



HAILEE SPRESSER/Golden Plains High School

Karen Hibbs, Golden Plains Middle School math teacher, worked with Kaylie Schaben and Tayler Lobato during a math class. She recently received a certificate of merit from the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force for both seventh and eighth grade performance on last year's state math assessments.

Math teacher earns certificate of merit

By Maddy Walz
Golden Plains

Golden Plains Middle School teacher Karen Hibbs, was awarded a certificate of merit for the seventh and eighth grade students' performance on the 2013 state math assessments Nov. 13 at the 11th Annual Challenge Awards recognition dinner at Junction City Middle School.

This award recognizes schools for outstanding achievement and uncommon accomplishment based on the assessment results and other qualifying factors.

The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force awarded 155 certificates, but only 11 schools were selected for the seventh and eighth grade math, and

Golden Plains was one of only three schools to be picked for both grades.

"The recognition of two of the 2013 Challenge Awards is a great achievement for Mrs. Hibbs and her teaching career," said Superintendent Darrin Herl. "The district is fortunate to have such a great teacher."

"Although I was honored to receive this award, the kids are the ones who did all the work," said Hibbs about her accomplishment.

Hibbs has been teaching for 29 years. She started her career at Colby Grade School teaching third grade before coming to Golden Plains in 1984. Overall, she has been teaching math for 12 years.

Planning cuts cost of holiday cooking

I cringed last month as I forked over cash way beyond my normal grocery budget.

Holiday baking, parties and special meals can destroy a grocery budget in no time at all, but here are three simple ways you can ease the strain.

First, shop sales. Lots of people get up early on Black Friday or stay out late on Thanksgiving Day to snag sale prices on gifts, so why not put a fraction of that effort toward grocery savings?

The easiest way to take advantage of great holiday grocery sales is by planning your menu in advance.

Make your grocery lists for your holiday gatherings so you know what you need to purchase. Then, check your stores' weekly sales flyers for discounts on those items. If you keep an eye on our local stores, you'll probably notice holiday items at great sale prices over the next few weeks.

I promise it's OK to purchase a few items each week as they go on sale rather than waiting until a few days before the big feast to buy everything.

Second, calculate the cost of the dishes you plan to serve and adjust your menu accordingly.

For example, if your family would be just as happy with pumpkin pie as pecan pie, consider how much each pie will cost. Given the price of pecans, it may save you several dollars to make the pumpkin pie instead.



Heather Alwin

• Frankly Frugal

I remember one year when I made a pumpkin pie with a pecan topping. It was my only contribution to Thanksgiving dinner that year, so it was worth the expense, but it wouldn't be worth it to me now, I think.

Some dishes call for relatively expensive ingredients like ricotta cheese, butter or cream. You may be able to substitute less expensive ingredients like cottage cheese, margarine or whole milk. Or, you may be able to substitute the entire dish with something less expensive and just as yummy.

Third, use your leftovers. Keep track of what you have lingering in your fridge and eat it before it goes bad or freeze it for future use.

If you're tired of eating turkey leftovers, stash them in your freezer for awhile, then use them in a soup or pot pie later. This extends the life of the meal you spent money to make the first time around, as well as easing the cooking burden.

Heather Alwin is the society editor for the Colby Free Press and blogs at kansalife.wordpress.com. Before moving to Kansas, she was a lawyer with the U.S. Air Force. Alwin lives in Brewster with her husband and son.

Vietnam veterans group offers four scholarships

The Hays Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America will award four \$500 scholarships for college or trade school this year.

Residents of Thomas, Rawlins, Sherman, Cheyenne, Decatur, Ellis Finney, Graham, Gove, Hodgeman, Lane, Ness, Norton, Osborn, Phillips, Rooks, Rush, Smith, Trego and Wallace counties are

eligible. Application deadline is Monday, March 3; scholarship recipients will be announced Tuesday, April 15.

For information, write to Edna Hansen, 2001 Monroe St., Ellis, Kan., 67637. Students may contact their high schools for an application packet.

Engineering degree awarded for work before war

Sixty-six students were recognized for earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas School of Engineering at the school's 2013 fall recognition ceremony Saturday at Murphy Hall, but a 67th degree was formally awarded that day to a student who first arrived on campus more than 70 years ago.

Warren Spikes enrolled at KU in the summer of 1942 and worked toward a degree in petroleum engineering until the U.S. Army drafted him in 1945, just a few credits shy of earning his diploma. The Army then sent Spikes to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., for six months to study civil engineering. Despite the extra education, Spikes never transferred the college credits back to KU.

