

Three Goodland wrestlers place at state tournament

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to shoot in twice, but couldn't get a takedown. With the 5-3 loss, he placed sixth in his class. Two Cowboy wrestlers were eliminated in the consolation bracket: Austin Avelar, 120, won by fall with nine seconds left in the second period. Avelar had an 8-0 lead when he pinned Brendan Arnold

of Lyons. In the second round, Avelar lost a 6-3 decision to Jake Elbrader of Burlington. Avelar got an escape and a takedown to get a 3-2 lead, but Elbrader picked up four points to win. Avelar moved down to the consolation second round where he faced Jim Weller of Southeast of Saline. Avelar dominated the match, getting a takedown late in the first period, three points for getting Weller on his

back in the second and a two-point reversal before pinning Weller with 33 seconds left in the third. He faced Marc Riess of Rock Creek in the consolation quarterfinals. Riess got a takedown in the first to go up 2-0. He got a one-point escape to lead 3-0 at the end of the second. Avelar got a reversal to make it 3-2, but he couldn't pick up any more points before time expired. He lost 3-2, the first Cowboy eliminated from the tournament.

Tyler Gastineau, 182, won handily over Curtis Hodges of Cherryvale. He took an 8-0 lead in the first period alone and ended up winning by a 16-0 technical fall. Gastineau was leading 8-3 in the second round over Eric Hellerud of Hoisington, but Hellerud came back. With Hellerud on top 13-12, the Hoisington wrestler got a reversal to seal his 15-12 win. Gastineau moved down to the second round of the consolation

bracket, where he faced JeVonte Dyke of Republic County. Gastineau got a takedown to lead 2-0 at the end of the first period. He got a reversal early in the second period to lead 4-0, and then got Dyke on his back for another two points. He picked up five more points to lead 11-0. Dyke got an escape and a reversal, but Gastineau kept him down for a 14-3 major decision. In the quarterfinals, Gastineau

faced Kyler Atwood of Smith Center. Trailing by two, Gastineau got a one-point escape at the end of the first period. Both wrestlers were scoreless in the second period, but Gastineau tied the match at two each in the third. Atwood got an escape to lead 3-2. Gastineau got a takedown to lead 4-3. Atwood went up again 5-4 and Gastineau couldn't get any more points. He was the second Cowboy to be eliminated from the tournament.

Postal Service now planning to send mail processing to North Platte

MAIL, from Page 1

between October and May. Asked if any of the plans have been turned down, or if all were just "rubber-stamped," Roy Reynolds, processing plant manager for the Omaha district, said the service had planned on closing the plant in North Platte, moving the work to Cheyenne, Wyo. That was nixed when officials found out the building in Cheyenne would have to be expanded. The North Platte facility kept its 50 jobs. The North Platte Telegraph reported Thursday that the plant would not need to add any jobs to cover Colby's mail volume, but it would add a position to take on mail from Alliance. Elsewhere in Nebraska, the plants

in Grand Island and Norfolk will close, costing 101 jobs at those plants. Distance could also be a factor in the decision. North Platte is only 145 miles from Colby, while Denver is 235. U.S. 83 connects the two towns, and is seldom closed in the winter, unlike I-70. And the consolidation would preserve north-south mail connections in the area. "As we conducted the study," Sperry said, "we decided that North Platte made more sense (than Denver)." Sperry added that he wasn't sure how much people's thoughts about weather had influenced the decision. "The comments were all read; I know that," he said. Many people objected to the idea of tak-

ing mail destined for across town to Denver and back for sorting. The service says it needs to slim down and use its automated equipment more efficiently. Now, with overnight sorting, this equipment runs only six to eight hours a day. With two-day delivery, however, it can be run during daylight hours and maintained at night. While final decisions have not been made, the service is inclined to say that no mail will be sorted in towns like Colby, even that destined for local delivery, because "there's simply no one there to sort it." In Washington, Tonda Rush, chief executive officer of the National Newspaper Association, and a national authority on postal operations and regulatory cases, said while the service has asked for a decision by April

on it's opinion, it's unlikely the commission will hear testimony before then. She said Congress is debating several bills, but seems unlikely to act before the elections. Members of both parties are split on many issues, she said, and there's been no push to compromise and get a bill out. And even if the Senate moves its bill, she said, it's not likely to get much support in the Republican-dominated House. "I think this (announcement) may hasten getting the Senate bill to the floor," she said. "I'm not sure we're going to see anything (pass) this year." She said newspapers have pushed for a plan to allow entry of presorted mail at "hubs" where trucks will exchange mail, even if the regional plants are closed. Oth-

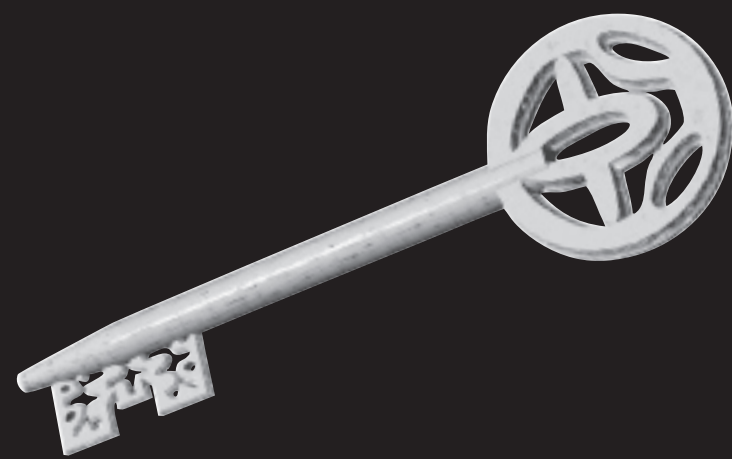
erwise, she said, newspapers will have to leave the mails and find some other way of delivering their product. "We have been told at the headquarters level that they will do that," she said. "The hub operation would help save the quality of mail service for everyone, not just newspapers." The service is going to have money problems until it gets control of its labor costs, she said. "Labor is 80 percent of their costs," she said. "It's a person-heavy operation." Nationally, the service hopes to get down to about 250 plants. Of 264 operations studies for closure, it says, six are on hold, 35 will remain open like North Platte and 223 will close or be scaled down.

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