

Family

High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club met at 10 a.m. March 9 at the Colby United Methodist Church. Members worked on their own art projects in the morning.

After lunch together, they held a business meeting and program.

Bev Kern presented a program about artist Helen Van Wyck, who began painting at the age of 12 after her father bought her a set of oil paints. She was born in Fair Lawn, N.J., and studied with several professional artists during her 50 years as an artist.

Van Wyck taught painting in Rockport, Mass., where she moved in 1968. Her television show, *Welcome to My Studio*, began on public television in 1990. In 1994 she died of cancer. Kern also showed an art video.

The business meeting was called to order by club president Marlene Carpenter.

After routine business, communications about coming workshops were read. Kern is entering a painting in the High Plains Art Fest Friday through Sunday, April 23 through 25, at the Gateway in Oberlin.

The committee for the 125th birthday of Thomas County would like a history of the club. Sheila Frahm will be invited to the next meeting to talk about it.

Kathy Payton told the group about a project in which puzzle

pieces could be ordered to design and put together.

Bev Kern hadn't received a reply from Anna Shaw about teaching another class.

Shirley Baker reported that John Scott, Hoxie, had agreed to teach a landscape workshop. Two dates will be suggested to him, April 2 and 3 or the last week of March.

Carpenter, Marj Brown, and Fritz Ostmeyer were appointed to work with Elaine Ptachek on the mural for her new office building. They will meet at Carpenter's home to draw up plans.

Ostmeyer invited the club to her home for the June meeting. They should bring a brown-bag lunch.

Merry Lewis had open heart surgery and is on a ventilator. She is very frail; cards would be appreciated.

Due to illness, Marian Boyd asked to be taken off the program and hostess list for May. Tom Peyton will give the program and Bev Kern will be hostess.

Refreshments were served by Carpenter.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, in the United Methodist Church, at 10 a.m. The program will be given by Brown and refreshments will be served by Baker.

All area artists are invited to attend.

— Marj Brown

Asparagus a good pick

Seeing fresh asparagus in markets signals spring, yet shoppers who didn't grow up eating asparagus may pass it by — and miss out on one of the season's best vegetables, said Karen Blakeslee, K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

Choosing and using fresh asparagus is easy, said Blakeslee, who offered tips.

- Look for firm stalks with a rich green or violet-green color.
- Larger stalks offer the best flavor and quality; a thinner stalk can indicate toughness.
- Tips should be tightly closed.

An open head happens when the head grows too fast.

With white asparagus, other than color, the same tips apply, said Blakeslee, who explained that white asparagus is grown in low light. The appearance is different, but the taste is the same.

To store fresh asparagus:

- Refrigerate after purchase.

Trim the stem and wrap the bottom

in a damp paper towel or stand up the stalks in a jar with enough water in the bottom to keep the stalks moist and fresh.

- Use fresh asparagus within two to three days after purchase.
- To cook fresh asparagus:
 - Separate and, with a soft vegetable brush, wash each stalk under cool running water.
 - Check the head of each stalk for garden debris.
 - Snap or cut off the bottom inch, which can be tough.

Fresh asparagus can be eaten raw or in salads, sandwich fillings, casseroles, and other side dishes, said Blakeslee, who noted that, in many recipes, it can be substituted for peas or broccoli. Cook whole or cut asparagus to steam, stir-fry, oven-roast, microwave or grill. Cook until crisp-tender.

Sensible garden starts with 'don'ts'

For crying out loud, this is the seventh week of these columns and I haven't even begged you to buy my book about gardening! Not once. However, Saturday was the first day of spring and if you're ever going to need the book, it is now!

It's still only \$15 and available at numerous gift and garden related retailers around the area. It's call "The Gardener's Common Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest."

Indeed, spring is here. (I love that song, especially by Frank Sinatra.) If you haven't already done so, it's time to get a few things together in order to prepare to plant the backyard garden. And therein lies the reason why I brought up the subject of the book.

