

Family

Don't forget: with plants, tuck in machines for winter

Many of us who call ourselves gardeners spend a lot of time trying to figure out how to over-winter some of those shrubs and perennials that sometimes require a little protection if they are to perform for us again next spring.

This week, I want to try to shed a little light on a different kind of over-wintering, a kind of over-wintering project that could save us all some serious cash next spring and beyond.

Let us discuss a few things about over-wintering some of that machinery that does nice things for us during the growing season, but that we tend to neglect when winter rolls around. We're talking engines here today – engines that power our rototillers, our lawn mowers, even our string trimmers and hedge trimmers. Putting them away for winter properly should be an important project for us whenever we're through with them this fall.

Any time an engine or any other kind of machine is going to be inactive for three or four months, it should be put to bed with a certain amount of special care. That way, it will be ready to go next spring when you are.

Leaving gasoline in an engine all winter is asking for trouble. Generally speaking, gasoline stays fresh for only about a month, so leaving it to over-winter in the tank is not a good idea.

More importantly, every four-cycle engine should have its oil changed at least once a year, and what better time to do that than at the end of the season.



Kay Melia

The Gardener

Drain that old oil when you're through with the machine this fall, and refill it with fresh oil before you start it up next spring.

And by all means, clean the air filter before you put the machine away for the winter. Most small engines use a spongy foam-rubber filter, which is easily cleaned with soap and water. Drop a tablespoon of oil on it and squeeze it to distribute the oil uniformly.

A good practice also is to change the spark plug every year. Do it now before you forget about it.

Above all, clean that mower or tiller well this fall, and that includes the congealed grass and dirt under the mower deck. Scrub it good. And check the blades of the mower and the lines of the tiller. If they're badly damaged, install new ones. If they're dull, get them sharpened.

And be sure to store all your machines in a dry place. Cold is fine, but damp locations will cause future trouble. While you're doing such nice things for your yard and garden equipment, you might as well sharpen the hoes and shovels, and spread a thin coat of oil on each of them to keep rust and corrosion away.

Most of us are still using most of our garden machines and other valuable gadgets. But before the middle of December, be certain that all that cleanup work has been done. Come spring, you'll be glad you did.

Accidents involving deer up in fall

Drivers need to be alert and practice defensive driving on Kansas roads during the fall deer mating season, says Sandy Praeger, state commissioner of insurance.

More injuries from deer-vehicle accidents occurred on Kansas roads during 2008 than the year before, according to Kansas Department of Transportation statistics. Those 2008 accidents killed six people and injured 318.

"The reality of driving on Kansas roads and highways this time of year is the possible encounter with a deer," Commissioner Praeger said. "Be vigilant when you take the wheel."

Mid-fall and mid-spring are likely times of the year for deer to be seen on roadways, because of breeding habits in the fall and growth of vegetation along the shoulder during the spring. Sunrise and sunset are the worst times.

Accidents from October to December cause more than \$3 billion in vehicle damage annually in the United States, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Average property damage

is estimated at \$3,050, according to a State Farm insurance study.

Commissioner Praeger urges Kansas motorists to check with their insurance agents to find out the type of vehicle accident damage coverage they have. Then, if a deer accident occurs, a policyholder should contact his or her insurance agent or company quickly to begin the claims process.

To help avoid deer-vehicle collisions, Commissioner Praeger suggests:

- Stay alert, always wear your seat belt and drive at a safe, sensible speed for conditions.
- Watch for the reflection of eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulder.
- Do not rely exclusively on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer.
- When driving at night, use high-beam headlights when there is no opposing traffic. The high beams will illuminate the eyes of deer on or near a roadway.
- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path,

but stay in your lane. Many serious accidents occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit other vehicles. You will risk less injury by hitting the deer.

• If you see one deer, there may be more.

• If the deer stays on the road, stop on the shoulder, put on your hazard lights and wait for the deer to leave the road. Do not try to go around a deer on the road.

When an accident occurs:

- If you do hit a deer and are uncertain whether the animal is dead, keep your distance. You might be dealing with an injured wild animal with sharp hooves that can inflict serious harm.
- If the deer is blocking the road and poses a danger to other motorists, immediately report the incident to law enforcement. Dial 911 on your cell phone.

"Defensive driving is always important, but this time of year it's extremely important," Commissioner Praeger said. "Do everything you can to protect yourself and your family while driving."

Deaths

Judith Coleen Pratt

Judith Coleen Pratt, 59, Ellis, a Colby native and sister-in-law of Izetta (Wes) Runnel of Colby, died Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, at Hays Medical Center.

She was born April 19, 1950, in Colby, the daughter of Glenn A. and Verna M. (White) Reilley. She lived on a farm in Rawlins County and attended Tully School there through the fourth grade. She completed her schooling in Colby, graduating from Colby High School in 1968 and from a one-year secretarial course at Colby Community College in 1969.

