich. and his grandparents are Elmer and Joyce Purvis of Goodland, Fred and Diana Stasser of St. Francis and Dale and Nancy Greenwood of Caldwell.
She graduated in 2009 from Niles Senior High and is attending Southwest Michigan College at Niles majoring in graphic design. She is the graphic designer at The Herald Palladium of St. Joseph, Mich.
He graduated from Niles Senior High in 2008 and is attending Lake Michigan College at Niles majoring in business and logistics. He is a territory representative for Kellogg's.

Some like to apply in the fall

Some producers in Kansas would like to apply anhydrous ammonia this fall to ground intended for the 2012 corn crop. This practice has some appeal. For one thing, fall fertilizer application spreads out the workload so that there's more time to focus on corn planting in the spring. Secondly, wet spring weather sometimes prevents producers from applying anhydrous ammonia in the spring ahead of corn planting, and forces them to apply more expensive sources after planting. Equally important for many growers have been issues with ammonia availability at times in the spring the past year or two.
Despite those advantages, a fall application of anhydrous ammonia involves some risks, and is not rec-



**jeanne
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• extension district

ommended as a general practice in Kansas. This is due to the potential for higher nitrogen loss in the spring following fall application, as a result of nitrification of the ammonium during late winter and very early spring and subsequent leaching, or denitrification.
Traditionally, daily high soil temperatures of 50°F at a depth of four inches are considered the maximum for the application of ammonia in the fall. It's not that ni-

trification stops below 50 degrees, but rather that soils will soon become cold enough (in all likelihood) to limit the nitrification process. As a general rule, applying ammonia in the fall for corn is probably not a good idea south of I-70 because soil temperatures are not normally cold enough on a consistent basis during the winter to prevent nitrification in the fall. North of I-70 applications can be made in soils which are, or soon will be, cold enough to limit nitrification. The use of a nitrification inhibitor such as N-Serve can help reduce nitrogen losses from fall nitrogen applications under specific conditions,

particularly during periods when soil temperatures warm back up for a period after application.
One should also consider soil type when considering fall application. Fall applications of nitrogen for corn should not be made on sandy soils prone to leaching, particularly those over shallow, unprotected aquifers. Rather, fall nitrogen applications should be confined primarily to deep, medium- to heavy-textured soils where water movement is slower.
To check the soil temperature in your area visit the K-State Research and Extension Weather Data Library at: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl/>.

Goodland library to celebrate Kansas reads

The Goodland Public Library will celebrate the 2011 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week by having drawings, prizes and a coloring contest.
The book chosen to be read is "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Kansas author Bill Martin, Jr. Mar-

tin is a well-known Kansas author for children and the book is one of his best-known books. It is available in many formats.
The book describes a bright and lively rhyme in which the letters of the alphabet race each other to the

top of a coconut tree. When X, Y and Z finally scramble up the trunk, however, the weight is too much and down they all tumble in a colorful chaotic heap.
This is the seventh year for the week that emphasizes the impor-

ance of reading to very young children and also commemorates Kansas' 150th anniversary of statehood.
For information call 899-5461.

Goodland students go to honor choir, band

A Goodland High School student and 27 Grant Junior High students attended the high school honor jazz band, the junior high district honor choir and band on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Hays. The students received specialized instruction and after hard work participated in concerts at the end of the day.

Senior Brendan Fulcher on the trumpet participated in the high school honor jazz band.
Junior high band students that went to the junior high honor band were Savannah Bassett, Mercedes Garza, Kinsey Volk, Taitem Jones, Mary Schnabel, Kelssey White, Faith Bierman, Margaux Thomp-

son, Arron Artega, Quynnalyn Meyer and Sarah Johnson.
Junior high vocal students that went to the junior high honor choir were Dani Mangus, Jordan Siruta, Amanda Coon, Elizabeth Fulcher, Kyndell King, Kat Boyington, Orlando Wooten, Chandler Pettibone, Alexis Berquist, Katie Hays,

Savannah Brighton, Erin Floyd, Dusty Johnson Braxton Redlin and Hunter Harkins.
Deanne Langness is the Goodland School District band instructor and Randy Berls the Grant Junior High and Goodland High School vocal music instructor.

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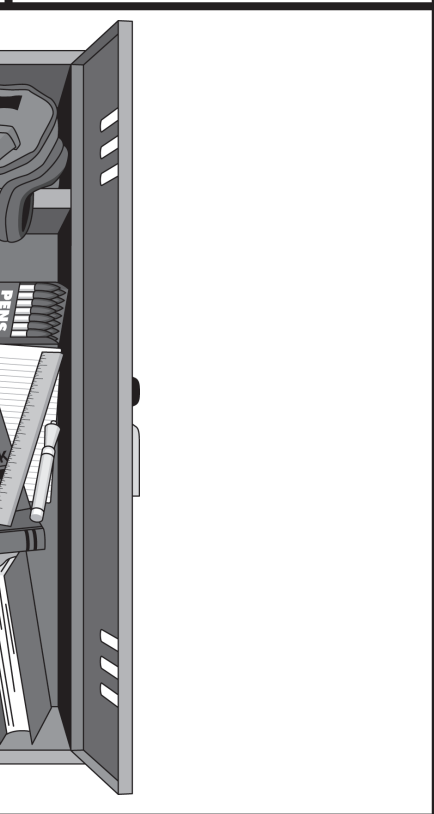
Susan Doke Roxann Kling

School calendar for November 16-22

Goodland High School • Grant Junior High School
West Elementary School • Central Elementary School



Wednesday: Black day
Thursday: Gold day
PLAN Test for Sophomores
West School pie delivery
3 p.m.: Girls Junior High Basketball at Holcomb
Friday: Black day
High School picture retakes
Yearbook pictures
Winter Sports pictures
Junior High pictures
Saturday: Nu Phi Mu Food & Gift Extravaganza
9 a.m.: Junior High Wrestling at Ulysses
Monday: Gold day
Tuesday: Black day



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