

Opinions and editorials

MY VIEW FROM MAIN ST. USA

How about that wind? If you don't live in western Kansas, the wind was brutal on Tuesday. It was an assault.

I have come to like the breezy days in western Kansas of 15-20 MPH.

In the heat of summer, it's refreshing. It keeps biting black flies away. But sustained winds of 35 -40 MPH with gusts from 50-70 mph for hours on end is relentless and unforgiving. By the time the sun went down, I had a horrible headache.

I listened to the police scanner and first responders in area communities were moving from one accident to the next. There were rollovers, vehicles in ditches, and roads shut down. I was filled with gratitude for all the first responders out there. And also that our county didn't have any major fires or accidents.

I appreciate that Wednesday (as I write this) should be warm and sunny! I got a walk in with sun shining on my face. Basic things can be such a blessing!

I have had a bit of the crud going around. My energy is less than 100% but the walk felt incredible.

As I look at the upcoming forecast, Monday is set to be in the 80s! Considering some of this crazy weather, I will take it.

We are a week away from Spring Break. We don't have any getaways planned. But it will be good to take a breath and catch up on some barn tasks to get ready for the upcoming livestock show season.

In the last few weeks I have been frustrated with the newspaper feeling like everything in here is already on social media. And social media has endless room for photos and discussion. It is clearly a tool that most of us have come to embrace. It is breaking news. It is informative, helps get the word out quickly for urgent and pertinent news, it's personal, and fun.

But as this week's paper began coming together,

by Michele Boy,
Editor



my view changed. If a story is on social media, the newspaper offers more in depth coverage of it. Or a different perspective.

We have local job listings as well as those from surrounding communities. There are legal notices, sports, community events, and more.

No we can't get everything out at once as we are limited by size, space, and advertising. But we offer longevity, preserving history, and a reference guide.

There are no pop-up ads here. There aren't scammers and hackers. Stopping to open the newspaper can be refreshing.

In our hustle and bustle world, slowing down has become an art and a skill. Taking time away from technology always leaves me more peaceful, yet I don't do it enough.

I talked to my daughter about sometimes we need to do things that make us feel more confident at the end of the day. Did you read? Did you get sunshine? Did you practice something you want to be better at?

So as spring break comes, I hope you get to slow down, refresh. Some people will head out traveling, others staying home. Whatever you choose, I hope you have some fun, take some time for what you need, and come back recharged.

Letters to the Editor Policy:

The Syracuse Journal welcomes opinions from its readers concerning any subject pertinent to Syracuse or Hamilton County. Letters should be to the point and must include the writer's name, address and telephone number (addresses and phone numbers will not be published). Letters may not be used to replace advertisements, Cards of Thanks, or to list sponsors or participants of a particular event.

Letters to the editor will not be accepted from any candidate that has filed for political office or any political endorsements. Any letters unsigned, of a libelous nature, or containing defamatory statements will not be considered for publication. All letters must be typed (using upper and lower case letters only; letters in all caps will not be considered) or legibly written and be less than one double-spaced, typed page in length and/or sent by email to sjournal@pld.com.

We will accept no more than one letter from any one person during a 30-day period. The Editor reserves the right to refuse any letter. Letters are subject to editing. Mail to *The Syracuse Journal*, PO Box 1137, Syracuse, KS 67878. Deadline is Monday before 5 PM.

HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

New Inmates: 0

Released Inmates:

Maicol Josue Portillo-Saldivar, 27, 3200 S K27, Syracuse, Kansas Arrested on: 02/22/2025; Charges: DUI and No Driver's License (Released to Federal Authorities)

Nicholas Eugene Cook, 46, Syracuse, Kansas Arrested on: 02/23/2025; Charges: Driving while Suspended (Bonded Out)

Edar Melfor Valle-Rodriguez, 31, 414 W Freeman Drive, Oakley, Kansas arrested on: 02/27/2025; Warrant Arrest (Bonded Out)

Total Inmates: 9

HAPPY TRAILS By Dawni O'Bryan



Photos: Charmayne James aboard Scamper with a broken bridle competing in the National Finals Rodeo photo credit: Springer

One of the most legendary rodeo runs in history was at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in 1985 in the barrel racing event. Barrel racing legend Charmayne James was aboard her "unicorn" and Hall of Famer named Scamper. The duo was beyond phenomenal in winning 10 world championships in the Women's Professional Rodeo Association in the 80's. She tells the story on the WPRA website, "Back then, we were all in the main alley, not separated like it is now," James remembers. "I was moving up, staying next to the wall, and somehow Scamper scraped his bridle on the wall and broke the Chicago screw." With the competitor ahead of her clear, Scamper lunged forward, and the headstall came loose, hitting James in the head. "I knew it was off, but he was gone," James said. She and Scamper entered the arena with the headstall flopping between his legs. "I told myself, 'Just act like everything is the same.'" By the time Scamper was to the third barrel, he had spit the bit out of his mouth and James had nothing but the reins around his neck. She cleared the third turn to the roars of the fans and went for her bat. "I was thinking, 'home free!' And then I thought, 'oh no' when I realized I needed to get stopped." Crediting that she did not panic, James said she talked to Scamper as she went up the long alleyway out of the arena, skirting through one gate that helpers had tried to close. Beyond the alley was a track of dirt used for warm up and then it was onto the streets of Las Vegas. "I decided I would jump off in the dirt if I didn't get him stopped before then." Thankfully, James' uncle was there and caught hold of Scamper as he came out of the alleyway. He was considerably rattled, as was the jockey. Remember, we are talking about the most high-powered barrel horse of the day. Meanwhile, back in the arena, the crowd was on its feet. James had won the round in a time of 14.40 seconds, her fourth of the rodeo and second consecutively. Legendary. Then there is a living legend that continues to notch his name in history. After a one-year hiatus due to injury, Stetson Wright is back. This rough stock rider is a machine that is tough beyond comprehension. Every time he gets on an animal he continues to build his legacy. He recently won the bull riding event at San Antonio and netted himself \$28,208 for his efforts.

Then there are those of us that are legends in our own minds or a legend among our close friends. Legend in our own minds simply means that we believe that we are very important or accomplished, even if this perception is not shared by others. I hope you feel important, accepted, and loved. Who cares if we are legends in our own minds? Happy Trails.

Legends in Our Own Minds

By definition, a legend is an extremely famous or notorious person, especially in a particular field. Someone that is very well known could be considered a legend. For one to become legendary, it would take characteristics that are remarkable enough to be famous or very well known. Another aspect of legendary individuals is that many stories are told about him or her. A legendary man that recently passed away at the age of 90 was cowboy, Mel Potter. Potter was born and raised in Wisconsin. Potter and Son were partners in a cranberry marsh in WI, which you may have heard of-Ocean Spray. Potter moved west and made a home in Marana, AZ where he passed away. He was a competitor in the inaugural National Finals Rodeo in 1959 in Dallas, TX. He was legendary in his breeding program and expertise in horse selection. His daughter, Sherry Potter Cervi, was an NFR qualifier many times on her famous horse, "Stingray." Sherry and Mel took great pride in working a breeding program that produced top quality horses. There are numerous cowboys and cowgirls in the rodeo world that are legendary, and this article could not contain them.

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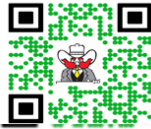
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Phone: (620) 384-5640 Fax: (620) 384-5228

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