On June 7, 1969, she married Charles James Pratt of Hoxie. During their early years, the couple lived in Hays, where she was a bookkeeper for Great Guns Drilling Co. Later they lived on a farm

near Scott City.

They settled in Oakley, where she was a mother and homemaker, operated a small business from home, and volunteered as a Girl Scout leader. She also worked in the Logan County Treasurer's office, attended Fort Hays State University, and later worked at Kabredlo's convenience store and Dollar General. In 2007, Pratt moved to Ellis, where she was most recently had been bookkeeper for the Trio Home Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a stillborn son, Cameron Shane; a sister, Janet Oren; two brothers, Mike Reilley and Kevin Reilley; and two nephews.

Survivors also include two daughters, Stacy (Craig) Robben, Littleton, Colo., and Stephanie

(Brendon) Zweifel, Ellis; three sisters, Pauletta (Jerry) Raines, Wichita, and Maureen Downing, Springdale, Ariz., and Pam (Leo) Mazanec, Larkspur, Colo.; two brothers, Kent (Nora) Reilley, Wichita, and Kelly (Shela) Reilley, Aurora, Colo.; and a brother-in-law, Jerry Oren, Wahpeton, N.D.

The Rosary will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009, at Kersenbrock's Funeral Chapel, followed at 10 a.m. by a funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby. Burial will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, Oakley.

The family suggests memorials in her name in care of the funeral chapel, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Jacqueline L. Schmidt

Jacqueline L. Schmidt, 48, Goodland, a former bank teller, secretary and college financial aid assistant, died Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at the Denver Hospice Center after a six-month battle with cancer.

She was born in Goodland to Donald and Beverly Frailey on Jan. 31, 1961. The family moved to Tribune, returning to Goodland, during her seventh-grade year, and she graduated in 1969 from Goodland High School.

She married Gary Schmidt on April 17, 1982, in Goodland. She worked at the First National Bank in Goodland and Brewster, at American Freight, and as a financial aid assistant at the Northwest Kansas Vocational Technical College. Most recently, she was administrative assistant and dialysis tech at the Davita clinic in Burlington, Colo.

She loved attending her son's sporting events, car racing and growing flowers in her yard.

Mrs. Schmidt was preceded in death by her father and grandparents, Warren and Wilma Burk.

Survivors include her husband and a son Tanner, of the home, and her mother, of Goodland.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. (Central Time) Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Goodland, with burial in the Goodland Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. (Central Time) tonight at the Bateman Funeral Home, where a prayer vigil begins at 6:30 p.m.

The family suggest memorials, for a use to be designated later, to the funeral home at Box 278, Goodland, Kan., 67735.

Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Colby Community College with 36 members and guests.

Guests included Collin Rous, Tanya Staats, Brady Jasper, Brad Phillips and members of the college women's basketball team.

Rous was recognized as the Rotary Student of the Month for October.

Patrick Toth was inducted into club membership.

President Jerry Arensdorf pre-

sented Coach Jasper with a check for his team's efforts in assisting the club with the fall highway clean up.

Mark Winger gave a slide presentation on his recent trip to India. Winger is a board member for the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program.

Melinda Olson won Roto-Lotto.

The club meets at noon each Tuesday in the Student Union.

- Relda Galli

Bridge Club

Bridge winners for Meadow Lake on Oct. 6 were first, Sara Jane Barrett; second, Elaine Ptacek; third, Ken Ptacek; fourth, Joy Davis; fifth, Gail Vacca and Margaret Denneker.

Winners for Tuesday, Oct. 13, were first, Sarah Jane Barrett; second, Gladys Fischer; third, Katie Melvin; fourth, Elaine Ptacek; fifth, Joy Davis; sixth, Barb Ulmer; seventh, Ken Ptacek.



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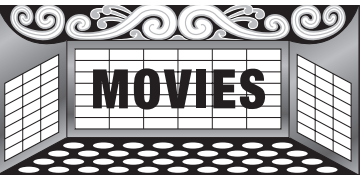
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Markets

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|---|--------|
| Quotes as of close of previous business day |        |
| Hi-Plains Co-op                             |        |
| Wheat (bushel)                              | \$4.05 |
| Corn (bushel)                               | \$3.25 |
| Milo (hundredweight)                        | \$5.03 |
| Soybeans (bushel)                           | \$8.67 |

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.



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CALLING ALL VETERANS

Looking for all the Veterans in the area who are not affiliated with VFW or American Legion. Please give us there names and we can recognize them in the upcoming Veterans Tribute in the Colby Free Press.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the Dog Tag and Return to the Free Press before Friday 10am Nov 6

Deadline is Friday Nov. 6 by 10 a.m. Mail to: Colby Free Press  
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God bless all those who answer our nation's call to defend our great country's freedoms!

Vet, SSgt. Matthews USMC 3rd Recon Bn.



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