



Shriners Art Nelson (right) and Carol Mogge presented a new mountain bike to Kevin Amthor, 11, at a ceremony Thursday at Wal-Mart. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Eleven-year-old wins bike from Shrine

Kevin Amthor of Goodland got a nice surprise for his birthday on Thursday. The 11-year-old won a new mountain bike from the Northwest Kansas Shrine Club and Wal-Mart. Kevin, a fourth grader at Central Elementary School, got the bike Thursday, and it happened to be his birthday today. Art Nelson, vice president of the club, said Kevin, 11, won the bike in a drawing held during the fourth grade's annual trip to the Shrine Circus in

Salina on April 23. He said the Shriners and the store give a new bike away every year. Kevin said he surprised when he heard his name was picked. "I didn't know I was going to win it," he said, "but I felt pretty lucky when I did." Lori Amthor, Kevin's mother, said the Shriners did a good job of picking out the bike because it's green, Kevin's favorite color. And they gave it to him the day before his 11th birthday.

Isolation has many causes, solutions

Often those who live in rural areas feel isolated because of the perceived lack of activities, cultural events, and the long distances usually required for travel.

But isolation isn't always caused by the geographic location. Rather, it may be due to major life changes, the loss of shared experiences with friends and family, and just being too busy to do the things we enjoy.

Often contact with school, church or community is lost as children grow up or as the result of significant life changes. Once contact has been lost with others it becomes more difficult to regain those ties, or to make new



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ones.

Emotional isolation can result when individuals feel they are all alone, that no one else is feeling the way they do, and that they have no one to talk to who understands.

People experiencing isolation can have a hard time maintaining relationships that would be helpful. They may

not have enough time, or are uncomfortable sharing their feelings with someone else.

They feel they should be able to handle everything on their own, and are overwhelmed.

Low self-esteem can be a contributing factor, with the person feeling they are not worthy of friendships, and thus making less effort to make contact.

People who feel isolated may have difficulty seeing alternatives to feeling trapped, which can lead to stress and loneliness. Family tensions can develop, which increase those negative

feelings.

People can help themselves by changing their approach and making opportunities for interactions with others.

Friends and family members can provide physical assistance and emotional support.

Because physical and emotional isolation can result in depression, it may be necessary to seek professional help.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery.

The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Migrating miller moths are unwelcome guests

Miller moths are proving to be a nuisance in much of the state including here in Sherman County.

Though "miller moth" is a generic term that can apply to a number of different moth species that invade homes, the army cutworm is usually the culprit.

The army cutworm adult is gray to light brown with wavy dark markings and lighter and darker spots on the wings.

Wing patterns can vary significantly in color and pattern.

The army cutworm has a unique life cycle. Eggs hatch in the fall, and the



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insect spends the winter as a partially grown larva.

High populations of these caterpillars in the spring can cause significant damage to alfalfa, winter wheat and other crops.

Pupation occurs in mid-spring with the adults emerging two to three weeks

later. They then fly west to Colorado and spend the summer on the slopes.

This migration can be as long as five to six weeks, though most of it occurs in two to three weeks.

While in Colorado, they feed on nectar for a month or two and then fly east to lay eggs. The cycle then repeats.

The problem for us usually occurs during their migration to Colorado. Millers avoid daylight and seek to hide

during the day. If they happen to get inside a home, they often cannot find a way back out and can become a nuisance.

Though they do not feed or lay eggs while inside, they can create an odor problem if enough of them die while trapped.

Insecticides have little effect, so prevention is necessary.

Seal openings and avoid the use of lights that attract the moths.

Moths that do get inside can be swatted, vacuumed or trapped by suspending a light bulb above a bucket of water.

matters of record

District Traffic

April 19 — Rachel L. Webber, 18, of Colorado Springs, was fined \$534 for speeding, 94/60, and no passing in a posted area, \$120.

May 21 — Timothy J. Reeves, 29, of Liberal, was fined \$230 for speeding, 94/65.

