

Rexford honors students at banquet

At the Golden Plains awards banquet on May 12, the following awards and scholarships were recognized.

Rilee Spresser received the Dale Dennis Excellence in Education Award sponsored by United School Administrators of Kansas, recognizing a senior student who exhibits citizenship, service, scholarship and common sense.

Melissa Ritter and Riley Spresser received the Kansas State High School Activities Association annual Citizenship Award for Excellence as an exemplary young citizen who has demonstrated a marked respect for country, assumed responsibility for improving school and community, and has shown reverence, concern, and respect for the well-being of others.

Other awards included:
 • Kansas State University outstanding math and science award, Lucas Phillips.

• *Topeka Capital Journal* academic all-state honorable mention team, Avery Spresser.

• Governor's Scholar Award – top one percent of senior class, Lucas Phillips.

• 2010-2011 Board of Regents Kansas Completers, Avery Spresser.

• Kansas State Scholar, Avery Spresser.

• Kansas Honors Scholar – top 10 percent of class, Lucas Phillips, Devinn Ritter and Avery Spresser.

Sophomores selected to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference were Angela Ritter and Andrew Luna.

All Golden Plains graduates are awarded the Thomas County Tuition Grant Scholarship from Colby Community College. Additional scholarships are listed below.

• McKayla Albertson: Dane Hansen vocational, \$2,000; Pete Henry Foundation, \$750.

• Evelin Aragon: Pete Henry, \$2,000.

• Breanna Blackhart: Pete Henry, \$750.

• Rachel Bomba: Pete Henry, \$2,000.

• Laura Clapp: Colby cheerleading; Colby art; Pete Henry, \$750.

• Randi Cressler: Golden Plains/Rexford Alumni, \$250; Sheri-

dan County Farm Bureau, \$500; Colby equestrian team, \$400; Pete Henry, \$3,000 renewable for four years.

• Brandy Gilbert: Pete Henry, \$1,000; Dane Hansen, \$2,000.

• Brady Ginther: Pete Henry, \$2,000; Northwest Kansas Technical College rodeo, \$2,700.

• Casey Gould: Pete Henry, \$2,000.

• David Hunt: University of Oklahoma memorial, \$1,000 renewable for four years; OU Award of Excellence, \$5,000 renewable for four years; Pete Henry, \$2,500; Nex-Tech, \$500. He was also awarded the Fort Hays Black and Gold award and an English Honor award.

• Marissa Mosier: Dane Hansen vocational scholarship, \$2,000; Pete Henry, \$2,000.

• Jacy Moss: Pete Henry, \$1,000; Hazel Kirchner teacher, \$150.

• Lucas Phillips: Colby Community College presidential scholar, \$1,500 for 2 years; Colby rodeo, books, tuition and travel expenses; Pete Henry, \$1,000.

• Tate Preston: Pete Henry, \$2,000.

• Yajaira Ramirez: Pete Henry, \$750.

• Devin Ritter: Garden City Community College presidential, \$1,000; Garden City football; Dane Hansen vocational, \$2,000; Pete Henry, \$1,000; Kansas Vocational Board of Regents, \$500 renewable for one additional year.

• Melissa Ritter: Neff Seeds LLC and Pioneer Seed Company, \$500; Dane Hansen vocational, \$2,000; Pete Henry, \$2,000; Colby cheerleading, \$400 per semester; Colby band, \$400.

• Avery Spresser: Wichita State University, \$6,000; Dane Hansen, \$2,000 renewable for one year; Pete Henry, \$1,500; Kansas State University, \$4,000.

• Rilee Spresser: Garden City Community College ambassador scholar, \$1,000 for 2 years; Garden City football; Dane Hansen vocational, \$2,000; Pete Henry, \$1,000.

• Arianna Valdez: Pete Henry, \$750.

• Danielle Weed: Hazel Kirchner teacher, \$150; Pete Henry, \$750.

University recognizes Oakley High graduate

Holly VanSki, daughter of Ed and Debbie Poe of Oakley, is one of seven 2011 graduates to be recognized by Kansas State University's College of Education for outstanding undergraduate work or their potential as future teachers.

A secondary education major, VanSki received the of Education Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. She is a K-State semesters honors list

student who served as historian of Alpha of Clovia and was a member of Kappa Delta Pi education honorary.

A 2007 graduate of Oakley High School and a 2008 graduate of Butler County Community College, she is a National Junior College Athletic Association Distinguished Academic All-American. She is married to Luke VanSki, Norton.

