$INSIGHT_-$ Staying on the right side of the gate

Glenn Brunkow, Pottawatomie County farmer and rancher

I shut myself in the pen recently, or more correctly I shut my side-by-side in the pen recently. It had been a long day, and Jennifer and I were feeding the cows just a little bit before dark. I was opening and closing gates for her. She went through the gate after feeding the last bale and I shut it behind her only to realize I had shut myself in.

One could argue that such an incident is part of the course with me, and you would not be wrong. However, even for me this was embarrassing and puzzling. The only thing I could chalk it up to a long hard day that should have ended sooner. Fortunately for me, no one saw this little incident, well, except for all of you who are now reading about it.

I will tell you this story for two reasons. The first is to make you laugh, I don't mind if people laugh at me (with me?), sometimes a story is just too good not to tell. You are welcome. My second purpose for telling you about it is to highlight what can happen when we push ourselves a little too far. It is an easy thing to do this time of the year with all we have to do.

My mistake was the mindless closing of a gate with my transportation on the other side, however, it could have been a much more serious mistake. It only takes a split second to make a life-changing mistake and when you

are fatigued that can make all the difference.

Am I saying to cut back on your work? Maybe, but I also know that cutting back is not always an option, and we have a lot of work to get done. No, what I am saying is to pay attention to your body and know when you need to take a break, your safety depends on it.

Accidents happen, and they can be caused by malfunctions of equipment, unexpected hazards or a myriad of things but I would also bet that the root cause of a lot of farm accidents is fatigue and stress.

We have all been there. All I am asking is that when you know you have been pushed to the limit take some time and get refreshed. It's a simple solution, but it could save you a lot of money or even your life.

If you do push your limits, I hope your story is amusing and maybe even a bit embarrassing like mine. If it is, share it with me so we can laugh about it together. I am just asking you to take the extra step and be careful. The number of farmers and ranchers is getting fewer all the time and we can't afford to lose anyone else. I hope spring and summer go smoothly, and I pray that everyone stays safe. Hopefully, your worst mistake finds you on the wrong side of a gate.

Local News Items

by Teresa Kathke

Friday Sherry Graf attended the beautiful pintine College in Atchison. going away party for him Lillian received her RN/ BSN degrees. Saturday was the graduation ceremony for all 2025 seniors. Saturday evening a very nice graduation party was attended by many of Lillian's family and friends at the home of Adler and Kelly Pruett and girls.

Sherry Graf attended the graduation party for Francesco Giolo at the home of Dalton and Kelsey Blow on Sunday afternoon. Francesco was a foreign exchange student from Italy and was living with Dalton and Kelsey.

Saturday afternoon Sandy Blow's granddaughter Keira Jackson graduated from Washburn University majoring in Criminal Justice/Stud-Laude. After graduation, Sandy and everyone went back to Keira's parents house in Wamego baum's party.

for her graduation party. Sunday Sandy Blow

went to Dalton and Kelsey Blow's house in ning ceremony and Bless- Onaga to celebrate grading of Nurses' Hands for uation of their exchange Lillian Graf from Benedic- student from Italy and a

Saturday Donna Bryan went to both graduations in Onaga. Her grandson, Jacob Ronnabaum graduated. After graduation, Donna went to Jacob's parents house for a graduation party. After the party, Wyatt, Kelly and the girls and Jesse and Easton Correll stopped by the house to visit grandpa.

Sunday Dalton and Alexis Ronnabaum visited their grandparents, Ed and Donna Bryan. Tiffany, Porge and Brooke Ronnabaum also visited her parents' house Sunday. That afternoon Donna and Loretta Wege went to Larry and Karen Matson's 50th wedding anniversary in Onaga.

Saturday afternoon ies Honors/Magna Cum Teresa Kathke attended Onaga High School's graduation. She then went to Jacob Ronna-



Class of 1995 Gathers For 30th Reunion



he class of 1995 held their 30-year reunion Friday evening at the Sportsman's Tavern. They graduated 33 with 7 attending the reunion. Front row: Katie Bergman Renyer, Becky Schlegel Woodward, LeAnn Schlegel Sims. Back row: Dan McKinsey, Jerod Conley, Wyatt Barnes, and Charles McGill.

Girls Softball Team Wins Regional

The Onaga Girls's softball team qualified for state after three wins on their home field, one Monday over Blue Valley-Randolph and Tuesday afternoon beating Doniphan West 8-2 Then the Orange and Black took care of business defeating Valley Heights, 12-2.