Ricky E. Gass, 26, of Butler, Okla., was fined \$101 for speeding, 77/65, and \$150 for no log book.

Lana J. Felzien, 30, of Brewster, was fined \$137 for speeding, 73/55.

Shawn M. Orcutt, 24, was fined \$227 for speeding in a construction zone, 79/60.

Joao S. Silveira, 60, of Glen Allen, Va., was fined \$119 for failure to dim headlights.

May 24 — Christie B. Powell, 26, of Goodland, was fined \$74 for no child restraint.

Angelo A. Ciliberti, 20, of Louisville, Ky., was fined \$194 for speeding, 95/70.

Andrew L. Ratzlaff, 19, of Parker, Colo., was fined \$194 for speeding, 95/70.

May 28 — Laura E. Bloede, 20, of Boulder, Colo., was fined \$180 for speeding, 94/70.

David M. Campbell, 28, of Denver,

was fined \$179 for passing in a no-passing zone.

Elaine Larson, 71, of Goodland, was fined \$119 for failure to yield.

May 29 — Martha P. Gutierrez, 22, of Denver, was fined \$159 for permitting an unauthorized person to drive.

Luke A. Schemper, 21, of Almena, was fined \$194 for speeding, 95/70.

Sharon M. Brady, 21, of Highland Mills, N.Y., was fined \$221 for speeding, 98/70.

Amy Anna M. Jurden, 21, of Conyers, Ga., was fined \$299 for speeding, 104/70.

June 3 — Lisa L. Robins, 44, of Venice, Calif., was fined \$239 for speeding, 100/70.

Gabriel Garfias, 46, of Kanorado, was fined \$131 for speeding, 72/55.

Eryn R. Barrows, 23, of Prairie Grove, Ark., was fined \$185 for speeding, 94/70.

Daniel F. Morris, 21, of Santa Monica, Calif., was fined \$221 for speeding in a construction zone, 74/60.

Eva W. Stacy, 46, of Prestonsburg, was fined \$185 for speeding, 94/70.

Jannett M. Rust, 30, of Goodland, was fined \$10 for not wearing a seat belt.

Kennedy cousin convicted of beating neighbor to death in 1975

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) — Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel was convicted today of beating Greenwich neighbor Martha Moxley to death in 1975 when they were 15 — a case that opened a window onto a world of privilege and raised suspicions that his family ties had protected him over the years.

Skakel, 41, could get anywhere from 10 years to life in prison for murder. The jury deliberated for more than three days.

Skakel, the nephew of Robert F. Kennedy's widow Ethel, slumped slightly as the verdict was read. He looked at the jury and then the courtroom audience with a surprised expression, and appeared on the verge of tears.

Martha's mother, Dorothy, and brother, John, wept and hugged prosecutor Jonathan Benedict.

"Isn't it wonderful?" Mrs. Moxley said.

Skakel was handcuffed and led off to jail. Sentencing was set for July 19. "As long as there is breath in my body, this case is not over as far as I'm concerned," defense attorney Michael Sherman said outside the courtroom.

He vowed to do "whatever it takes" to free his client, adding: "It will happen. It will happen."

Jurors had no comment.

Moxley's battered body was discovered under a tree on her family's estate in the gated Greenwich community of Belle Haven. She had been bludgeoned with a golf club — later traced to a set owned by Skakel's mother — and stabbed in the neck with the shaft of the club.

According to testimony, Skakel had a crush on Martha and got upset because his attractive blond neighbor seemed more interested in his older brother, Thomas.

Skakel's lawyer contended he was visiting a cousin in another part of Greenwich at the time of Martha's slaying.

Prosecutors had a 27-year-old case with no eyewitnesses and no forensic evidence such as DNA that could directly connect Skakel to the slaying.

Instead, the case was based almost entirely on people who said they had heard Skakel confess over the years. Among them were several former classmates of Skakel's from the Elan School, a drug and alcohol rehab cen-

ter for rich kids in Poland Spring, Maine.