Homework helps pick air conditioning care

A heating and cooling system is one of the more expensive purchases a homeowner will make, and that's why it is important to hire a heating and cooling contractor to do a seasonal check to maintain the system and ensure optimum performance.

Doing so also offers an opportunity to identify trouble spots and address them before they require more costly repairs and interrupt service, said Bruce Snead, K-State Research and Extension residential energy specialist.

Homeowners should review the owners' manual and maintenance history for their system, said Snead, who noted there can be value in retaining a contractor who has provided satisfactory service and knows the system.

If choosing a new contractor, Snead suggested doing a little homework.

• Check license and insurance requirements in your state or town.

• Ask friends, neighbors or co-workers for referrals.

• Ask a contractor for customer

references – and check them: Was the work completed on time? Was the cost at or below the estimate? Service satisfactory? Would you employ this contractor again?

• If choosing a new system, look for products that qualify for an energy Star rating; shop for the best price, and check for potential energy-efficient tax credits or other savings.

• Be aware that in choosing a new system, a contractor should provide a home evaluation (i.e., the capacity of a heating and cooling system should be sized to the home's heating and cooling loads; duct work inspected, and airflow checked to see if it meets system requirements).

• Get written, itemized estimates, including cost, date of service, guarantees and/or warranties.

• Schedule the date of service, with a confirmation in writing. Keep all receipts and a service log in your homeowner's folder or notebook.

More energy efficient tips are available at www.energystar.gov.

Blood drives exceed goal

The Red Cross Blood Drive in Colby on May 25 and 26 came up just a little short of the overall goal of 160 units with a two-day total of 155, according to coordinator Bev Vaughn.

For May 25, the goal was 100 units of blood, and 91 units were given. For the following day, 64 units were given, exceeding the

60-unit goal.

The next blood drives are scheduled from 12 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27 and from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, at the Community Building. Remember to call (800) RED-CROSS or go online to www.redcrossblood.org for an application.

Folklore can lead gardeners astray

Sometimes, gardening lore is folk wisdom. Other times, it's just plain wrong.

A case in point is the common advice to plant tomato transplants deep, up to the first leaf, covering about 75 percent of the stem, Pam Paulse, horticulturist with K-State Research and Extension, said.

"Tomatoes actually will develop roots along planted sections of stem. But, those adventitious roots take a long time to form and begin to function. That's contrary to the main goal in all transplanting: to get plants to re-establish their root system as quickly as possible," Paulsen said.

Researchers have seen no evidence that planting tomatoes deeply results in a larger, stronger or more efficient total root system. Several studies, however, have identified why deeply planted tomatoes adjust so slowly, Paulsen said.

"It's common-sense botany. Because the transplant's roots and part of its stem end up deeper in the soil than they were in the container, they're where the soil has less oxygen and the temperature is cooler. If tomato plants liked those conditions, we could plant them earlier in spring," Paulsen said.

Gardeners who buy large, overgrown tomato transplants sometimes set them in deeply enough to keep the vines from whipping around in the wind.

"That's mostly making the best of a bad situation practice," Paulsen said. "As always, the best transplants are the short, stout ones, not the big ones with roots trailing out of their container's drainage hole. In fact, studies have found that throughout the entire life of tomato transplants, the large plants will never reach the productivity of the smaller ones."

Cook-off coming up at Bonny Lake park

Bonny Lake State Park is holding its Fourth Annual Dutch Oven and Chili Cook-off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18. Participants who want to have fun, enjoy good food and share their enthusiasm for chili and Dutch oven cooking are invited to enter the contest or just come to dine.

Cook-off categories include: main dish, side dish, breads, dessert, wild game/fish, chili, and youth chefs (any dish prepared by

a chef under 16 years old).

The event is free, but all park visitors must display an annual pass or purchase a \$7 day pass entrance into the park. Camping is available for all participants. Please call the park office for more details.

For registration forms, call Bonny Lake State Park at (970) 354-7306 or email bonny.lake.park@state.co.us

Vote on mugshot of the day

PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona sheriff known for dressing inmates in pink underwear and feeding them green baloney is inviting people to choose the most popular jail booking photos posted on his website.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio allows online users to browse through the photos and then vote on their favorites that will be highlighted on a "Mugshot

of the Day" section.

The top picks so far aren't unexpected: They're the most disheveled, unusual looking people among those booked into the downtown Phoenix jail.

Arpaio says he hopes the increased Web traffic will highlight the work of his employees.

