

Oakley student wins state award

MANHATTAN – A member of the Oakley FFA Chapter was recognized Thursday for having one of the best career development programs in the state at the 82nd Kansas FFA Convention.

Ethan Jirak received a State FFA Proficiency award during the convention for outstanding accomplishments he has made in developing programs that will prepare him for a career in agriculture.

The award recognizes students for exceptional accomplishments and excellence in a Supervised Agricultural Experience program. This program allows students to set goals and gain real-world experience in a chosen area of the agriculture industry.

Jirak won his award in the area of Vegetable Production – Entrepreneurship, sponsored by Carlos O’Kellys/Sasnak Management. He became interested in vegeta-

ble production after talking with his dad about the produce he and his brothers sold throughout their community.

With the help of his father, Jirak purchased irrigation equipment and secured land from neighbors and his church on which he planted tomatoes, watermelons and cantaloupe. Although hail and cold temperatures damaged much of his melon crop, Jirak experienced great profitability with his tomatoes and sold the produce throughout his local area.

He says his experience taught him important lessons in produce production, in addition to the value of hard work and taking risks.

Jirak plans to attend a community college and transfer to a four-year university in Kansas. He is the son of Greg and Jackie Jirak. His advisor is Glen Good.

A famous introduction



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Cal Mahn, dressed as county namesake Gen. George H. Thomas, introduced the historical acts Sunday under the tent at the Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua.

Luckiest year is just beginning

Aries (March 21 – April 20) Your work situation gets a massive push start. Today kicks off one of your luckiest years on record. This opens possibilities when you don’t even know what you don’t know. Keep your mind and options open.

Taurus (April 21 – May 21) When you should be looking ahead, all of a sudden you’re looking back, wondering where the time went and if you’d achieved all you set out to at the start of the new millennium. For every door that will close two more will open. Romantic and creative passions rebound.

Gemini (May 22 – June 21) Commit to the future. Consider all options while your confidence rises. A lot of the professional focus and pressure has gone, giving time to focus on the personal and make up for lost time on social, home and family fronts.

Cancer (June 22 – July 22) Focus on your profession but not at the expense of personal life. By putting personal and professional needs on an equal footing you gain success and authenticity on both fronts. Expect communications to pick up.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) Monday marks a major turning point. If you’re in New Zealand you’ll benefit from Jupiter’s first full day in your sector of travel, adventure, learning and discovery in 12 years being a public holiday, but one day won’t do much in a time of adventure.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 23) This is the week you’ve been waiting for, giving your life the green light. As fate should have it, just as Mars brings a whole lot of passion, Jupiter, is in your sector of



Shannon O’Brien

• Weekly Horoscope

money, passion and transformation.

Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23) There is a dramatic shift in focus. Jupiter left your work sector for your relationship sector. Give yourself a few days to make sense of changing conditions, with what was down now up and what was up now down.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22) Monday may be confusing, with two areas of your life changing focus. Jupiter, planet of luck, is in your work sector. A professional and personal balance is retained. This is an important week for work and for networking.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21) You’re either blessed or cursed by the fact that two major opportunities descend on your sign at the same time. Your best professional and romantic week both happen to fall at the same time. Start practicing your juggling skills!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20) Whatever you thought is being turned on its head. This comes just as busy conditions on the work front steal a lot of your attention, ahead of the last real chance to position things ahead of next month’s major professional comeback.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19) Financial and relationship forces change shape. Income forces shift to a more general financial focus and relationship forces shift to a romantic focus.

College to offer more e-learning classes

Colby Community College students will have more choices, including online, hybrid, weekend, evening and traditional daytime class offerings beginning this fall.

Online courses taught by Colby instructors include pharmacology, basics, small photovoltaic systems, organizational leadership, theory of leadership in business, retail management, cybersecurity, theatre appreciation, creative writing, elementary Spanish I, introduction to mass media, German, college French, Latin, independent study foreign language, fundamentals of oral communication, and interpersonal communications.

Development and delivery of these classes was made possible by a \$1.97 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The “Title III” grant was intended to increase enrollment by developing a “distance learning”

network for rural students.

The e-learning team at the college includes federal grant administrator Chris Ellison, Title III Activity Director/Online Education Developer Derek Reilley, administrative assistant Julie Weinmann, online student services developer September Williams, and distance education technician Brent Mariman. A faculty/staff development specialist will be hired to complete the team.

One of group’s responsibilities will be to support faculty, staff and administration in the development, delivery and review of online courses. In addition, they will build the infrastructure for a high-quality distance learning network.

German, college French, Latin and independent study foreign language will be taught with Rosetta Stone Version 3. The interactive

program uses voice-driven technology to accelerate language learning.

The college says initiatives under the grant should increase the number of students enrolled by the end of the five-year grant, generating nearly \$800,000 in new annual revenue. The money will go to pay salaries and cover costs of equipment maintenance and upgrades.

“The grant allows the college to increase enrollment by enhancing and developing successful programs responsive to the needs of the underserved populations in our service area,” said President Dr. Lynn Kreider. “Enrollment will grow by expanding alternative delivery systems in order to tap new populations of potential students.”

Information is available at www.colbycc.edu, or call Debbie Schwanke at (785) 460-5411.

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