

Olympics disrupted

Games previously only delayed by war and terrorism

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
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Since the opening of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, the international sports competition has only been canceled three times: once during World War I (1916) and twice during World War II (1940, 1944). Until the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, which postponed the Summer Olympic games for a year, the Olympics weathered politically charged boycotts and two separate terrorist attacks without being canceled or postponed during peacetime.

The 1916 Olympics were supposed to be hosted by the German Empire, which had built an impressive 30,000-seat stadium in Berlin for the event. But with the outbreak of war in 1914, and the eventual involvement of so many nations who sent athletes to the Olympics, the 1916 games were scrapped.

1920: GERMANY DISINVITED

The 1920 games in Antwerp, Belgium, were the first in which a nation was actively disinvited. Germany was blamed for starting World War I, and even though the country was under a new government — known as the Weimar Republic — Belgian, and later French Olympic officials banned German athletes from participating in both the 1920 and 1924 Olympics.

Twenty years after the canceled 1916 games, Germany was again due to host the Olympics in 1936, this time under the Nazi flag. In America, a coalition of Jewish and Catholic groups called on the U.S. Olympic Committee to boycott the games, but was ignored by the committee president Avery Brundage, a professed Germanophile.

WORLD WAR II LEADS TO CANCELLATIONS

The last time the Olympics were canceled was during World War II. The 1940 summer and winter Olympics were both scheduled to be held in Japan, the first non-Western country to host the games, but Japan forfeited its rights in 1937 when it went to war with China. The 1940 games were initially rebooked for Helsinki, Finland, in the summer and the German town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the winter, but finally canceled in 1939 with Hitler's invasion of Poland.

London was supposed to host the 1944 summer Olympics, but those were summarily canceled due to the ongoing war. Same for the 1944 winter games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. London eventually hosted the 1948 games but banned German and Japanese athletes from participation.

Since its inception in 1894, the International Olympic Committee has claimed to be an apolitical and neutral body with the mission to promote

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 4B

Equal work, pay and life

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's landmark opinions on women's rights shifted American law

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From her lively questions to her scathing legal writing to her black velvet dissent collar she wears to indicate her disapproval of an opinion, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has built her career on the fight for women's rights.

Before her days as a judge, she acted as general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), where she argued over 300 gender discrimination cases — six before the Supreme Court — and cofounded the ACLU's Women's Rights Project. As a civilian, Ginsburg earned a reputation as a dogged advocate for gender equality. As a judge — first during 13 years as a U.S. Court of Appeals

judge then during 25 years as a Supreme Court Justice — she has built upon that legacy.

Though she had a lifelong interest in gender equality, she was warned that to pursue a legal career that hinged on fighting discrimination against women was a nonstarter.

"The concern was that if a woman was doing gender equality, her chances of making it to tenure in the law school were diminished," she told the New York Times' Philip Galanes in 2015. "It was considered frivolous."

Nevertheless, since being appointed Associate Justice by President Bill Clinton in 1993, Ginsburg has authored nearly 200 opinions — and broken new ground for gender equality in the United States.

EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER LAW

Ginsburg took advantage of prior civil rights rulings on race — and male plaintiffs — to help illustrate why the Supreme Court should end gender discrimination. Many of her cases hinged on the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, which provides that people shall be equally protected by U.S. laws. Through a barrage of smaller cases, she chipped away at discriminatory laws.

But it was Reed v. Reed, a 1971 case for which Ginsburg wrote the plaintiff's brief, that relied on the 14th Amendment. A minor, Richard Lynn Reed, known as "Skip," died and his mother wanted to be designated as administrator of his estate. Sally and her hus-

band, Cecil Reed, had separated. Despite Sally filing a petition first, Cecil's application was automatically approved because of an Idaho statute stating, "males must be preferred to females," when there was more than one qualified person available to administer someone's estate.

Ginsburg argued this violated the Equal Protection Clause. The Supreme Court unanimously agreed and struck down the Idaho statute. It was the first time the Court had ever applied the Equal Protection Clause to a law that discriminated on the basis of gender.

DISCRIMINATION HURT MEN TOO

Another case that hinged on gender discrimination

and government benefits was Frontiero v. Richardson. The 1973 case was the first Ginsburg argued before the Supreme Court. When a woman in the U.S. Air Force applied for benefits for her dependent husband, she was told she had to prove he was a dependent, even though men in the Air Force did not have to prove their wives were dependent on them.

