



DILLION STRAUB hopes to add two more points to the Indian score.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller



LAURA BRUNK is guarding her Christian Family Educators opponent.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

Hoxie defeats both teams

St. Francis and Hoxie met in junior high girls basketball action on Thursday in Hoxie. Hoxie has a strong A-team which defeated the Lady Indians 56-27. In B-team action Hoxie pulled out a 19-18 victory.

This is the first loss of the season for both teams which now each have a 3-1 record.

A-team

Hoxie scored 25 points in the first quarter to show their domination of the game.

"We played a very good basketball team in Hoxie," Coach Ted Busse said. "They have three girls who obviously pick up a basketball more than just during the regular season. They

understand the game very well and have the skills that come from putting in the extra time to be good.

"With that said I thought that we played much better basketball from the second through the fourth quarter and because of that we got better."

Kyla Bandel and Justice Wiley each scored seven points for St. Francis with McKayla Taylor adding six.

S 02 06 07 12 27
H 25 12 15 04 56

Scoring: Bandel 7, Wiley 7, Taylor 6, Valerie Wurm 3, Dallas Reed 2, Ashlee Orth 2.

B-team

McKenzie Taylor scored eight

points for the B-team in the Hoxie game.

The teams were tied after the first quarter and again at half time, then Hoxie pulled ahead in the third quarter and took the one-point victory.

"We played a hard-fought game that could have gone either way," Coach Busse said. "I really liked our defensive pressure in this game and we hope to see this team again in the league tournament".

S 04 02 02 10 18
H 04 02 07 06 19

Scoring: Taylor 8, Reed 6, Emily Elfers 2, Kylie Sherlock 2.

Three-state Republican River Compact approved

A multi-million dollar project that will reduce groundwater use by agriculture while boosting stream flow to help keep Nebraska in compliance with the three-state Republican River Compact during dry periods has been approved by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. The District, headquartered in Imperial, is made up of Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties.

The irrigator-funded acre retirement and pipeline project approved Tuesday, Feb. 1, will be the largest of its kind in the state. It has the potential to help keep farmers throughout Nebraska's Republican River Basin, where 1.2 million acres are irrigated, from being shutdown to stay in compliance with the Republican River Compact that divides water use between Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. Complying with the compact has been a source of conflict that is expected to be considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The project greatly reduces chances that producers who farm close to the Republican and its tributaries in the Upper Republican will have to be shutdown during dry times to help increase stream flow so the district doesn't exceed its allotted amount of allowable stream flow depletions caused by groundwater irrigation.

"This project is a cost-effective way to stay in compliance with the compact while protecting our water resources and keeping farmers in the basin in business," said Jasper Fanning, Ph.D., general manager of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District. "It doesn't negate the need for reduced water use to stay in compliance and the district, as it has for 30 years, will continue to be at the regulatory forefront of groundwater management."

The district's board of directors on Tuesday night unanimously approved the purchase of nearly 3,300 irrigated acres with 24 center-pivot systems located just north of Rock Creek State Fish Hatchery, which is seven miles north of Parks in Dundy County, at a cost of \$10 million. A portion, not all, of the water that historically has been used to irrigate the land will instead be piped into nearby

Rock Creek, which flows into the Republican River near Parks. The water will be piped only when needed, during dry times, to stay in compliance with the compact. The land is expected to eventually return to natural vegetation. It is hoped that the pipeline will be in place in 2012.

The project may only need to be used every three or four years, at the most. History suggests that during the driest of years, the district may need an additional 10,000 acre feet of water to stay in compliance with the compact. The proposed project has the potential to supply roughly that amount of water, and more water could be provided in the future granted the district retires more acres.

The Upper Republican Natural Resources District worked cooperatively with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources to analyze the feasibility and benefits of the project.

"We believe this project has the potential to significantly aid efforts to stay in compliance with the Republican River Compact and the local integrated management plan," said Brian Dunningan, director of Department of Natural Resources. "This is the type of initiative needed to help farmers throughout the Republican River Basin."

Compact-compliance guidelines ensure that the amount of water piped into Rock Creek will not exceed what has historically been pumped for irrigation on the land or other acres that could potentially be retired in the future to expand the project. To get credit for creating stream flow, enough acres must be retired so that overall pumping that affects stream flow does not increase. In other words, water put into the stream must be offset by reducing irrigation by the same or more amounts of water than what is put into the stream.

The land is in an ideal location for such a project because of its proximity to Rock Creek. Only about 10 miles of pipeline is expected to be needed to occasionally collect groundwater on the land and dispense it into Rock Creek. Including the cost of the pipeline and land costs, total project costs are expected to

be between \$12 million and \$15 million.

The project is part of the district's adaptive, holistic management approach to water issues: The conservation-minded project will help ease a transition into tighter water regulations that will become more economically feasible as drought-resistant crops and other technologies are developed. That transition has already begun.

