

# Tourney finishes season

Farmers Bank and Trust won the Coach Pitch baseball tournament on Thursday, overcoming Fredrickson Insurance 23-16 in the championship game.

Fredrickson edged Raye's Grocery 22-21 and Farmers beat The Bank 14-2 to get into the final round.

In the consolation bracket, Raye's beat the Bank 21-4 for third place. Farmers also won the regular season with a perfect 8-0 record.

Fredrickson was second with an even 4-4, followed by Rayes 3-5 and the Bank 1-7.

The girls 18-and-under softball team split a doubleheader with Atwood on Thursday, winning the first game 16-6 and dropping the second 13-3.

The fourth-through-sixth-grade baseball team lost 3-2 to Stockton in the first round of its end-of-the-year tournament.

In coed softball play, E&R Trucking and Fortins each won a pair of games.

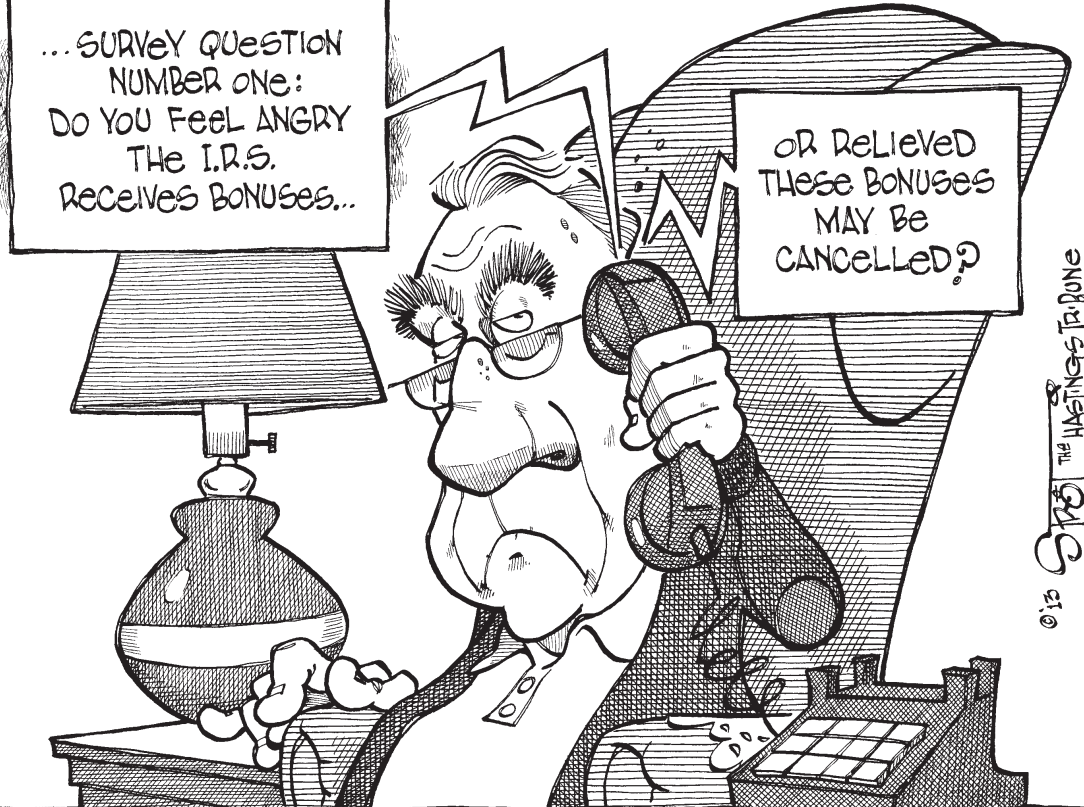
Last Tuesday, E&R beat Creative Dimensions 13-3 and Andersons 15-5. Andersons overcame the American Legion 23-6 and Creative Dimensions downed the Legion



**SWINGING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT**, Franklin Smith helped Fredrickson Insurance beat Raye's Grocery in coach-pitch play Thursday night with a home run.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

14-3. On Sunday, Fortins bested Decatur Co-op 20-3 and Creative Dimensions 22-16. Co-op beat Andersons 12-9 and Andersons downed Creative Dimensions 16-15. The coed teams were to end their season on Tuesday but will play a tournament Sunday at 1 p.m. on the big field.



# Garlic crop difficult to separate from irises

I harvested our garlic crop on Sunday.

When we bought our house almost 20 years ago, there was an herb garden beside the back deck. It was a modest affair about the size of two card tables, delineated by three logs and a sidewalk.