Earlier this fall, Warren's son Kirk researched his father's case for receiving his degree from KU, keeping his efforts a secret from his dad. Kirk obtained his father's records from Rutgers and asked KU to review all the information to see whether he'd completed the requirements to earn a degree. Officials in KU's Registrar's Office and the Engineering dean's office reviewed the transcripts and determined Spikes was eligible for a degree

based on the KU curriculum in 1945.

Warren's family and friends surprised him with the news that he's now an official KU graduate at a party for his 90th birthday over the Thanksgiving holiday in his hometown of Hugoton, in southwestern Kansas. He turned 90 on Dec. 4.

"At first I thought they were pulling a big joke on me," Spikes said. "I was really surprised. I had no idea this was coming, but it's certainly an honor."

In addition to pursuing his degree in petroleum engineering during his time on campus in the 1940s, Spikes loved to play basketball. He starred on his high school team and at Garden City Junior College, and when he arrived at KU, he drew the attention of the basketball coaches.

"We were playing intramurals in Robinson Gym, and I was playing pretty well," he recalled. "I was a good passer. I heard that somebody went and asked (legendary KU coach) Phog Allen to come and take a look. I was told he watched for a couple of minutes and decided I wasn't tall enough or fast enough, so that was that. But I still love basketball, and I

watch KU every chance I get."

After his time at Rutgers, the Army sent Spikes west to begin training for an invasion of Japan. His unit stopped in Hawaii for final preparations, but the day before they were due to set sail, the Japanese surrendered. Spikes spent a year in Japan as part of the Allied Forces occupation of the island nation following the official end of World War II.

At the end of his military service, he returned to southwest Kansas. He had a long, successful and diverse career in fields ranging from farming, ranching and other agricultural businesses to oil and gas ventures. He's also a trained pilot.

"When I came home, I knew I could go back and finish in one semester, but I was just too busy to come back and finish it up," Spikes said. "It's something I kind of regretted over the years, so to have this now is an honor."

The degree awarded to Spikes strengthens the family's ties to KU, now spanning three generations of graduates. The diploma is now proudly displayed in his home.

"It's right there on the wall next to pictures of my grandkids and great-grandkids," he said.

Oakley grad gets K-State scholarship to study in Australia

Levi Hefner, sophomore in mechanical engineering, Oakley, is among those students at Kansas State University who are packing their bags for classrooms around the globe with the help of scholar-

ships especially for study abroad.

The university's international programs office has selected more than 80 students to receive scholarships for international study this winter, spring break and spring se-

semester. The awards include the office's Global Education Initiative scholarships, made possible by the Kansas State University Student Governing Association, as well as scholarships sponsored by

private donors through the Kansas State University Foundation.

Hefner received a \$5,000 Goss Discovery scholarship for study in Australia.

Deaths

Frances Irene Wilcox

Frances Irene Wilcox, 86, Colby, died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

She was born Aug. 29, 1927, in Hoxie, to John J. Townsend and Caroline Frances "Frankie" (Peters) Townsend.

On Feb. 2, 1947, she married Earl Latham Rudy in Menlo.

She worked as a certified nursing assistant at the Levant Nursing Home where she cared for the elderly in the 1950s and 60s. On Feb. 4, 1964, she married Carl Orvil Wilcox at the nursing home in Levant.

They lived in Brewster for about 25 years, where he worked at a dairy farm and for other farmers in the area. After his retirement in July of 2000, they moved to the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

She was a member of the Full Gospel Fellowship Church in Brewster, American Legion Ladies Auxiliary in Goodland and Colby, Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, past member of the Oakley Wesleyan Church, and attended the Colby United Methodist Church.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband Carl Wilcox in 2009; five brothers, James Townsend, Everette Townsend, George Townsend, Theodore

Townsend and Roy Townsend; two sisters, Violet Walker and Velma Rohrbough, a step-sister, Jennie Ufford, and two grandchildren.

Survivors include five sons, Ron Rudy, Olathe; Don Rudy, Bourne, Texas; Roy Rudy, Lakewood, Colo.; Dave Rudy, Colby; and Alan Ratcliff, Kingfisher, Okla.; a step-daughter, Carmen Rae Mitchell, Warm Springs, Ore.; two brothers-in-law, Glen Wilcox and Bill Wilcox, both of Shawnee; two sisters-in-law, Bonnie Schroeder, Rocky Ford, Colo.; and Marietta Stacey, Kingman, Ariz.; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013, at the Colby United Methodist Church with Pastor James Murdock officiating. A graveside service will follow at the Hoxie Cemetery with Pastor Syd Stein officiating.