In an amicus brief, Ginsburg used the statute to argue that gender-based discrimination hurt men, too. "Why," she asked the Court during oral arguments, "did the framers of the 14th Amendment regard racial [discrimination] as odious? Because a person's skin color bears no necessary See **GINSBURG**, Page 4B

Beatrix Potter visits library

BY ROGER STANLEY
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On March 10, in the downstairs meeting room of the Paris Public Library, 35 people saw a remarkable exhibition by Debra Ann Miller regarding the adventures of Beatrix Potter, the creator of the Peter Rabbit stories.

Miller's personification truly represented the writer and artist and she used a bit of archaic English language to enhance her performance. The program introduced the audience to a bit of Potter's pictures and stories and then went on to tell about Potter's life, including a surprising tale of a grandfather eating snails as he strolled the gardens.

Beatrix Potter was born in London, which was not her favorite place, and loved to explore the countryside when she had a chance to make her escape from London. Miller also explained as a growing girl, Potter found the common people were more interesting to visit with than some of her elite family members.

Some of Potter's first drawings were of the animals she kept in the schoolroom of her home. There were rabbits, hedgehogs, frogs and mice. Miller showed the audience several of the sketches of these animals during her presentation. One sketch depicted one of the bats Potter's brother kept for her.

"The Tale of Peter Rabbit" was an outgrowth of a letter Potter sent to Noel, a sick son of her former governess Annie, in 1893. Before the story became a success, Potter had a scientific paper presented to the Linnean Society about the germination of fungi spores in 1897. She was not allowed to present the paper because she was not a gentleman and women were not supposed to do such things.

The author was quite a naturalist and that enhanced the scientific writings and drawings as well as her stories about the animals around her. Potter later borrowed the letter sent to the sick boy and expanded it to become a little booklet for children.

Potter self-published the story in 1901. When 200 copies sold she published another 200. The Frederick Warne publishing company finally took interest in 1902, but before agreeing to a deal, Potter stipulated the book must use colored illustrations.

The Warne edition was so successful it had to be reprinted six times, selling 50,000 copies. They were small books so a child could hold them and eventually Potter wrote 27 other stories about the pets she loved so much.

She even had a head for business and made stuffed rabbits to go along with her books. These were registered at the Patent Office.

Potter liked to stay with her uncle and fell in love with Hilltop Farm in the Lake area of Northern England. Her parents were besides themselves with



Roger Stanley/The Prairie press

Actress Debra Ann Miller portrays Beatrix Potter, with props that show drawings and a plush Peter Rabbit to the group of 35 people at Paris Library.

what their daughter chose to do and disapproved of her messing with the wildlife and flora she loved so well.

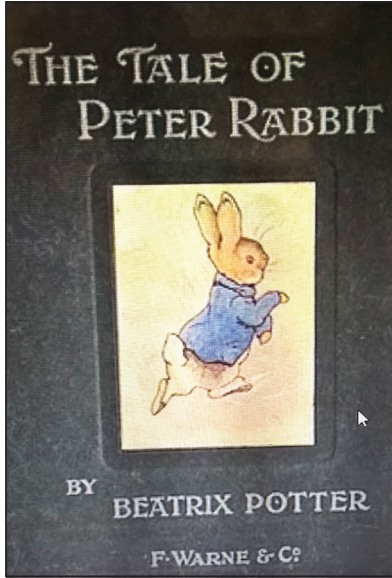
Potter used a secret code to record her data to prevent her parents from interfering with her writing and her life. At one time when Potter was recovering from a sickness, they were surprised to see her out in the pigsty drawing a pig.

At the end of the performance, Miller held a question and answer session. She used modern American language which brought the audience to realize she was presenting facts about her life as well as Potter's. She said the coded journal Potter used was not found and decoded until 1958. She also related as Potter grew older she had the feeling that time went by faster and faster.

Potter was engaged to Norman Warne, one of her publishers, but he died of leukemia before the marriage. She married William Heelis when she was 47 years old. He definitely was a kindred spirit who approved of her works and was also her solicitor.

As Potter grew older she bought Hilltop Farm and several other farms in the High Country. She developed an interest in Hardwick sheep and the wool they produced and became the first woman president of that sheep association. During World War I, an airplane plant was erected near her farm, which she disliked because the airplanes flying overhead disrupted the peace of her sheep. That was solved when a storm ruined the plants buildings and hangers and the Royal Air Force did not rebuild.

