

Family

Snowy weather gives Rexford family chance to reminisce

The winter weather has been giving us lots of snow, reminding me of the winters in the 80s and early 90s when living on the farm and our children were young.

After taking care of livestock the kids and I (sometimes dad, who is now with us in spirit), would spend hours playing in the snow: sledding, skating, building snow caves and snowmen, throwing snowballs at one another, sharing joy, tears, and laughter.

Our family again enjoyed reviewing home video footage of these winter excursions to pass the time, while together during the holiday season, and introducing new



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● Rexford Correspondent

family members to a bit of family history.

But, I do remember a winter when there was so much snow and wind that we were digging calves free from being buried in snowdrifts and helicopters dropping feed to cattle. Yes, we have had some nasty snowstorms, but after viewing shared photos submitted to ksn.com showing some of the devastation of the

last winter storm of 2006, especially in the counties south of us, in dollars, this storm will probably be the worst to recover from.

I have read *Colby Free Press* articles from individuals comparing past and previous snowstorms. I think where the difference lies is in how the county responded to its eastern and western residents. There response to the pleas for getting the county road between Rexford and Menlo cleared was that they were just "too busy." Fortunately, the student who had an accident that occurred in the a.m. in route to attend school, had no serious injuries.

The City Council met Wednesday evening and there was discussion on responding to emergency situations. The city and residents did a good job in cleaning the streets of snow but were not prepared for the blackout.

Hopefully the mayor and council will be making plans to purchase a generator, or more if needed, and have a plan in place where residents may go.

Congratulations to Mark Anderson. Mark was elected as the Thomas County Fair Board president. Also, congratulations to Darrel Dible who will be vice-president.

The community extends sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of former resident, Robert (Bob) Rogers, who passed away. Funeral services will be in Chicago, Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Glendora Bastin, Lonnie Ketchum and Gene Rogers are patients at Citizens Medical Center.

A Happy Birthday to Anogene Rogers who celebrates Jan. 19.

Kid's Club presented their

Christmas Program on Wednesday evening, Jan. 10, at the Rexford Community Church. I was unable to attend, but was told the kids gave an excellent performance of the Christmas Story.

At the Red Barn: New front doors have been hung, "dressing" up the building as well as Main Street. Thank you to Jolene Hansen for doing a great job as facilitator.

Those attending Barnswallows, Thursday, to play pinochle, were Deb Stepper, Rex Carswell, Betty Carswell, Dick Sanford, Darlene Robben, Grace Cheney and Lawrence Horinek.

Koffee Klatchers this week were Margaret Arasmith, Delores Dible, Darla Kaye Dible, and Lawrence Horinek.

Golden Plains news: The WKLL tournament took place during the week and Coach Parker Christensen led the Lady Bulldogs in earning the second place trophy. Coach Tom Beckman led the Bulldogs for a fourth place win. Following is a re-cap of the games played:

Monday, the Lady Bulldogs defeated the Weskan Coyotes, 66-57, on their home court, and defeated Greeley County 64-51 in the semi-finals Friday. The Lady Bulldogs lost to the Wallace County Wildcats 39-59 in finals. The Bulldogs traveled to Grinnell on Tuesday and defeated the Grinnell-Grainfield Warriors, 60-57, in overtime. On Friday the Bulldogs played Wallace County with an ending score of 54-56, and losing to Greeley County, 57-51, on Saturday, for fourth place. Finals and semi-finals were held at Max Jones Field House in Goodland.

Until next time, make your week a memorable one.

4-H Club holds parents' night

By Chelsy Schroeder
4-H Reporter

4-H News

Solomon Valley 4-H Club met Jan. 8 for a meeting. Twenty-three members and 10 adults were present. Members answered roll call by calling out their middle name. Makayla Hoffman and her mother, Shawna Kersenbrock, had us all join in singing "If You're Happy And You Know It."

Parents took over the meeting this night. Lonnie Wilson filled in as president, Matt Ziegelmeier as vice-president and Tammy Goossen as secretary. Judy Reed gave the treasurer's report and Michael Juenemann told us how to properly make a motion in the parliamentary procedure report.

Club Leader, Lori Wilson, re-

ported pizza sales were due and the pizzas will be made on Feb. 3. She also said there was a Record Book Training night being held on Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and strongly recommended all members attending. She reminded us that Feb. 17 was beef weigh-in and March 16 was County Club Days.

We discussed several service project options but it was passed that we help Miss Rodeo Kansas Amy Wilson with her coronation banquet being held Jan. 27. Amy dedicated many years to our club as a member and leader. Discussion was again held what to do with the \$500 donation from First National Bank. It was decided that more re-

search should be done as to what specific project we wanted done at the fairgrounds. The motion was tabled until the next meeting.