For more than two decades, the case had gone unsolved, stirring speculation that wealth and the Kennedy connection had protected the Skakel family. But after a flurry of books about the case in the 1990s, including works by former Los Angeles Detective Mark Furlman and crime writer Dominick Dunne, a one-judge grand jury investigated and Skakel was arrested.

By then, Skakel had been transformed from the lanky athlete of his teen-age years into a pudgy, divorced father battling alcoholism.

The case followed a twisted legal path from there to the courtroom. Skakel unsuccessfully fought to be tried as a juvenile.

"It's nice to say, once in a while, that justice delayed doesn't have to be justice denied," said Benedict, the prosecutor. "And this is certainly the case for that."

One of the prosecution witnesses from the Elan School, Gregory Coleman, was dead of heroin use by the time Skakel's trial began. But prosecu-

tors were permitted to read Coleman's pretrial testimony into the record, including an allegation that Skakel once told him: "I'm going to get away with murder, because I'm a Kennedy."

The defense argued that Elan students were berated and beaten until they told administrators what they wanted to hear, an atmosphere that contributed to Skakel's purported confession.

Skakel's lawyers also repeatedly reminded the jury that Thomas Skakel and former Skakel family tutor Kenneth Littleton were longtime suspects.

Dorothy Moxley, who had waged a determined campaign for justice, was a dignified fixture during the two-month trial. Even defense lawyers acknowledged the weight of her presence, asking potential jurors if they could acquit Skakel knowing it would bring her pain.

Outside the courtroom, she Moxley said: "This is Martha's day. This is truly Martha's day. I hope that people remember that." She added that she has "great empathy for the Skakel family."

"It's bittersweet," John Moxley said.

"It's a hollow victory."

After the verdict, Skakel's lawyer turned down Judge John F. Kavanewsky's offer to let him speak. Skakel said he would like to say something.

"No, sir," the judge said firmly.

David Skakel, Michael's younger brother, said: "Michael is innocent. I know this because I know Michael." He said the trial "felt like a witch hunt," and added: "Twenty-seven years of insinuation and intimidation is enough."

The trial opened a window on a privileged world where adult supervision of the teen-age Skakels was often limited to nannies, gardeners and cooks.

Skakel's mother had died in 1973; his father was on a hunting trip the night of the murder.

That night — the night before Hal-

loween, often called "Mischief Night" — was described by witnesses as chaotic, with teen-agers darting around the dimly lit Greenwich estates. Witnesses, including Skakel's siblings, said he and several others had gone to a cousin's home in another part of Greenwich, where they smoked marijuana and watched TV.

Skakel himself did not testify. But prosecutors used Skakel's own words to place him on the Moxley property that night.

They played a tape of Skakel telling an author in 1997 that after he returned home from his cousin's house, he went to the Moxley estate, thinking: "Martha likes me. I'll go get a kiss from Martha. I'll be bold tonight."

He said he climbed a tree and threw sticks and rocks at Martha's window and yelled her name. He said he climbed down and ran home.

Miss Chisholm Trail leads pageant

PRATT (AP) — Miss Chisholm Trail, Jeanne Anne Schroeder, was the star of the show on the first day of the Miss Kansas pageant, winning in two of the four preliminary categories.

Schroeder, 23, won both the preliminary talent and on-stage knowledge competitions Thursday night.

The Friends University graduate, now a University of Kentucky graduate student, performed a classical Italian opera selection, "Time to Say Goodbye."

"I just felt phenomenal when I was

finished," she said. "I'm not taking anything for granted, and I'm not holding anything back."

Miss Sunflower, Kelsey Carver, 23, a graduate student at Fort Hays State, won the preliminary swimsuit competition wearing a blue two-piece outfit.

Miss Southwest, Natalie Ralston, won the preliminary evening wear competition. Ralston, 20, is a student at the University of Kansas.

Twenty women are competing in this year's pageant, which runs through Saturday.

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