

Wrestler earns excellence award

The National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum has named former Goodland Cowboy Brett Bahe as the Kansas winner of the Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award.

The award is given to a senior wrestler in each of the 48 states that sponsor high school championships who demonstrates "excellence in wrestling, scholastic achievement, character, citizenship and community service."

Bahe wrestled for the Cowboys for three seasons, winning two Class 4A state championships, at 112 pounds as a sophomore and 119 pounds as a junior. Now a senior at Great Bend High, a Class 5A school, Bahe won his third straight state title in February at 130 pounds to help the Panthers finish 11th at the tournament.

The award is named in honor of former University of Oklahoma wrestler Dave Schultz, who won an

Olympic gold medal in 1984 and was killed in 1996.

Along with the award, Bahe may attend an all-expense-paid leadership camp June 18-21 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Among the 48 recipients this year is the first girl to earn the award.

Bahe wrestled and won his match in the U.S.A. Wrestling Senior Classic at the Topeka Expo Center on Friday, March 23. He beat Nathan Broeckelman from Norton. The match had three two-minute periods using National Federation Folkstyle rules.

Brett's parents are Randy and Kathy Bahe of Great Bend. His brothers Bryce wrestles for Fort Hays State University and Blayze wrestled at University of North Colorado, Greeley.

Their grandparents are Ed and Sharon Deeds and Wilmer and Peg Bahe of Goodland.

Grandson joins Air Force Academy

Tobias Dirks, son of Max and Irene Dirks, of WaKeeney, has accepted an appointment to the Air Force Academy. Dirks, who is graduating from Trego Community High School, is the grandson of T.T. and Ann Dirks of St. Francis and Glenn and Darlene Cookson of WaKeeney.

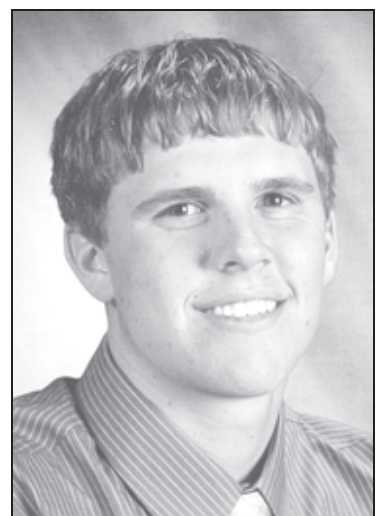
Over \$185,000 in scholarship money will be received over the course of four years. Dirks will serve five years active duty as an officer in the Air Force upon completion of the four years. He was nominated by Senator Sam Brownback.

During his high school career, he has been an academic letter winner and named to the All-A honor roll along with placing in Math Relays.

He has been a member, and in a number of instances, an officer, of Family Career Community Leaders of America, Kansas Association For Youth, National Honor Society, Foreign Language Club, Student Council, Science Club, yearbook staff (editor his junior year), FFA and T-Club. Besides being senior class president, he has been Student of the Week, Student of the Year (junior year), won a Citizenship Award, named the Wendy's High School Heisman on the local level and been a sportswriter for the newspaper.

Dirks was also a star athlete for Trego Community. Football honors include being named Kansas Football Coaches Association All-State Lineback, Mid-Continent League All-League running back, All-League lineback and All-League punter. The four-year letter winner was a captain his junior and senior year.

He also earned two letters in



Dirks

wrestling, one in basketball, and four in track.

A church and community worker, Dirks was involved in the WaKeeney Church of God, attending the State Youth Convention for three years, was a member of Preparing Youth to Reach Out youth group at the Church of God for five years and belonged to Fellowship of Christian Athletes for two years.

A Community Appreciation Day helper, a Relay for Life worker and participant, a delivery person for Meals on Wheels, Lake Cleanup helper, Boy Scout, a coach for flag football, and an announcer and chain game member for Federated Football are on his civic resume.

Dirks is a First Degree Mason. Although Dirks will be attending the Air Force Academy, he also received an appointment to the Merchant Marines.

Dirks' father, Max, is a 1981 graduate of St. Francis Community High School.



PUTTING TOGETHER THE TABLES — Mike Bandel and Tye Faulkender get the tables set up for the senior center.

Bank purchases tables and chairs

Bankwest, St. Francis, have been looking at projects which will help the community. One of their first projects has been completed.

On Thursday, they delivered new tables and chairs to the St. Francis Senior Center.

Dawn Lucas, bank employee, said she had visited with Art Krueger, representing the center, and this was the project he saw was the most pressing.

Most of the chairs and tables at the center had been donated to begin with. Now, some were broken and it was time to replace them.

After several meetings with Mr. Krueger and Ken Quigley, also with the center, the bank

employees ordered and put together 10 new oak lunch-style cafeteria tables, along with 50 new burgundy-covered chairs.

Mrs. Lucas said the tables are like those at the high school and will give the seniors a sturdy table to eat on or play games.

Bankwest also purchased five dollies to put the chairs on for easy moving and storing. The dollies will help the citizens move their own chairs easier, Mrs. Lucas said.

People are urged to stop at the center to check out the new furniture.

"Bankwest is working toward providing a community service to other projects in the future," Mrs. Lucas said.



BRIDGETTE ANTHOLZ helps unpack the chairs.

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