from our viewpoint...

Olympic wrestler from Colby program

Maybe, just maybe.

A month or so from now, television sets around the world will be tuned in to the summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Among the competitors will be one with a northwest Kansas connection.

Former Colby Community College wrestler Daniel Cormier has qualified for the U.S. wrestling team. Cormier had done it before, in 2004.

It's tough to get to the Olympics. Just ask Colby native Eric Luedke, who was beaten out of the qualifying tournament. Luedke had brilliant success at Colby High, Colby College and the University of Iowa, a school with a rich history of success in wrestling.

Northwest Kansas wrestling fans know Cormier. He was incredible as a Trojan under Coach Steve Lampe. Cormier, from Louisiana, won national championships as a Trojan. He went on to wrestle at Oklahoma State University, a powerhouse in Division 1 college wrestling.

Cormier, and Lampe, deserve more credit than they receive for making Colby College wrestling what it is. Based on national tournament appearances, Trojan wrestling is easily the best athletic program the college has. Easily. That shows that Lampe is an excellent coach, considering the conditions his program is under.

Lampe is not afraid to tell anybody he wants his program in better surroundings - from a true practice room to a better place to hold meets. Colby College wrestling meets are held at the Colby Community Building, and occasionally at Colby High School, but a program of this magnitude deserve a better place to show off.

Cormier will show the rest of the world how good a wrestler he is.

Maybe, just maybe, the broadcaster, or some other media outlet reporting on Cormier in August, will make a reference to Colby and people will be curious to know how Lampe has such a good program way out here, and what our town, and northwest Kansas in general, are like.

Good luck, Daniel.

- John Van Nostrand, Colby Free Press.

where to write

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address roberts.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address - brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; Fax (202) 225-5124 web address - www.jerrymoran.house.gov

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 242W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676; e-mail address - jmorriso@ink.org

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Rm. 128-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785-296-7399; e-mail address - ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

Kansas Attorney General, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767



Stop-dews



Wetlands worth a lot for wildife, recreation

What is a lake, or "wetland," worth in terms of wildlife and recreation?

Hard to say, but if our walk in Texas last week is any indication, quite a bit.

Stiff from seminars and sore from handshaking, we ditched a morning session and headed out for a walk in the 91-degree morning cool. Hey, this is Texas.

The hotel, hard against I-30, was just blocks from the Texas Rangers' new stadium. Between the two was a lake offering some relief from the concrete-lined floodway which passed as a creek.

Rounding the lake to rack up our 45 minutes of shoe time, we counted:

• One snowy egret, fishing.

• Dozens of turtles, both western painted and soft-shell, basking on rocks, logs, weeds and the concrete sides of the creek.

• Small herons of some type, blue, but not the great blues we see here.

• Ducks, mallards and other kinds, and one mallard duckling.

• About four dozen city kids, learning to fish.

• Squirrels.

• A bird chasing a squirrel that apparently got too close to its nest.

• Sunfish, tiny, squirming almost as much as the girls who caught them. • And last, but not least, a kingfisher on the



Imagine what you could see around a pond at Sappa Park.

The kids were a hoot. They were attending a camp put on by the baseball team, their counselors said. They'd seen the stadium and a game, met some of the team, and tried dance and art classes.

Many probably had never been fishing. A game warden and biologist came with poles, bobbers, line and bait. Counselors baited hooks with squirming worms. Kids squealed when they caught something.

The herons and egret were on the lookout for lunch, though we didn't see them catch anything. The kingfisher, black and blue and white, was another story. I almost didn't notice the small bird on the shoulder of the dam until she dived right into the water and came up with a minnow. She landed on the opposite side of the dam, gulped he rlunch and turned to watch for more. Cool.

ducks — and one brave turtle — below the dam. They seemed to appreciate the hand-All that in a half hour in the middle of the city. out. That turtle had to swim quick to get any much trash as we saw in Texas.

bread.

The only downside to the urban experience was that an inch of rain - the first in months, we're told - washed tons of trash down the creek for park workers to clean out. It's amazing how many bottles, cans and cups people throw out, even in this "environmentally conscious" age.

We went back for more the next day. Though it was humid, it wasn't as sweaty as I imagined Texas would be in June. Then, this was Dallas, not Houston.