Despite her fame as a children's author, Potter liked children from a distance. She was apprehensive about



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

"The Tale of Peter Rabbit," published in 1902, was a major success for F. Warne and Company, selling more than 50,000 copies and launching Beatrix Potter's career as a children's author and illustrator. The book has sold worldwide and never gone out of print.

children walking on her stone fences because they might disturb the moss and flora growing on them.

At her death in 1943, Potter left several thousand acres to the National Trust to insure the natural setting. Hilltop is being renovated and many tourists now visit the village near that farm.

Miller became interested in presenting plays about famous women in history while attending college. This portray-er of the fine arts writes her own scripts and makes her own costumes, which is

See **POTTER**, Page 4B

We all need to lighten up a little bit

If we remain too serious for too long, we tend to look ahead with a morbid feeling about what is going to happen. Of course, we don't really know for sure, but life goes on one way or another.

I try to think of the times of the past when our family was growing up and things took a turn toward a supposed serious event. Sometimes an event considered ordinary and halfway serious turns out to tickle our fancy.

During our camping trips when Rosie and I and our girls were on the first day of one of those marvelous adventures, we always anticipated three things going wrong because we knew then it was OK to look forward to the rest of the trip.

It might be a scenario something like this: When we got to the end of our lane one of the girls knocked on the window between the truck and our slide-in camper and said we forgot the dog's leash. That was number one.

When we got to Paris Rosie asked me if I shut off the mail yesterday, and when we finally got out of town we noticed we hadn't bought any stuff to keep the stool fresh. That was when the crinkles of my forehead quit wrinkling and I said, "You know it's time to laugh."

Those three little things didn't spoil our trip because we stopped and went back up the lane and got the jim-dandy dog leash for our poodle. When we finally got to town I stopped at the post office and shut off our mail. The third problem we solved when got to our

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION



Beginning **Thursday, March 19**, Pearmans Pharmacy will be offering drive-thru, curbside delivery, or home delivery. The staff will be on hand during the same business hours, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. by telephone or at the drive-thru. **Call 465-8455** to place orders or for questions.

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GINSBURG

FROM PAGE 3B

relationship to ability. Similarly...a person's sex bears no necessary relationship to ability."

A plurality of the Supreme Court found the benefit policy violated the Constitution and argued that, because of the United States' long history of gender-based discrimination, the court should use a strict standard of judicial scrutiny for laws that used sex as a classification.

RIGHT TO EQUAL BEER?

In *Craig v. Boren*, a 1976 case, Ginsburg took a round-about road to protecting women's rights by arguing that women should not be allowed to purchase beer at an earlier age than men. The law in question was an Oklahoma statute that allowed women to purchase low-beer at age 18

but forbade men to purchase it before they turned 21.

Ginsburg filed an amicus brief on behalf of the ACLU, honing in on the old-fashioned gender stereotypes embodied by the law. The court agreed, determining for the first time that laws that hinged on sex should pass intermediate scrutiny — a standard of judicial review that hinged on whether the law was related to a legitimate governmental objective.

WOMEN ON JURIES

In 1979, Ginsburg argued *Duren v. Missouri*, a case in which a Missouri man accused of murder argued he could not get a fair trial because of a law that made jury service optional for women. She told the court that such exemptions did not just make the jury pool unfair; it devalued women's contributions to

juries.

The Court agreed 8-1 and held the underrepresentation of women on local juries was due to their exclusion from the jury selection process. "Exempting all women because of the...domestic responsibilities of some women is insufficient justification for their disproportionate exclusion," the court ruled.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Ginsburg had argued for equal rights for women as an attorney. As a Justice, she argued just as eloquently from behind the bench, even setting the stage for groundbreaking legislation. In *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, Lily Ledbetter sued her employer for what she alleged was discriminatory pay.

Though she started out at the same salary as her male

coworkers, by the end of their tenure at Goodyear, she made thousands less a year than other men at her job. Ledbetter claimed this was because of discriminatory employee evaluations and sued Goodyear based on Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which holds that covered employers cannot discriminate on the basis of gender, and the Equal Pay Act.

The case hinged on whether Ledbetter had the right to sue years after the alleged discrimination took place. The 5-4 majority held that she did not file her claim in a timely manner. But Ginsburg and three of her colleagues disagreed.