Several of the members' mothers did demonstrations. Jenny Niblock gave a cooking demonstration, "Almost Krispy Kremes At Home." Judy Reed showed us how to make "Rice Krispy Treats With A Twist." Julie Ziegelmeier demonstrated "3 Easy Steps To Separate An Egg." Jennifer Woofter used her poodle, Spud, to show us "How To Clean Your Dog's Ears."

Danita Comfort led the club in playing a game of "Helping Hands Tag." The hosts for the night were the Matt Ziegelmeier and Mike Woofter families. Recycling for the month is to be done by the Lonnie Wilson family.

Comedian to perform in Oberlin

Ben Ulin, comedian/illusionist, will perform at Mogan Theater in The Gateway in Oberlin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27.

He has been known as Iowa's favorite comedy-magician for over 18 years. He has headlined at every

major comedy club and has performed for hundreds of company functions and colleges throughout the Midwest. He is the main attraction at Adventureland Amusement Park with the longest running show for 10 years. Now, he has combined

his riotous comedy club act with the big time illusions to create one of the funniest touring magic shows ever. His show includes music, costumes, audience participation, a beautiful lady assistant and tricks, both large and small. He is associated with Kenneth Mülle's Comedy Productions as a performer.

Sponsored by Oberlin Arts and Humanities, this is a season ticket event or \$10 for adults and \$5 for students grades 1-12. For details, call Ella Betts, (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel, (785) 475-3329.

Library activity Tuesday

The monthly program for middle school students (grades 6-8) held at the Pioneer Memorial Library every third Tuesday of the month, will meet Tuesday. The theme for the session is "Bored Games."

The sessions will run from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. The program is free and no registration is required. Other

Third 2 sessions scheduled this spring are: Feb. 20 "Some Fun," March 20 (a Spring Break activity) "Couch Potatoes" and April 17, "Comedy Central", (fifth graders will be invited to join the fun).

Call 460-4470 or stop by the library at 375 W. Fourth for more information.

Family spends lifetime caring for disabled child

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — His eyes are closed, and he's wearing a self-satisfied smile, humming a high-pitched, happy hum.

Ricky Reyes is having a good day, as he often does. He rocks slightly in his bed and suddenly starts clapping. His palms and delicately long fingers make a series of surprisingly vigorous smacks.

Ricky's dad, Ted, reaches in to give him a tickle.

This has been Ricky's life for 53 years, a boy who never grew up, watched over by parents who never gave up.

Since 1953, Ted and Herminia Reyes of Overland Park have cared for Ricky as one cares for an infant. Day after day, never leaving him alone, feeding him soft food, holding his cup to drink, changing his diaper.

Just months after Ricky was born, the Reyeses learned that he was blind and had severe developmental disabilities. He said his first word, "mama," at 8 months old. He never said it again. A surgical intervention didn't help.

Herminia and Ted vowed to take care of Ricky at home. They knew it was a decision not everybody

would make, or should make, but they thought it was the right one. It was a choice that relentlessly shapes their daily routine and, amid strains, added a powerful bond to their family life. For Christmas, Herminia set up a small Christmas tree in Ricky's room. Underneath is a circle of colorful cars he never plays with. His favorite toy right now is a piece of leather, the size of an open billfold, wrapped in duct tape. It's an object he can finger and mouth but not choke on.

"Ever since he was a little boy, I've lighted him a little tree," Herminia said. "Maybe he can't see, but I see for him. If he could, I know he would say, 'Mom, what a beautiful tree.'"

Except for Ricky's hospital-style bed, his room looks like a little boy's room, forever straightened. A model of a tall ship sits on his dresser. There are teddy bears on rocking chairs and a figurine of boys playing baseball.

Ricky can't tell them, exactly, but Ted and Herminia said they know what he likes. He loves it when Ted rubs his pale arms, legs and back with lotion. He loves Herminia's voice or at least her presence.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

Red Cross blood drive, Colby Community Building, ends at 5:45 p.m.
Colby Community College wrestling against Pratt, Colby High School gym, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

Genesis Thomas County pick-up, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., 350 S. Range
Classes begin at Colby Community College
Sixth Street Alcoholics Anonymous, 1275 W. Sixth St., 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

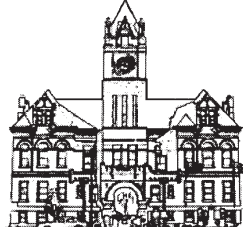
Colby High School students dismissed at 1 p.m.
Orange and Black Classic basketball tournament begins
Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous, City Hall basement, 8:30 p.m.
Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 5-8 p.m.

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