The final chapter, beginning on page 208, consists of some information that many "first time" gardeners tell me is worth the price of the book. The chapter is entitled "Don't Do That" and lists the 10 most important steps to having a successful garden. Since we're getting close to planting time, I want to list those admonishments for you today. Which of course means you won't have to buy the book in order to read the most important chapter. Here they are, in somewhat abbreviated form.

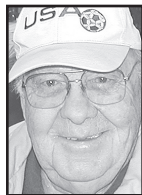
1 Don't choose a low lying area in your yard for your garden plot. Try to find an area of yard level with the rest of the yard. Not to do so will result in drainage problems all summer.

2 Don't plow or spade your garden plot when the ground is too wet. A wet plowed soil will cause clod problems all summer.

3 Don't plant a garden that will be larger than you can take care of. Planting more than you have time to care for results in an abandoned garden plot.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$3.90
Corn (bushel)	\$3.19
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.23
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.44



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

4 Don't plant your garden too early. The first day of spring is too early. Way too early. Wait another three weeks or so.

5 Don't plant you seed too thick. In this case, more is not better. Read the instructions on the seed packet. (or buy the book.)

6 Don't plant your seeds too deep in the soil. This may be the most serious mistake a gardener can make.

7 Don't move your transplants from house to garden without a "hardening off" period. This includes home grown or store bought plants. Get then accustomed to the great outdoors a few hours a day for several days.

8 Don't mulch your growing plants too early. Wait until the soil warms up, when the soil reaches a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees.

9 Don't water your growing plants too much or too often. When you water too often, plant roots tend to grow too shallow.

10 Don't plant the same varieties of vegetables every year. Try a new one. You might find something better than what you are now planting. Ask a friend or neighbor what variety they plant.

Those are the highlights of my 10 "Don't Do That's" In the book, there is much more detail about each step. These might be very helpful ideas for raising a successful and productive garden, especially for beginners.

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.

MOVIE PASSES

Watch for your name in the Wednesday movie listings for 2 free passes.

(Passes must be used within 7 days.)

Pick up your passes at your:

COLBY FREE PRESS

Deaths

Janice Claire Underwood

Janice Claire Underwood, 83, Denver, originally from Norcatur and Colby, died Friday, March 19, 2010, at her home.

She was born Sept. 28, 1926, in Norcatur, the daughter of Charlie C. and Marguerite (Hamp-ton) Cleland.

She attended school in Colby, graduating in the 1940s, and went on to Kansas State University for three years.

She married Robert Underwood of St. Marys in 1949.

Preceding her in death were her husband of 48 years, her parents, and a sister, Jean Breedon.

Survivors include two daughters, Jeanie (Tom) Howard, Evergreen, Colo.; and Patricia (Bill) Trainer, Chicago; a son, Michael (Deanie) Underwood, Castle Rock, Colo.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A long-time member of the Kirk of Bonnie Brae United Church of Christ in Denver, she was active in AARP, the Daughters of the American Revolution, bowling and bridge.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at Horan and McConaty Family Chapel, 1091 S. Colorado Blvd. in Denver.

Inurnment will be at the Norcatur Cemetery at a later date.

The family suggests memorial donations to the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center, 7951 E. Maplewood Ave., Suite 300, Greenwood Village, Colo., 80111 or the Hospice of St. John, 1320 Everett Court, Lakewood, Colo., 80215. Online condolences may be sent to horancares.com.



J. Underwood

Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 26 members and guests Wendy Frahm Weishaar and Joe Vyzourek.

Jeff Horlacher reported on the club's Polio Plus Radiothon coming up Thursday, April 22.

Sacha Sanguenetti introduced Joe Vyzourek, disc jockey and radio program director for the college, who gave a program about local station KXXX. He noted it came on the air in 1947 as a post-World War II era station and played an air check from 1967.

The club heard various well-known personalities of the time,

along with a market report which had wheat at \$1.28 a bushel and corn at 95 cents.