I'm not sure what was in the garden, because we bought the house in the fall, when most of the plants were gone.

The former owner loved lillies, but apparently didn't go for irises. While we like lillies all right, both Steve and I will tell you that the iris is our favorite flower. So we planted irises in that bed, never dreaming of the mishmash we would end up with.

In the spring, we had a gorgeous iris display and a bunch of garlic. The only other herb in the bed to make it through our replanting was the mint, which seems to think that it should be the center of every party.

So for the last 19 years, we have enjoyed the irises blooming in May and the garlic the rest of the year.

Now, our garlic isn't like what you buy in the store. If I get a head half the size of store-bought garlic, I'm really happy.

It might be that we have a different variety than what the profes-



## Open Season

By Cynthia Haynes  
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sional growers use or, more likely, ours doesn't have the room or get the fertilizer to grow to "normal" sizes.

Whatever, the reason, we're happy with our harvest, and the flavor is great.

So early the other morning, Steve set the water to trickle on the bed and left it on while we went to church. After the area was nice and wet, he turned the water off to let it seep deep into the roots of the plants.

Then Sunday evening, while he was trimming bushes, I pulled garlic.

Believe me, even with the damp ground, it's not an easy job.

Some of the bulbs came up with little or no effort. Some wouldn't come up at all, and all I got was a stem with seeds on top.

The problem is the irises. If the garlic matures under an iris rhizome, it's stuck. Unless I am will-

ing to remove the iris - which I am not - I can't get the garlic out of the ground.

But, I only lost about one-tenth of my crop hid under the flowers. The rest came out nicely.

The next step is to cut the tops and bottoms off. The tops are the seeds, which I will dry and scatter over the bed later in the month. The muddy bottoms are the garlic bulbs.

After cutting off the bulbs, I washed and dried them on a piece of newspaper. After drying, it goes into a small paper sack - if you store it in plastic, it'll rot.

Now, I have my garlic. It won't last the whole year, but every time we use it this winter, we'll be enjoying the fruits of our iris garden.

And the mint, well, it's a nuisance, but let me tell you about the mojitos you can make with fresh mint...

# Century of policy led to fires

The fires are all but out now.

The summer monsoons have begun in the Rockies, replacing hot winds with cool rains. More rain is expected in the coming days.

The two "type 1" incident command teams fighting the fires east and west of the Continental Divide around South Fork and Creede, Colo., gave way to a single replacement team, and that team stood down on Sunday, giving way to a smaller "type 3" command team.

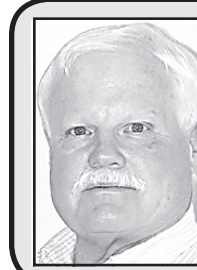
There are still plenty of fire fighters on the scene, but nothing compared to the 1,500 men and women mobilized as of two weeks ago. By Sunday, the crew included two "hand crews," 14 fire engines (peaked at 102), two water tenders and 136 "overhead personnel," with the desk pounders likely outnumbering the field personnel.

Crews had hauled back all the sprinklers, hose lines and other fire-suppression equipment so carefully placed around cabins and lodges just days ago. Two helicopters remained at the Creede Airport to douse hotspots and run errands.

The spots and the command team noted that people could expect to see smoke in the burn area into the fall. Crews were working to cut down "snags," dead or burned trees that might fall onto a road or a trail, to make it safe for people to re-enter the forest. Much of the area remains closed to public use.

So, barring a return of hot, dry winds, this fire is over, having burned 109,000 acres. (Compare that to 7,000 acres burned in Decatur County's largest fire last year.)

The fires this summer in Colorado may be only the beginning,



## Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
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however, since much of the state west of Denver is covered with the same standing dead spruce trees that proved so flammable this summer.

Why? Blame Smoky Bear. Blame the environmental movement and Woodsy Owl. Blame mankind's naive belief that we are in charge.

For nearly a century, we've suppressed nearly every fire that erupted in the West. Smoky taught us to be careful with campfires and matches. Our culture demanded that we protect the forest.

The environmental movement came along, and with it, a premium value placed on wilderness tracts and "old-growth" forests. Logging was suppressed, along with fire. Woodsy told us to protect the forest.

And while experts said it was good sometimes for natural fires to be allowed to burn, in practice, most fires in the lower 48 states threatened enough property that allowing them to burn was out of the question.

What that got us was a huge swath of overmature forest, ripe for a blowdown, insect infestation - or fire. Trees just don't live forever, anymore than we do. And nature's way of renewing a forest tends to

the dramatic.

