

Family

Hope: more than football game

What team do you hope will win the Super Bowl this Sunday? Are you a Pittsburgh fan, fully expecting your beloved Steelers to take another Super Bowl victory? Or are you a Green Bay cheese head who knows that this year it's the Packer's turn?

I don't have any Super Bowl hopes for the weekend. My hope is that my 13 year old - stubborn to the core, this is my house and the humans who live here are lucky I let them stay - cat will accept, begrudgingly or otherwise, the nine-month-old kitten we acquired a week ago into the household. That's my hope.

Hope is an interesting thing. We seem to equate it with optimism, a wish fulfilled, something that goes our way. We hope our team will win the big game or that a stubborn pet will finally accept a change in the household. We hope for moisture for the crops or good weather for travel.

And the opposite of hope is despair. My team never wins. That cat will never accept the kitten. There's no chance of moisture. Of course it will snow on the day I plan my trip. You know how it goes.

Sometimes it seems that our lives are either at one extreme or the other. We optimistically expect everything to be super-duper wonderful, or everything is falling apart.

I read a wonderful definition of hope in one of my meditations the other day. It said that hope is not dewy-eyed optimism that flaunts reality, or the conviction that everything will turn out just fine. Instead, hope is being open



Carol Rahn

• From the Pulpit

to surprise. Not the happily ever after surprises of Hollywood movies and fairy tales, but still being open to surprise, even when it looks like things are turning out worse than you ever expected they would. Hope is the expectation that the surprise will come.

When I read this I immediately inserted God before the surprise. For me hope is knowing that no matter what, God will always surprise me. However the gloomy the picture might seem, God will bless me in some unexpected and amazing way that will change everything.

Jesus' followers thought he was God's promised Messiah, the one who had finally come to save them. But the crucifixion said "No. This is the end. It's over. Jesus is dead." But then God surprised them all with the resurrection. "It is not over! God's promised salvation has just begun." The most amazing surprise in history, that gave the world a whole new hope.

There is the foundation of real real hope. Our openness to God's amazing surprises challenges reality with possibility and the potential for new life. This kind of hope is like a mother who sees so much potential in her child. As

she maintains this hope the mother is saying to the child over and over "surprise me," and as a self-fulfilling prophecy, the child not only surprises his mother, but himself as well.

So it is, I think, with God. We can surprise ourselves with wonderful things if we strive to live up to the expectations of One who looks at us with the eyes of hope and knows what blessings we can have if we live into that same hope. When we live as people who expect God to surprise us that becomes our new reality. When we live out lives through the lens of Christ's resurrection we will continually know the surprise of new life and ongoing hope.

And this kind of hope can spread. When we see others through the same lens or resurrection and new life we can give them the hope of new reality as well. Rather than write them off as "hope-less" we give them room to surprise us and themselves. The hope we receive in Christ is something to be shared and spread.

So - if I hope your team wins the Super Bowl that's support and loyalty. If I hope my 13-year-old Lulu will easily welcome nine-month-old Al into her world, that's just crazy thinking. But if I hope that God will surprise you with unexpected blessing and that you know the newness of God's hope in your life, that's sharing something worth more than any football victory. And that is my hope.

Carol Rahn is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Colby.

Senior Progress Center

The "Young at Heart" singers will perform Friday at the Senior Progress Center.

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 10:30 Rummikub. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 pinochle game. **Wednesday:** cookies and hot drinks. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 shuffle board. **Friday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 11:30 a.m. "Young at Heart" singers.

Menus for the week: **Monday:** Swiss steak, au gratin potatoes, peas, bread, pears. **Tuesday:** brat, pasta salad with veggies, peaches, bun, applesauce bar. **Wednesday:** paprika chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, bread,

gelatin with mixed fruit. **Thursday:** hamburger, potato rounds, cheesy broccoli, bun, fruit crisp. **Friday:** sausage gravy, seasoned carrots, citrus slices, biscuits, cook's choice complement.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5.25 for others. For anyone under 60, home delivery is \$5.75.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

'Little House' settled

WICHITA (AP) - The company that produced the "Little House on the Prairie" television series has settled a lawsuit with a museum on the southeast Kansas homestead where author Laura Ingalls Wilder once lived.

Friendly Family Productions filed a lawsuit in 2008 in federal court in Los Angeles against Little House on the Prairie Inc., a nonprofit group that runs a small museum on a farm outside Independence.

The California company said it owned the rights to the name "Little House on the Prairie." It wanted the museum to change its

trademark, plus the name of its website and online store.

A spokeswoman for the plaintiffs and an attorney for the defendants confirmed that the settlement was signed Jan. 24 in New York. Both declined to discuss the settlement.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Fabric softener sheets help repel insects, new study shows

A new study suggests there may be some truth to claims by gardeners that tucking Bounce sheets in your pocket keeps insects away.

While some gardeners may have been using this for years, experiments by researchers at Kansas State University and the University of Illinois revealed scientific evidence that Bounce fabric softener dryer sheets either directly or indirectly repel adult fungus gnats

under laboratory conditions.

The study was conducted over two years to determine the repellent activity of dryer sheets and isolate and identify the volatile components. A major component of the sheets is linalool, found naturally in some plants. Though toxic to several pests, little is known of its ability to repel insects.

Raymond Cloyd, professor, K-State's Department of Entomol-

ogy, decided to pursue the study after hearing claims that Bounce sheets repel insects.

"Being a scientist, I didn't just shrug it off," he said. "I thought about it, cogitated on it and decided to test this out quantitatively."

Cloyd said it is too early to foresee the effects this study may have.

"We do plan on conducting another phase of the study," he said.

The results of the study were published in early December in *HortScience* and can be found by visiting hortsci.ashspubs.org/cgi/content/full/45/12/1830. The research project was partially funded by the Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation.

Markets

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friends don't let friends drive drunk.

U.S. Department of Transportation

Please join us for Valentines Day Food & Drink Specials both Saturday, Feb. 12 & Monday, Feb. 14.

Reservations Recommended.
785-462-6565

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SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

Schedule of church services

- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.
- COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
- ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May, Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.
- COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.
- COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.
- PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)
- WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.
- WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-953-1043. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.
- REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shoponline at: www.rimregionalchurch.com.
- COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com
- OASIS WORSHIP CENTER**, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.
- OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
- THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingworth, Director, 785-687-2565.
- REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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