Visitation will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the church. The family suggests memorials to the living complex or in her name, in care of the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.kennedykosterfh.com.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.65
Corn (bushel)	\$4.16
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.09
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.30

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.

Ferma Lanette Keck-Garrett

Ferma Lanette Keck-Garrett, 93, died Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, Kansas.

She was born January 26, 1920, in Thomas County, KS, the daughter of Roy Benjamin and Martha Alice (Zentz) Keck. She grew up in the Levant Kansas area and graduated from Levant High School.

On May 28, 1938, she married Elmer L. Garrett. They lived on a farm near Levant their entire married life. To this union four children were born: unnamed stillborn female, Alice (Gary) Wolf, Colby; Una Miller, Yuma AZ; Trudy Wildeman, Colby.

Preceding her in death were her husband (1982), parents and five siblings: Glenna Rumbaugh, Lloyce "Pigtail" Keck, Vera "Ileene" Garrett-McPhail, William Keck and Roy Benjamin "Junior" Keck, and two sons-in-law: Earl Miller and Leo Wildeman.

Survivors include her daughters, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. Two sisters-in-law: Irma "Jean" Snyder and Eva Keck.

Ferma was a quiet, loving, life-long companion to her husband and family. She loved the "little ones," and was always there to lend a helping hand or give support to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved sports and attended anything her "kids" participated in as long as she was physically able. She enjoyed playing cards, a dice game called "Zonk," bingo and shuffleboard.

Horses and rodeo activities were always a big part of her life. You could find her helping milk the cows, doctoring cattle, delivering calves during the day and in the evenings opening the chute gate for calf-roping practice. As a young woman she enjoyed horseback riding.

Ferma was a fabulous cook and baker. She always had freshly baked cookies for snacks. Friends often stopped by for coffee or iced tea and cookies. She was a mentor to many in cooking, sewing and life. Ferma will be missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

Memorial services will be held Monday, December 16 at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel.

Memorial donations (to be designated at a later date) can be made in her name to Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, KS 67701.

TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS...

We extend a heartfelt invitation for you to join us
Dec. 17 - Dec. 20 for our Holiday Open House.

ALL OF US AT SWARTZ VETERINARY HOSPITAL -
WANT TO WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!!

Swartz Veterinary Hospital
1775 W. 4th St. • Colby, KS 67701

Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

Christmas Open House

December 19th & 20th
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2014 Calendars
Cookies, Hot Cider & More
Register for various drawings

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus will be
at our Dillons location from
4:00 PM to 6:30 PM both days.

DECEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Abigail (Abby) Friesen

Parents: Steve & Marilyn Friesen

Sponsored by:
Colby Rotary

Abby, a senior at Colby High School, is Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for December 2013. Abby's school & community activities include Marching, Concert, & Pep Band; Pep Band Conductor; Volleyball; Basketball; Softball; Club Volleyball; Cosmic Crayon-Officer; Student Council-Club Representative; Young Humanitarian-Sack Hunger Leader; Prom Committee; Catholic Youth Organization-Leadership Team; Piano Lessons; Regional & State Piano; Forensics-State Qualifier; Yearbook-Section Editor & Editor-in-Chief; Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat; Genesis Food Bank; Red Cross Fundraisers; School Recycling; SRS Baby Blankets (Make and Donate); Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving Dinner; Girls' Assistant Softball Coach-Colby Rec Dept.

Abby's special honors include Varsity VB & SB Letters; NWKS All-Star Volleyball; Academic Letter; National Honor Society-Officer & Scholarship Committee Chair; Wichita State Scholar; Algebra II Student of the Year; English II Student of the Year; Scholastic Art Show-Silver Key and Honorable Mention; League Art Show Blue Ribbons; Novice ROAR Art Awards-1st Place & 2nd Place; Regional & State Trombone Solo, Brass Choir, Trombone Trio & Percussion Ensemble Top Ratings; District Honor Band & Jazz Band; John Phillip Sousa State Honor Band; Hays City Shootout All-Academic Tournament Team; & Leadership Thomas County.

Abby plans to attend Kansas State University and pursue an Ag Econ degree with an emphasis in veterinary medicine and then apply for Veterinary School to earn a DVM degree.