If the forest couldn't burn, then either the trees would blow over or bugs and disease would kill them. Or, in the nastiest possible combination, first the insects would kill the trees, destroying the beauty of the forest, then fire would clean up after them.

A standing dead spruce is a 100-foot tower of kindling waiting for a match. The needles die and drop off, then the bark sheds, loosened by insects and the predators that prey on grubs. What's left is a combustible combination of dry twigs and branches. When one flares up, it's spectacular; when the winds come up, they all burn at the same time.

There was nothing fire crews could do to stop this fire until nature - terrain and weather - got in the way. There will be more, until we learn to let nature stay in balance and stop trying to preserve a forest state that was not meant to be.

The forest will survive and recover, but it could be a century or more before it is anything like what we have known.

And as long as we believe that we can "manage" nature and preserve things in the wild the way we like them, we are setting ourselves up for disaster after disaster.

## Sports Schedule

**Sunday:** St. Francis one-man scramble golf tournament, call (785) 332-3401.

Grinnell Knights of Columbus two-man scramble golf tournament, call (785) 824-8346.

Lake Awood Ten Mile race, plus 8K and 4K races, all on certified courses, 7 a.m. Call Charles Peckham, (785) 626-3295 or go to www.lakeatwoodtenmile.com.

Oberlin Coed baseball tournament, 1 p.m. at big field.

**Tuesday:** League Bowling, second through eighth grades, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Sunflower Bowl. Learn bowling fundamentals, \$5 per week for bowling and shoes. Call Rick Salem, 470-2200, or J.D. Johnson, 470-7740.

**Friday, July 26:** Colby Buffalo Chip Golf Tournament, call (785) 460-6443.

### Oberlin Swimming Pool Schedule

Hours: Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays and holidays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Adult Swim: Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to noon and 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Passes: \$60 family, \$30 single. Day passes, 12 and under, \$1; adults, \$2.

To add items to the sports schedule, call The Oberlin Herald at 475-2206 or e-mail oberlin.editor@nwkansas.com.

## Co-ed Softball Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	Runs
Fortins	11	2	226
Black Gold	9	3	153
Creative Dimensions	8	4	175
E&R Trucking	8	4	171
Andersons	7	7	182
Decatur Co-op	6	8	98
Legion	2	10	107
Stallman Const.	0	12	82

## Oberlin Community 5K 2nd Annual Patriotic Run

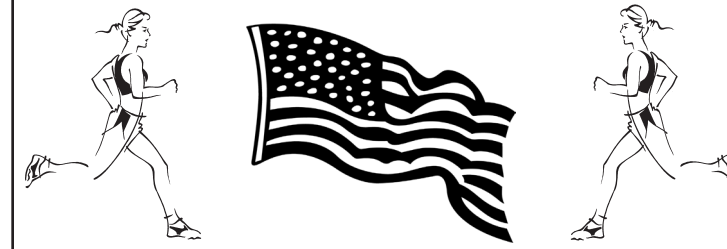
5K Run/Walk  
1/2 Mile Kids Fun Run  
Saturday, August 10

Registration 7:15 to 7:45  
5K Run/Walk at 8 a.m.  
Kids 1/2 Mile run 9:15 a.m.  
Free Swim 9:30 to 10:30

Oberlin City Park  
124 S. Mark Ave.  
Oberlin, KS 67749

Get a form by e-mailing oberlin5k@gmail.com

Registration fees are non-refundable  
\$15 per person if received by July 25th  
\$20 per person if received after July 25th



*"I'd rather spend more time with Bubbles than on the road!"*

-Leota Brown  
(With her pal, Bubbles)

## Convenient chemotherapy care - right here in McCook!

Receiving chemotherapy treatments in McCook is important for Leota. The time she lost driving from her home in Trenton to North Platte is now spent with family, friends and Bubbles!

Thanks to the Infusion Center at Community Hospital, patients requiring chemotherapy, shots, or lab work can receive safe, convenient care that's close to home.

Six more chemotherapy bays have been added, and patients are cared for by nurses who are specially certified to administer cancer-fighting medications. Visiting oncologists, Dr. Maria DeVilla and Dr. Ahmed Awais of the Callahan Cancer Center in North Platte, also work individually with each patient.

A medical team so thoughtful and caring make patients like Leota feel right at home - close to home!

**Great Plains**  
Regional Medical Center  
Callahan Cancer Center

**COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**  
Advanced care. Always there.

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