



MATT BANDEL works with the boys during a recent practice. The youth teams are traveling to other towns competing with different teams.
Herald photo by Mila Bandel



DELIVERING SINGING VALENTINES on Tuesday were (l to r) Isaac Schiltz, Gavin Cooper, Ty Zwegardt, Ross Nicklos, Logan Whitmore and Brock Zwegardt.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Youth competing

A youth basketball 5-on-5 tournament was held on Feb. 11. Teams from McCook, Imperial, Wauneta, Goodland, Southwest Indianola, Dundy County / Stratton and St. Francis competed against each other.

Results were:
5th-6th grade girls Madisan Tice, Jessica Confer, Lauren Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Mathisen Witzel, Emileigh Dinkel and Hannah Bracelin placed fifth.
3rd-4th grade girls Audrey

Meyer, Kattie Wurm, Karly Baxter, Emma Johnson, Cassidy Busse and Taige Weeter placed second.

5th-6th grade boys were Cody Baxter, Tate Busse, KC Krien, Tayton Weeter, Jordan Raby, Brice Raby, Dravin Houtman and Tiernan Poling placed third.

3rd-4th grade boys Brady Dinkel, Jesse Baxter, Adam Krien, Ben Busse, Kobe Tice, Colton Neitzel and Garin Cooper placed third.

The Gardener

Alright, lets see the hands of all you gardeners out there who are as pleased as I am that the seed catalogs seem to be coming our way earlier and earlier each year. Those opposed, same sign. The "pleaseds" win, hands down.

It was the day before last Halloween that the catalog for Pinetree Gardens suddenly appeared in my mailbox, and it was just last week that I received what is surely the final offering of the season in the form of a colorful catalog from the Michigan Bulb Company. All together, 21 wonderful reminders of spring have been studied very thoroughly as I divert my attention from television to visions of beautiful flowers and gorgeous cucumbers!

You know what? After I've digested the contents of all those catalogs; after I see that one or two of my all-time favorite

varieties are no longer available; after I carefully study the possibilities of some of the new varieties; only then will I visit my nearest friendly hometown fully accredited garden center and buy the seeds and plants that I intend to grow this year. Please understand that the seed rack at the garden center doesn't always display the varieties of seed that I prefer, but if they do, that's where I will do business. Never mind that in my case, the nearest real garden center is at least 30 miles away from where I live. I'm going there anyway to see if they can provide what I want. And also, other needed garden supplies such as fertilizers and bug killers and whatever else I feel like I need.

For me, seed is the problem. I can never remember seeing a packet of YaYa carrot seed on a seed rack, and I must have

YaYa carrot seed. I've not seen Megaton cabbage seed on a seed rack, and I must absolutely have Megaton cabbage seed because it has proved to me to be the best I have ever grown. The same goes for Super Tasty tomato seed, Sweet Success cucumbers, and Mirai sweet corn. And yet, for every preferred seed I can't find on the rack, there are always 2 or 3 that are always there. And please understand this. Although I will pay extra if need be to secure the variety of seed I prefer, most packets of seed on the garden center's seed rack are lots less expensive than their counterparts in the seed catalog. Burpee Seed Company's regular size packets in the catalog are nearly all \$4.95 this year, and the newest offerings are mostly \$5.95. You'll have

to hunt diligently to find a seed packet that costs more than \$2.50 at the garden center. Nevermind that you'll also pay upwards of a \$5.95 minimum for shipping and handling when you order from the catalog.

Still, I'm not about to pass up the varieties of vegetables or flowers I like best. Therefore, a small order goes out to a big seed company every spring, with my sincere thanks for providing me with valuable information about the seeds and plants that I'll try my best to find at the nearest hometown greenhouse and garden center. Never yet have I returned a seed catalog to the sender.

By
Kay
Melia



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