Vyzourek said several turntables and recording equipment are on display at the Smithsonian Institution. Reels of on-air tapes have been converted to compact disc and are housed at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Included in that set of tapes is the station's broadcast from the day of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Weishaar won Roto-Lotto. The club meets at noon each Tuesday at the college.

— Relda Gall

Hospital visited by hurt dog

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) — The patient was only slightly injured when he limped into a hospital in the northwest New Mexico city of Farmington.

The only problem was, he was a dog.

When the automatic doors at San Juan Regional Medical Center's emergency room slid open March 13, the pooch walked in,

blood on his nose and paw, and a puncture hole in one leg.

Animal control officer Robin Loev responded to a call from the hospital and suspects the wound was from the bite of another dog.

Loev says the German shepherd mix appeared to be intelligent and calm — and knew enough to go to the right place.

Thank You!

Thank You, to all my friends and family who sent me birthday cards. It sure made for a special surprise.

Mary Oard

MOVIES

NOW SHOWING

March 19th - March 25th

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF

Genre(s): Adventure/Science Fiction

PG 2 Hours

Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:10

Sunday - Thursday 7:00

THE CRAZIES

Genre(s): Horror/Thriller

R 1 Hour, 45 Minutes

Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00

Sunday - Thursday 7:00

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FAIRMILE AUCTION

Everett McKenna Estate

9:30 A.M.- Shop tools & equipment

1:00 P.M.-Tractors, Combine & Farm Machinery

Trucks, trailers, livestock equipment & household to follow

DATE: Monday, April 5, 2010 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

AUCTION LOCATION: From the Southwest corner of Palco, Kansas, go 3 miles South on the blacktop road, 1 mile West & ¼ mile South. Signs will be posted.

2008 JD 9670 STS Rotor Combine, 2009 30' Draper header under warranty, 2-2009 JD 9330 4x4 tractors 348 hrs & 588 hrs. under warranty, 2009 JD 8130 MFWD w/ loader, 1980 JD 4840 w/new loader, JD 4890 Swather w/ 18' header, 2007 JD 568 Round Baler, H&S 32' rake, JD 1820 Air seeder w/ dual 1900 tank cart, Case IH 5300 45' anhydrous applicator, JD 630 Tandem disc, SF 28' Tandem disc, SF 7-5 Undercutter, 2-3060 Fallow Kings, Orthman 13 shank ripper, Landoll 1632 pull type grader 16ft., Holcomb 1200 Scraper, 8' rock picker, 8' Scraper, 2008 Titan livestock trailer 6'8 x 24, 2000 Titan livestock trailer 6'8 x 24, 1980 20' Merritt pup grain trailer, 1979 40' Doonan grain trailer, 1975 Cornhusker 38' grain trailer, 1956 40+ ft. flatbed, EZ Trail 700 grain cart, Car trailer, 2000 F-350 w/hydra bed 4x4 diesel, 1989 Freightliner 855 Cum. eng., 1989 Freightliner 3406 Cat eng., 1981 IHC 4300 Transtar 855 Cum. eng., 1979 4300 twin screw 20' box & hoist, 1978 GMC 6500 427 eng., 18' box & hoist, 2008 Polaris 700 4x4 4 wheeler, JD riding mower F-911, For-Most working chute w/palpatation end, feed bunks, dart guns, fence post, cattle guards, shop equipment which includes shop compressor, welders, plasma cutter, tire changer, shop press, coupler machine for hyd. fittings, floor jacks, power washers, shop tools, bolt bins, porta power 10-ton, boomers & chains, chain hoist on A frames, impact wrenches, plus much more.

Household: Oak dining room table & chairs, oak buffet, oak tea cart, oak roll top desk, oak entertainment center, oak wash stand, 5 piece oak bedroom set, French provincial sideboard w/marble top, refrigerator, washer, dryer, plus other household items.

Attorney for the Estate: Leslie A. Hess, Hays, KS

Executor for the Estate: Dustin Bemis, ph. # (785)650-9310

Ranch hand: Rick Lewis, ph. # (785) 662-8020

Terms and Conditions: Only checks with proper ID accepted.

For more information or brochure contact

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