In her 2007 dissent, in which she read from the bench (a rare move for any justice), she argued the Civil Rights Act's 180-day time limit should not apply in the case of discrimi-

natory pay since gender-based discrimination can happen gradually.

"A worker knows immediately if she is denied a promotion or transfer," said Ginsburg. "Compensation disparities, in contrast, are often hidden from sight."

This cramped interpretation of the law, she argued, was incompatible with the law's purpose concluding, "The ball is in Congress' court."

Congress took up Ginsburg's battle cry. In 2009, President Obama signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which amended the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to reset the statute of limitations on equal-pay lawsuits with every paycheck.

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Throughout her time on the Supreme Court, Ginsburg has stood firm on a woman's right to have an abortion. In

her 2016 concurrence to the *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* opinion, in which the Court ruled that Texas cannot restrict abortion services that unduly burden women who seek an abortion, she delivered a rousing defense of a woman's right to choose.

She did so alone. No other justice signed on to her concurrence, in which she wrote that many medical procedures, including childbirth, are far more dangerous than abortion and said that the Texas law restricting abortions was, "beyond rational belief." The law, "cannot survive judicial inspection," she wrote in the scathing document.

The verdict was seen as a victory for women's reproductive rights, and another example of Ginsburg's staunch defense of women.



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STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

first campground.

Many times Rosie asks me, "What are you frowning about?" and I usually answer her by saying something stupid like, "I am not frowning. I am just vertically exercising my forehead which makes me think better."

She usually doesn't believe me and replies, "You look prettier when you let go and smile." I don't know if that is a compliment or a dig because I have to think of all the ramifications of a male being called beautiful.

I am a little skeptical of that term when I let my hair get a little long and Rosie asked me

if she needs to curl the hair above my ears. That is almost as insulting as when Rosie asks me to do a mundane task of getting the lid off a jar of pickles or canned tomatoes. I absolutely have to do it because I must retain my image of being manly and strong.

I don't mean strong smelling, but many times I am guilty of that and under odor armor doesn't seem to help. I will huff and puff and sound like Miss Piggy to get the stupid lid off those said containers, and I will even threaten to go out to the barn to get the plumbing pliers.

It is really bad when I can't get a lid open because Rosie will say, "Give me that jar." She joyfully skips over to the

sink and runs some hot water on the lid and then gives it a thump on its bottom and then as the can opens she says, "Sometimes you have to use your brain, too." Then I am ready to go to the barn and do something that takes real muscle power or go out to the pasture and start taking out fence.

Maybe that is my way of getting things done that require actually working.

Anyway, everybody let's lighten up when times get tough and we can't get the lid off.

(Roger Stanley is a lifelong resident of Edgar County, an author and retired farmer. Email him at rogerstanley769@yahoo.com)

POTTER

FROM PAGE 3B

fitting for the great author and scientist that she represented. She is planning in the near future to visit Hilltop Farm, the setting for the home that Potter loved so well.

Prior presentations have portrayed Jane Austen, Mary Todd Lincoln, Elizabeth Browning and Dolly Madison. Miller has acting experience of more than 30 years and has been touring the country through the Friends of Library Program.

She definitely brought to life by her use of vocal inflections and gestures a very believable Beatrix Potter.

Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

A special display in the Paris Public Library accompanies the one-person performance about the life of Beatrix Potter by highlighting some of the children's stories Potter wrote.

OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 3B

international peace and understanding through sport. But critics like David Goldblatt, professor of history at

If

The Press

didn't tell you ...

WHO WOULD?

Pitzer College and author of

"The Games: A Global History of the Olympics," point to numerous times when Olympic officials turned a blind eye to violent human rights violations in order to ensure the games went on.

TERRORISM AND THE GAMES

Even one of the darkest chapters of Olympic history didn't lead to a cancellation of the games. In 1972, an armed band of Palestinian terrorists attacked the Israeli compound at the Olympic Village in Munich, Germany, killing two Israeli athletes and holding another nine hostage. In the ensu-

ing standoff, all nine remaining Israeli athletes were murdered. Instead of calling off the Munich games, Olympic officials continued the competition after a two-day suspension.

The 1996 summer games in Atlanta, Georgia, were also allowed to go on after a home-made bomb exploded during a free concert in Centennial Olympic Park. Two people died in the early-morning blast and more than a hundred were injured, but only a few hours later, the president of Atlanta's Olympic organizing committee said, "The spirit of the Olympic movement mandates that we continue."

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