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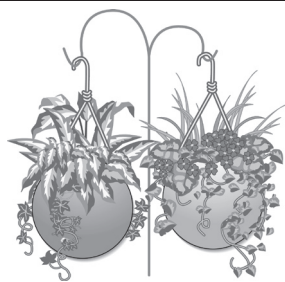
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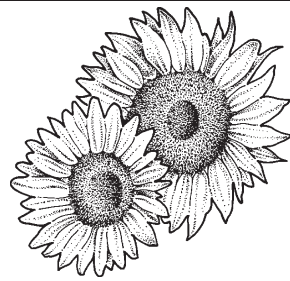


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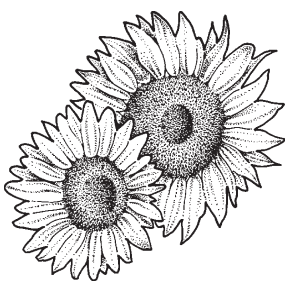
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Mayor proclaims July 31 'Jay Cotter' Shrine Bowl Day



Cowboy Jay Cotter (center) with his parents Rob and Cheryl celebrated the announcement that the Goodland defensive player had been selected to participate in the 37th Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game to be played on Saturday, July 31. Cowboys Coach Kent Teeter (third from left) joined members of the Goodland Shrine Club to present a special certificate to Cotter at a Cowboy basketball game in February. Shrine members include (left side) J.R. Wilson and Lincoln Wilson, (right side) Dick Short and Art Nelson.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Kansas Shriners, coaches, players gear up for Bowl Game in Pittsburg

A dozen football coaches, 68 of the Sunflower State's best graduated football players, dozens of Shriners, and countless volunteers are turning their attention to one of Kansas best time-honored traditions, the Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star football game.

The 37th edition of the all-star game will be played on Brandenburg Field at Carnie Smith Stadium on the campus of Pittsburg State University at 6pm. Mountain Time on Saturday, July 31.

Included on the West squad is Jay Cotter of Goodland High School, Jordan Funk of Scott Community High, Ethan Jirak of Oakley High, Zach Nemechek of Quinter High, Trent Raile of St. Francis High and Travis Pfannenstiel of Hays High.

Cotter was the leader on defense for the Cowboys football team, with 65 tackles and 43 assists.

Cotter placed fourth in the 285-pound weight class in the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Championships.

Goodland Mayor Josh Dechant signed a proclamation earlier this month declaring July 31 as "Jay Cotter" Kansas All-Star Football Shrine Bowl Day.

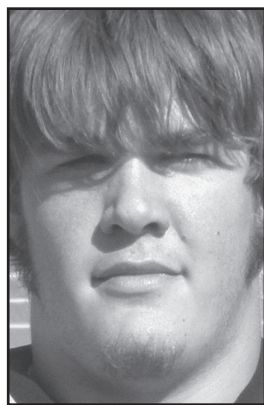
Gov. Mark Parkinson has proclaimed July 31 as Shrine Bowl Day in honor of the 37th game.

Cotter left Thursday for the West Camp that begins today at St. John's Military School in Salina. The Camp Director is Myron Converse, a past Shrine Bowl All-Star Player in 1982, a Shrine Hall of Famer, and Past President of the Kansas Shrine Bowl Board of Directors.

This year's game has one change to get more high schools represented on the field because the Shrine Bowl Board of Directors decided to limit selection to one player from any Kansas High School to participate in the game. The new rule means 68 Kansas High Schools will be represented.

"There is a wealth of football talent in Kansas," says Kansas Shrine Bowl Executive Director Dave Mize. "Every year, we are forced to leave out some outstanding players who may have played for schools that don't have strong football traditions, or whose teams may not have done well in the previous season. We want to make as many slots available so players who might be lesser-known but are nevertheless among the most talented in the state get the opportunity to play in the Shrine Bowl."

The Shrine Bowl weekend of activities will include many events attendees look forward to seeing each year. Among them is the annual Kansas Shrine Bowl Parade, one



Jay Cotter

will include the 3rd Annual statewide cross-country meet, bringing together 60 of the state's top (high school graduate) harriers. Fifteen men and fifteen women from both the East and the West have been chosen to compete in an event that will be staged just prior to the football game, and will end with the runners crossing the finish line after entering the stadium as part of the pre-game festivities. Other Shrine Bowl related activities on game day will include the 4th Annual Charity Road Race that is run in conjunction with the all star race.