Sappa Park today is becoming a marvelous recreation place. The trails, picnic tables and camping grounds provide lots of opportunities to play in a beautiful and quiet place.

But water will add a lot to the experience. There'll be more wildlife to see. Kids can learn to fish, and it doesn't take big water or big fish for that.

A wetland or small pond will be a good start. Even a small pond on the creek, fed by flow from the sewer plant, would provide decent fishing.

There's plenty of wildlife now - deer of two species, pheasants, turkey, owls, quail, reptiles and amphibians, great blue herons, all kinds of birds - but wetlands will attract ducks and geese, shore birds, frogs, turtles Cynthia brought a stale bagel and fed the and riparian creatures of all kinds. It'll just be more interesting.

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460, ISSN 0893-0562) Member: Kansas Press Association Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association National Newspaper Association e-mail: star-news@nwkansas.com

2008 PRESS

Pat Schiefen, Society Editor Sharon Corcoran, Reporter Jordie Mann, Jessica Corbin, Advertising Depr. Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager Richard Westfahl, Betty Morris, James Jackson Lana Westfahl, James Ornelas, Tasha Shores Barbara Ornelas, Elizabeth Brock, Judy McKnight

🔍 nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services (ntbetz@nwkansas.com) Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, July 4th and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkansas. com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating: The Goodland Daily News 1932-2003

The Sherman *County Herald* Founded by Thomas McCants 1935-1989



Nor'West Newspapers Haynes Publishing Company

dam.

And at Sappa Park, there won't be nearly as

We need to be positive about where we live

To the Editor:

As you closed your Editorial on June 10, you wanted positive!

Yes, we all need to be optimistic in northwestern Kansas. Our ancestors had to believe in the future, or we wouldn't have come this far.

Along highways by Goodland are motels, places to eat, dealerships for implements and vehicles, discount stores, farm-related businesses, the airport, trailer courts, camping grounds and broadcasting facilities,

Downtown isn't big enough to have all the above, but just consider what all is located in the main hub of Goodland. Here is is, from A to Z:

Air conditioning, arts, assisted living, banking, bed and breakfast, building supplies, cemetery and tombstones, car washing, chiropractors, city and county agencies, cleaning services, dentists, doctors, electric and energy services, facilities for those with various needs, furniture and home furnishings, florists, funeral homes, gift stores, hardware, heating and plumbing, insurance of many kinds, jewelry, law offices and legal services, library, lumber, mail, meat market, medical, museum, news, notary services, optometrists and ophthalmologists, painting, parks, pet supplies, pharmacy, places to eat, power plant, quick shops, rest home, restaurants, schools, sewing, speciality foods, state facilities, swimming pool, theater, thrift store, tire service, U.S. farm offices, vehicle dealership, veterinarians, water service, welding, x-ray facilities, youth facilities and zillions of reasons to shop in northwest Kansas.

The list could go on and on. Yes,, some buildings are empty, but several of those have been occupied.

We both have worked in Goodland and own a building on Main Street, and we too want people to support the downtown areas more. A rural area is still a great place to live.

If ours youths who just graduated from high school and colleges have faith in their future, then we must strive to feel the same: that in our towns and counties, we can say we will survive and thrive.



Ruth Anne Yonkey St. Francis

To the Editor:

The pages of this newspaper often display the sentiments of Kansans frustrated by the cost of energy, including the high cost of gasoline.

I support many proposals to address escalating prices, but these solutions are going nowhere until there is a collective will to do something about the energy crisis. The will does not currently exist because Republicans and Democrats are trying to posture themselves to deflect blame and capture political gains.

I disagree. I believe Congress should be solution-minded, not partisan.

The energy challenge requires a diverse solution of developing all available energy

resources. While the demand for energy has continued to increase over the years, there has been no significant change in our domestic supply.

We must lift federal bans on oil and natural gas exploration in Alaska and off our coasts to increase our domestic supply.

Expanded production of domestic oil and natural gas resources alone cannot solve this problem, though. The solution must include initiatives to support renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric and nuclear power, as well as biofuels made in states like Kansas.

Energy development must be accompanied by energy conservation. We must encourage more efficient vehicles and construction of energy-conserving buildings.

If we are to solve this nation's energy problem, Democrats and Republicans must work together to promote conservation, aggressively pursue forms of renewable energy and develop domestic exploration and production of oil and natural gas.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran Hays