He also says more crimes may be uncovered if the public can view the photos.

Cicada ice cream gets a frown

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A public health official in central Missouri has asked an ice cream shop to cool it with the cicada ice cream, even though customers apparently can't get enough of it.

Sparky's Homemade Ice Cream in Columbia, Mo., sold out of its only batch of the insect-filled dessert within hours of its June 1 debut.

The *Columbia-Missourian* says employees collected the cicadas in their backyards and removed most of the dead bugs' wings. They then boiled the bugs and covered them

in brown sugar and milk chocolate. The base ice cream is brown sugar and butter flavor.

Gerry Worley, an environmental health chief with the Columbia County Department of Public Health, says the agency's food code "doesn't directly address cicadas" and that he has advised against their use as an ingredient.

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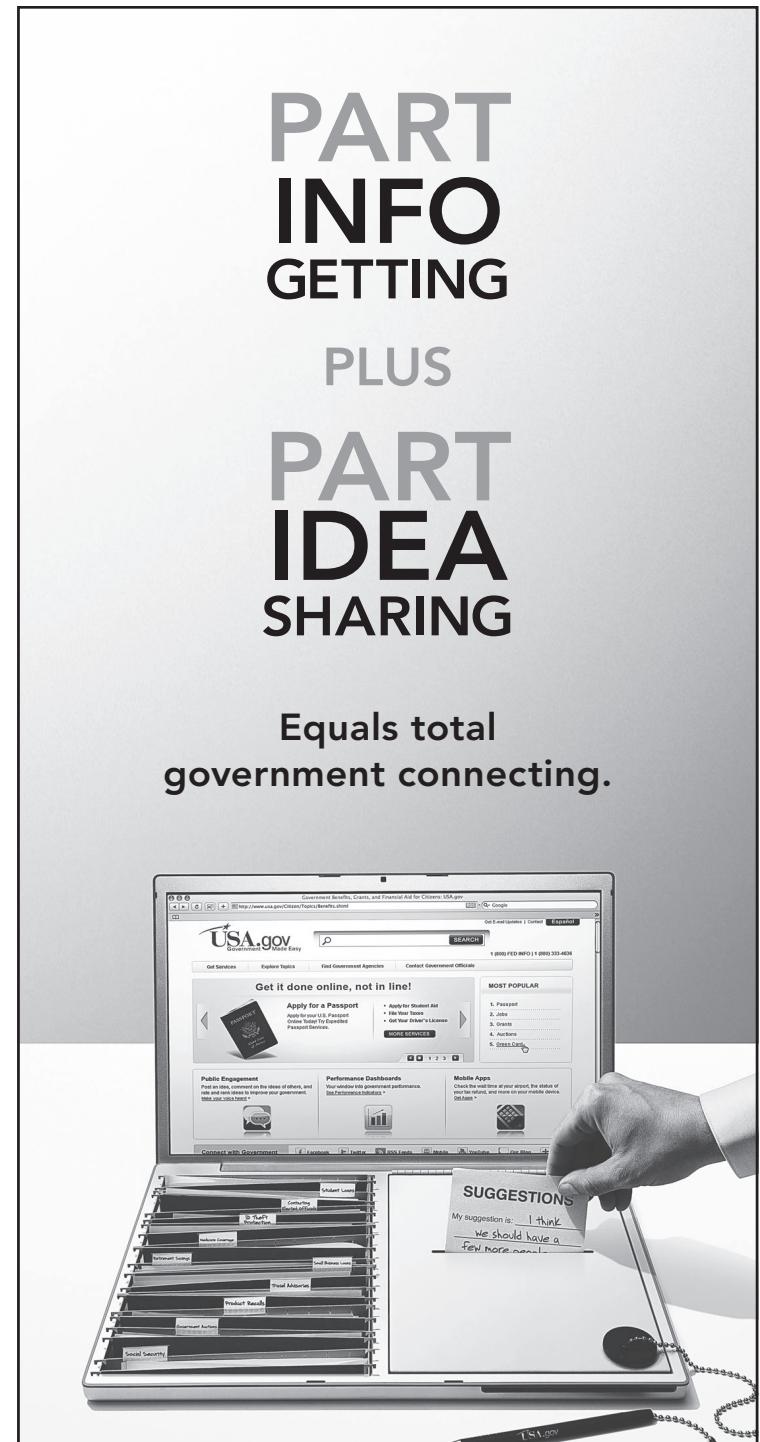
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