

# Family

## This delicacy doesn't appeal to all

One of these days, you may walk into a really classy Mexican restaurant in the city and notice on the menu that they are offering a meal called "Sope de Elote," a creamy, roasted corn soup served with a maize mushroom dumpling.

It sounds good to you, so you place your order for it. When your soup arrives, you love its unique flavor and consistency – at least until you ask the waiter just what it was you just ate.

Actually, the maize mushroom dumpling is what gardeners call corn smut! This is the fungus that you and I occasionally find on the tip of the sweet corn ear grown in our backyard gardens. Yeah, one man's smut is another man's lunch! The rather repulsive purplish-black blobs on the corn are quickly becoming very special in fancy Mexican restaurants.

A very nice restaurant in Denver called Tomayo offers the fungus in several distinguishable forms, and the executive chef pays about \$5 a pound for smut imported from Mexico. He has to buy it in Mexico because most farmers here assume nobody wants it. The chef says he buys a lot of it at a time because he never knows when it will be available. He also uses corn smut in duck, chicken and salmon dishes.

The fungus, which is actually a group of related fungi, is mainly borne by the soil, so planting sweet corn in places where it is likely to pick up smut is a matter



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

of chance.

Almost everybody who plants sweet corn in their garden, including me, is likely to see some smut on their corn, sometimes even on the tassels.

You can spray corn with a fungicide early, but very few of us do that. We don't think too much about just cutting off the ugly stuff and using the good part of the ear. There may come a time when we use the bad part, too, if smut somehow becomes a palate-pleaser to our family.

Sweet corn with smut sometimes shows up at health food stores, since the only kind of fresh vegetables they sell are organically grown and, as such, have not been sprayed with a fungicide. I saw a food channel program several years ago called Ming's Quest, which did a special program one day on the proper method of using corn smut.

Maybe the show should be repeated or redone by someone else so that we might all be educated as to the proper ways of preparing smut. But, then again, maybe not. I'm sure there is somewhere on the Internet where you can find recipes for its proper preparation.

I believe I'll pass. Let Mikey try it.



The Eichers in 1959



The Eichers in 2009

## Anniversary celebrated in Rockies

Curtis and Beverly Eicher of Colby, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary the week of Aug. 2, with a private family gathering at the YMCA of the Rockies.

Beverly is the daughter of the late Lloyd and Bernice "Grace" (Switzer) Sims.

Curtis is the son of the late Harry and Lois (McArthur) Eicher.

Curtis Eicher and Beverly (Sims) Eicher were married Aug. 16, 1959, at the United Methodist Church in Oakley. The couple first lived on the Eicher family farm in rural Brewster and then

moved to Colby early in their married life.

Curtis worked as a bank examiner for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation before retiring in 1995. Beverly owned and operated Pied Piper Preschool for 30 years. She currently serves on the Colby City Council. Both husband and wife are Kansas Extension Master Gardeners.

Their children and spouses are Eric and Vanessa Eicher of Colby, Erin Matthews of Salina, and Randy Matthews of Poplar Bluff, Mo. The couple has five grandchildren.

## Sign up eligible acres now for conservation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture began continuous sign-up for the new Conservation Stewardship Program on Aug. 10, with the first sign-up period cutoff scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30.

"The program will help the nation's agricultural and forestry producers reach greater levels of conservation performance, which will help protect our land and water," said Deputy Secretary Kath-

leen Merrigan.

For information, call the Natural Resources Conservation Service county office at (785) 462-7671.

## Deaths

### Genevieve Keller

Genevieve A. Keller, 90, died Friday, Aug. 21, 2009, at Colby Care Center.

She was born Jan. 27, 1919, in McDonald, the daughter of Mark W. and Frances M. (Copper) Colnon.

Keller was a retired Clerk of the District Court for Thomas County.

She was preceded in death by her husband Myrle Keller in 1979.

She is survived by a son, Harold Keller, Ft. Dodge; a daughter, Jeanene (John) Lee, Colby; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009, at Kersensbrook Funeral Chapel in Colby, with the Rev. Jim Mardock officiating. Inurnment will be in Beulah Cemetery at a later date.

No visitation.

The family suggests memorials to the First Christian Church of Colby in care of the Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby Kan., 67701.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.01
Corn (bushel)	\$2.75
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.08
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.78

## Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

**THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
Where the Deals Are!

The best place to find it, sell it, buy it, and announce it.

## Ministers' meetings to resume

The Thomas County Ministerial Alliance will hold its first fall meeting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, in the Citizens Medical Center board room.

All area ministers and pastors are invited to take part. One of the group's goals is to help unite Colby and Thomas County for the sake of Christ.

If you are a minister or pastor and have not been involved in the

Ministerial Alliance recently, take this opportunity to help us fulfill our goals. If you have questions, contact Jarrod Spencer at (785) 743-2403.

**Let's Celebrate**

**Willie Engelhardt**  
will be  
**\*94\***

**August 23, 2009**

Shower him with cards at:  
106 Misner  
Colby, KS 67701

*We know he doesn't  
look it but it is true!!!*

**Happy Birthday  
from your family!**

**The family of  
Mr. and Mrs.  
Leroy Moore**

Request your help in celebrating their  
**50th Wedding  
Anniversary**  
**August 30th**  
with a Card Shower!

Cards can reach them at:  
**Leroy and Eunice Moore**  
PO Box 58  
Brewster, KS 67732

**What Is A Real Man?**

**Wednesday, September 9**  
and every Wednesday after that

**6:00 - 7:30 AM**

**1115 S. Franklin**  
the former Pirate's Den building

**The Quest for Authentic Manhood consists of  
twenty-four weekly lessons.**

**MEN'S FRATERNITY**

For registration call: 462-7997 or  
email: coachdaddy2@sbcglobal.net

Men's Fraternity is a service to the community by the Colby Berean Church.  
Participants include men from other churches and those who do not attend church.

**Gem Lions Club  
ANNUAL HOG ROAST**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**  
**5:00 to 8:00 P.M.**

Gem Community Building  
*Blue Grass, Folk & Country Music*

**Featuring:**  
the Jeff Wagoner Family, Bugbee Sisters, &  
many other local entertainers

**Come out to Enjoy Food & Fellowship  
Free Will Donations  
Net Proceeds used for  
Community Betterment Projects**

*Bring your used eyeglasses & hearing aids.*

Economy getting you down?  
Worried about making bills on time? **We've got good news!**  
**The Colby Free Press is looking for some people to make some extra cash in the Colby Area!**  
Call **462-3963** if you're interested in a newspaper delivery route.

Put your skills to work in our office.

**Office MANAGER/billing clerk full OR PART-TIME**

The Colby Free Press needs an office manager/billing clerk to take a key spot in our front office. This person will do all billing, using a standard bookkeeping program, handle customer calls, direct traffic in our office, co-ordinate customer service, deal with postal issues, work mail, answer phones and generally help run the office. We are looking for someone who likes challenges and knows how to solve problems, work with people and get results. It could be just the job for you. Can be part-time 8-3. Send letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas. 67701, or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. eoe m/f/h