First round action found Addison Dechant driving in five runs on three hits to lead Onaga past Blue Valley Rams 16-0 on Monday. Dechant tripled in the fourth inning, scoring three runs, and doubled in the third inning, scoring

Onaga got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Jadyn Haskin grounded out, and MaKenzie Dorsey scored after tagging up, each scoring

Onaga added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after the Rams committed an error, Annie Force scored after tagging up, MaKenzie Dorsey singled down the left field line and Jadyn Haskin tripled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

The Buffaloes extended their early lead with three runs in the bottom of the third thanks to RBI doubles by Marissa Sauvage and Addison DeChant. Onaga finished the game

in 4 1/2 innings, 16-0

DeChant collected three hits in four at bats, as Onaga Buffaloes defeated Doniphan West 8-2 on Tuesday She also hit a solo home run to center field in the third inning, singled in the first inning, and

singled in the fifth inning. Sophomore pitcher Willow Hochstedler struck out 11 batters on the day. The starter only gave up four hits and two runs over seven innings while walking one.

Onaga opened the scoring in the first after a passed ball scored one run. Then, captured the lead, 4-1, in the bottom of the third after DeChant homered to center field, Jadyn Haskin tripled, and Abbie Ringel singled to center field, and Willow Hochstedler singled down the right field line, each scoring one run.

The Lady Buffaloes accumulated 10 hits in the game. Jadyn Haskin collected two hits for Onaga in four at bats. The Onaga Ladies were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Marissa

Susan Tanking Honored as **DAISY Award Recipient**



ing, LPN, Holton Famreceived the Spring 2025 DAISY Award from Community HealthCare System (CHCS).

Tanking was nominated compassion and empathy while sharing the story of her sister's passing.

Curtis stated, "Susan is always so attentive. She ages and understands is a powerhouse when it comes to patient care ing and extending comand always finds a way

(Center) Susan Tank- to relate to her patients. and providing encourage-After snaring the story of ily Health Center, has my sister's passing, Susan asked her name and wanted to know more about her (Jeannette) life.'

"I am not surprised by by (Elizabeth) Joe Curtis the kind words spoken who highlighted Susan's about Susan," said Mindy Olberding, Chief Nursing Officer at CHCS. "She has the innate ability to relate to patients of all nursing truly about listenpassion and empathy

ment. Susan has worked in our Holton location for over 20 years, now and we are very blessed to have her as part of the team," Olberding stated. Curtis said, "it was so good to have someone listen and to have the opportunity to say Jeannette's name again. Susan made my heart feel good that day. Thank you, Susan. You are a true nurse angel." Left-Merica Surdez (right

Mindy Olberding)

Sauvage had the most chances in the field with

In the championship game, Addison DeChant started the game off with a homerun, followed by Abbey Ringel's single, Bridgett Campbell's double. Willow Hochstedler and Marissa Sauvage both hit singles, leaving the score at the end of the 1st inning 8 to 0.

The third inning saw the score move to 9-2.

In the 6th inning, Abby Ringel hit a double to center field, followed by Willow's single to center. Sauvage then brought everyone home for a final score of 12-2.

The girls will play in the KSHSAA 2-1A Softball Tournament in Pratt Thursday amd Friday of this week.

Public Notices Need to be <u>printed</u> **Because You Have the Right To Know!**

Local News Items

On Sunday, The Ed and Jamie Ringel family went to Silver Lake High School graduation where they celebrated the graduation of Trenton Rollenhagen. Trenton is Jamie's nephew and the son of Tim and Kim Rollenhagen.

Friday night Janet McKinsey went to a graduation party for Sammy Klotz in Topeka. Saturday morning Alan went to our grandson's (Gabriel McKinsey's) 8th grade graduation here in Onaga. Saturday afternoon I went to Manhattan to our granddaughter's (Emma McKinsey) graduation from K-State. Sunday I went to Topeka for a graduation party for Trenton Rollenhagen, who is a nephew. Our Grandson, Aidan McKinsey visited us Friday and also on Saturday.

Marilyn McCourt went to Gavin Weiser's graduation and party afterward. She said she had a great time and got to visit with a lot of people she hadn't seen in a while.

Saturday evening Tracy and Lincoln Meyerkorth held a family dinner where they honored both of their children's graduation from the 8th grade even though Monty graduated 2 years ago and Rayna on Saturday. Attending were Rebekah Meyerkorth and Joe and Karen Harder, Tracy and Lincoln.

Joe and Karen Harder attended the Onaga 8th grade graduation as well as the High School graduation and several senior parties afterward.

Sunday the Harders Meyerkorths and Starns families attended the confirmation of Makayla, Austyn and Chloe Baum at Immaculate Church at St. Marys. There were nearly 150 confirmands. On Monday evening Taylor and Bailey Starns, Ellie, Rory and Zoey, Tracy, Monty and Rayna Meyerkorth and Joe and Karen Harder attended the Wamego Middle School graduation in which their granddaughters, Austyn and Chloe graduated.