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### Asian nations dominate international test

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — Asian nations dominated an international test of 11-year-olds' math skills, with South Korea and Singapore leading the way. The results of the Progress in International Reading and Literacy Study (PIRLS) were announced Tuesday.

The test, which is the largest and most rigorous of its kind, was conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) in 2011. It was the first time that the United States participated in the study.

The United States ranked 25th in the world, with a score of 557. This is a significant improvement over the 2006 PIRLS, when the U.S. ranked 34th with a score of 541.

South Korea led the world with a score of 611, followed by Singapore at 608. Other top performers included Hong Kong (598), Canada (593), and the Netherlands (588).

The test measured students' reading and math skills in four areas: problem solving, quantitative literacy, prose literacy, and document literacy. The results show that students in Asian nations generally have higher scores in all four areas.

The IEA is a non-profit organization that conducts large-scale international assessments of students' reading and math skills. The organization's goal is to provide information that can help improve the quality of education around the world.

### County tables cooling solution for IT department

BYRON CENTER — The Byron Center School District is looking for a solution to its IT department's cooling problem. The district's IT department is currently using a cooling system that is outdated and inefficient. The district is looking for a new cooling system that is more energy-efficient and cost-effective.

The district is currently using a cooling system that is over 10 years old. This system is not only inefficient, but it is also a safety hazard. The district is looking for a new system that will be more reliable and safer.

The district is currently in the process of researching different options. They are looking for a system that will be easy to install and maintain. They are also looking for a system that will have a long lifespan.

The district is currently in the process of soliciting bids for a new cooling system. They are looking for a contractor that is experienced in installing and maintaining cooling systems.



### Plains parade cancelled

BYRON CENTER — The annual Christmas parade in Byron Center, Kansas, has been cancelled for this year. The parade was scheduled for December 1st, but due to weather concerns, the organizers decided to cancel it.

The parade was one of the most popular events in the community. It featured a variety of floats, including a float from the local school district, a float from the fire department, and a float from the police department.

The organizers are disappointed that the parade was cancelled, but they understand the need to prioritize safety. They are looking for a way to make up for the cancelled parade.

### LEADER & TIMES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013  
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### Reindeer, penguins and moose — oh, my!

BYRON CENTER — The Byron Center School District is looking for a way to make the Christmas season more fun for its students. The district is looking for a way to incorporate reindeer, penguins, and moose into its curriculum.

The district is currently in the process of researching different options. They are looking for a way to make the Christmas season more educational and fun for their students.

The district is currently in the process of soliciting bids for a new curriculum. They are looking for a curriculum that is both educational and fun.

### CHRISTMAS PARADE

BYRON CENTER — The annual Christmas parade in Byron Center, Kansas, has been cancelled for this year. The parade was scheduled for December 1st, but due to weather concerns, the organizers decided to cancel it.



### Roofing permits in Hutchinson return to normal

HUTCHINSON — Roofing permits in Hutchinson, Kansas, have returned to normal. The city's permitting process, which had been delayed for several months, is now back on track.

The city's permitting process had been delayed due to a backlog of applications. The city is now able to process applications more quickly, and the backlog has been cleared.

The city is pleased to see that the permitting process is back on track. This will help homeowners and businesses in Hutchinson get their roofing projects completed more quickly.

### Police: Shooting probe in Topeka leads to 3 bodies

TOPEKA — A police investigation into a shooting in Topeka, Kansas, has led to the discovery of three bodies. The bodies were found in a wooded area near the site of the shooting.

The police are currently in the process of identifying the bodies. They are looking for anyone who was at the scene of the shooting.

The police are also looking for anyone who has information about the shooting. They are offering a reward for anyone who provides information that leads to the identification of the shooter.



### Obama's uncle to appear at new immigration hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Obama's uncle, Stanley Obama, is set to appear at a new immigration hearing. The hearing is being held by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Stanley Obama is a well-known figure in the community. He is a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He is also a member of the Obama family.

The hearing is being held to address concerns about immigration. Stanley Obama will be providing his perspective on the issue.

### Byron United Methodist Church to host annual fundraiser dinner Saturday

BYRON CENTER — The Byron United Methodist Church is hosting its annual fundraiser dinner on Saturday, December 7th. The dinner will be held at the church's dining room.

The dinner is a popular event in the community. It is a great way to raise money for the church's various programs and ministries.

The dinner will feature a variety of delicious dishes. There will also be a silent auction and a raffle.

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