Producers urged to apply for grants

Rural Development State Director Patty Clark urges farmers and that market value-added products. business owners to apply for the Value-Added Producer Grants Program, to help them add value to the commodities they produce.

She suggests that producers file applications promptly to take advantage of this important pro-

\$100,000 and working capital grants of up to \$300,000 can go to successful applicants. Non-traditional uses of existing ag products, or projects that merge agricultural products creatively with technology are encouraged in applications. Priority will be given to small to medium-sized farms operating as a family farm – those with average annual gross sales of less than \$700,000.

Applicants must provide matching funds for the amount requestreserved for beginning and soranchers. An additional 10 percent is reserved for projects with local and regional supply networks that

U.S. Department of Agriculture link independent producers and businesses, and for cooperatives

> The national application period closes on Monday, Nov. 30. For information on applying, producers should visit www.rurdev.usda. gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm or see page 45165 of the Sept. 1 Federal

Paper applications must be sub-Planning grants of up to mitted to the area USDA Rural Development office for western Kansas, attention Brandon Prough, 2715 Canterbury Dr., Hays, Kan., 67601. The office's phone number is (785) 628-3081.

Electronic applications must be submitted through www.grants.

USDA Rural Development's mission is increased economic opportunity and improved quality of life for rural residents. It fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and ed. Ten percent of the funding is the creation of community and infrastructure. For information, log cially disadvantaged farmers or onto the website at www.rurdev. usda.gov/ks or call the state office at (785) 271-2700.

Scholarship honors late Colby graduate

Shirley Hankins, a retired Washington state representative and a graduate of Colby High School, along with her children, Shelley, Mac and Sherrey, have chosen Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Wash., for a scholarship named the M2 in honor of Hankins' late husband, Myron McFadden Hankins, also a Colby High graduate.

Hankins earned an educa-Teacher's College before moving to Richland, Wash., in the late 1950s. He worked on the Hanford Reactor Site, where he was known as "The Landlord." 1977 at the age of 50.

"Education was always important to Myron, and I want to keep that commitment alive by building a legacy at CBC," his wife said. During her years in the legislature, she said, she was a strong supporter of the college, even though the campus was not in her district. She is a former student.

Anyone interested in contributing to the scholarship may tion degree from Emporia State contact the foundation office at www.columbiabasin.edu/home/ or (509) 542-5519, or write the college at 2600 N. 20th Ave., Pasco, Wash., 99301.

Mrs. Hankins is the sister of He died from acute leukemia in Marj Brown and a cousin to Jerry Messamore, both of Colby.

Tax workshops next week in Colby

of the Kansas Department of Rev-responsibilities, filing requireenue will present a small business tax workshop from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, and a contractor's tax workshop from 6 to 8:30 p.m. They are sponsored by Fort Hays State University's Kansas Small Business Development Center, the Kansas Small Business Development Center and

the department of revenue. The small business presentation will cover sales tax, compensating use tax, consumers' compensating use tax, record keeping and pur- For questions, contact the small chases with exemption certificates. business center at (785) 628-5615

The Taxpayer Education Unit tax withholding requirements, tax

ments and form preparation. The contractor workshops will help clarify important topics for those in the construction, installa-

tion and similar businesses. Registration for each workshop is \$25, which will be collected at the event.

Due to limited available space, advanced registration is required. Register online at ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com. Under "New Users," select "Training Events" and choose the location and date of the event. It will also cover Kansas income or e-mail KSBDC@fhsu.edu.

Tempting crabapples are usually fine for kids to munch

MANHATTAN - Should parents panic if Research and Extension. children decide to eat the tempting fruit dangling from an ornamental crabapple tree?

"Probably not. Unless, perhaps, the crabapple has been treated at some time since spring

As with apples from an orchard, children can eat so many crabapples that they make themselves sick.

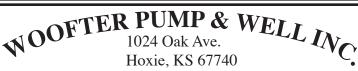
"That kind of stomachache isn't likely to with a pesticide that isn't labeled for use on happen, though, because crabapples aren't food-producing crops," said Ward Upham, sweet-tasting fruit. They've never been bred horticulturist with Kansas State University to eat raw. Since Johnny Appleseed's day, cra-than 2 inches across," Upham said.

Thomas County ADAC presents:

bapples' normal uses have been to make jelly, applesauce and cider," Upham said.

In fact, the only real difference between crabapples and today's tart-to-sour "cooking" apples is size.

"By definition, crabapple fruits are 2 inches or less in diameter. Apples are simply more



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