Two other Shrine Bowl traditions, the 26th Annual Masonic All-State Marching Band, and the 10th Annual All Star Cheer Clinic, will involve several hundred young

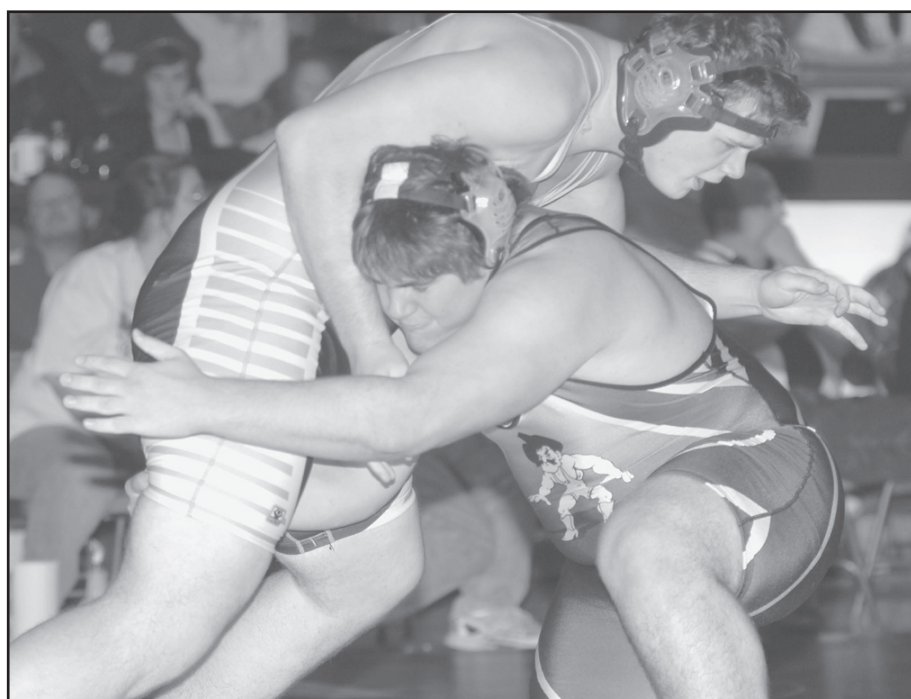
people from all parts of the Sunflower State.

The Shrine Bowl will conduct a pro-style high school Combine and clinic, which gives high school players the chance to measure their skills in several areas. The Shrine Bowl Combine, which will be held for the fourth time in conjunction with the Shrine Bowl, will be conducted by Ron Freeman and Paul Coffman.

All of this would not be possible, of course, without the strong backing of the five Kansas Shrine Temples and many Kansas Shriners, who view the Kansas Shrine Bowl as their signature event, and their single best fund-raiser.

"The Shriners are the ones who make this event happen," says Mize. "From the year-round work of the Shrine Bowl Board, to those who sell ads in our program, to the ticket-takers and the parking lot attendants, many Shriners put in long hours to make this game one of the most successful in the country."

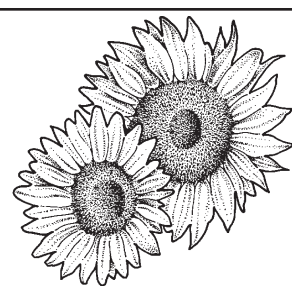
Proceeds from all Shrine Bowl events support the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals that provide expert, no-cost orthopedic, burn, and spinal care to children under 18. Children are admitted free to Shriners Hospitals for Children without regard for race, religion, nationality, creed, or relationship to a Shriner.



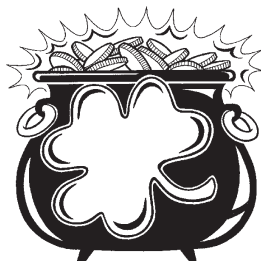
Cowboy Jay Cotter went for a take down against Jesse Barnes of Hays TMP in the 285 pound third place match at regionals in February. Cotter qualified for the state tournament finishing third by pinning Barnes in 2:43.



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