For example, the district's compact-compliance plan that is outlined in the Integrated Management Plan it crafted with the state and that was approved this summer by the Natural Resources District and state calls for groundwater pumping across the three-county district to be 20 percent less than it was between 1998 and 2002. Farmers in the district surpassed the goal last year, pumping about 9 percent less than what is targeted in the Integrated Management Plan goal. Groundwater levels responded, rising nearly 1/2 a foot on average. Also, the district is launching a program to retire irrigated acres.

In addition to aiding compact compliance, the pipeline and water conservation project will help preserve water resources for future generations by requiring less groundwater pumping than has historically occurred on the ground the Natural Resources District purchased.

"This project will actually reduce the amount of water that is consumed and is for dry times, not all the time. We'll continue to take actions throughout the district to reduce water consumption for long-term compact compliance and the preservation of water resources in the region including the Ogallala Aquifer," said Upper Republican Natural Resources District board member and farmer Tom Terryberry.

The district's occupation tax on irrigated land will finance the project. Approved by lawmakers, the tax was designed for the type of projects the Upper Republican Natural Resources District is embarking upon.

The Upper Republican Natural Resources District was the first in the state to restrict irrigation and meter groundwater wells, doing so in the late 1970's.

College volleyball for student

By Betty Jean Winston
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Enthusiasm is a good word to describe Aly Marin's reaction to playing college volleyball next year.

"This has been one of my main goals since grade school," she said. "I am really into volleyball and I had a mindset goal of college ball. I have enthusiasm. I have a passion to help spark excitement."

Marin has signed a letter of intent to play volleyball at Bethany College next year. The college, located in Lindsborg, had a 4-11 Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference record and a 7-24 overall record in 2010. Volleyball at Bethany is involved in a building program under Coach Nathalea Stephenson, who just finished her third season.

"I am really excited as I have heard great things about Bethany," said Aly. "They have a junior varsity program also so I will be playing somewhere. By the end of the year I want to be on varsity as I will adapt to their style of play."

"I was involved in a turnaround program in St. Francis and I know how rewarding that is. I don't mind going through that again. I think I can help a program that is in a turnover and be a part of it."

"I can hardly wait to get their summer workout program. I think I report to Bethany the first of August."

Aly gives a lot of credit to St. Francis coach Talley Morrow. "Coach Morrow has been a huge influence and has given

me great encouragement," Aly said. "She has assisted me to reach my goal and has helped me keep my enthusiasm."

At St. Francis, Aly played the entire rotation. When she was in the back row she was a setter. She finished last season with the most assists on the team with 1,075 out of 1,119 for 96 percent. She was also second in the most good digs/saves with a total of 437.

She was a four-year letter winner in St. Francis and a three-year starter. She received honorable mention on the Northwest Kansas League team both her junior and senior year and was invited to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star game her senior year.

"Aly has been a vital part of Lady Indian volleyball for the last several years," Coach Morrow said. "Early on, as an up-and-coming setter and team leader, she showed natural ability and an intense desire not only to win, but to improve herself on her own time as well as in practice. She attended many skills camps, team camps, and even played club ball for at least one winter. That is what it takes to become a leading high school setter."

"I am proud to have had the opportunity to coach her for three years in high school (one year c-team, two years varsity) and I have no doubt of the contribution she will make to the Bethany volleyball program. I know that she will continue to work hard and improve her own game for Coach Stephenson."

"Aly is not only a great setter,



Marin

able to put the ball where it needs to go and make her hitters look good, but she is amazing on back-row defense and keeping balls off the floor (in 2010, 437/539).

"If you are a Lady Indian fan, you will remember Aly's amazing serves. In the 2009 season, she had 30 aces and served 88 percent. In the 2010 season, she improved to 50 aces and an 89 percent service record, becoming the top ace server on the team. In her senior season, she and her awesome teammates worked hard, together, to unleash the first winning season the Lady Indian volleyballers have experienced since 2002.

"Aly will be missed by her high school coach, but she knows that Aly must move on to bigger and better things. Thank you, number 27, for your unfailing loyalty to the Lady Indian program and I wish you the very best at Bethany."

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library

Indulgence in Death By J.D. Robb

When a murder disrupts the Irish vacation she is taking with her husband, Roarke, Eve realizes that no place is safe-not an Irish wood or the streets of the manic city she calls home. But nothing prepares her for what she discovers upon her return to the cop show in New York City...

A driver for a top-of-the-line limousine service is found dead-shot through the neck with a crossbow. The car was booked by an executive at a venerable security company whose identity had been stolen. Days later, a stunning, high-priced escort is found killed at Coney Island, a bayonet stuck in her heart. And again, the trail leads to a CEO whose information has been hijacked.

With a method established,

but no motive to be found, Eve begins to fear that she has come across that most dangerous of criminals, a thrill killer, but one with a taste for the finer things in life-and death. Eve does not know where or when the next kill will be, or that her investigation will take her to the rarefield circle that Roarke travels in-and into the perverted heart of madness...