

# Family

## Quiz takes stock of garden's treats

Alright class! School is now in session. Pay close attention now, because here's what I want you to do. Grab a pencil and a piece of paper and follow directions carefully, because there may be a shot-gun quiz later.



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

On your paper, please describe to me the one single treat that you harvested out of your garden this summer, either fresh, cooked, canned or frozen, that has given you and your family the greatest eating pleasure. Name only one. I know it isn't easy, but I want just the one thing that you enjoyed the most. Go ahead and think about it a moment if you wish. I'll give you a little time here.

All done? Alright, pass your papers down to the end of the row and I'll begin grading them so that we can all see and hear what some your choices were.

Here's one that says "a fresh-picked cucumber, sliced, and a big sweet onion, sliced and then slathered in a bowl with salt and pepper and ranch dressing." Wow, my mouth is watering already.

Here's another: "A bowl of small new potatoes, creamed with freshly picked peas and cooked only until the potatoes are tender." How about this one: "A generous helping of tender young green beans fresh out of the garden, cooked with just a little bacon and bits of sweet onion."

This one says "the first big ripe Ambrosia cantaloupe of the season." Amen, brother! Hold it here, where did this one come from? "Several small zucchini, sliced and baked casserole style with onion and creamed with lots of

cheese." One of you out there has a great sense of humor!

Here's a couple of others. One says "the first mature head of cabbage of the season, shredded and dressed into a delicious bowl of slaw." One more here: "A big, ripe tomato, sliced, with a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Slicing is optional." Several of your papers that expressed a similar sentiment.

Well, you all did well, and nobody has to stay after school. Of course, there's no way you could mess up this test - unless of course you forgot to plant a garden last spring.

Here's my response to the question: "A big bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich made with two slices of slightly toasted white bread, three slices of bacon fried not quite crisp and a nice leaf of head lettuce. Butter one slice of bread and generously spread real mayonnaise on the other. Slice the tomato carefully so as not to lose any of the precious juice and place the slices between the bacon and the lettuce, not next to the bread. Add a little salt and freshly ground pepper. Repeat as often as you can between now and the first freeze, because it's going to be a long time until tomato picking comes around next summer."

Class dismissed. Unless you happen to have a big, ripe watermelon stashed under your desk!

## Program for fathers coming in October

The 24/7 Dad program will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at Redeeming Love Ministries, 345 N Franklin, Colby, with classes Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The parenting program covers universal aspects of fatherhood, the sponsors say, so men of all cultures, races, religions and backgrounds can benefit. Two experienced facilitators, W.G. Romine and Eric Ketchum, will

be leading the program.

This program brings fathers together and gives them tools for improvement and to build on their strengths, the men say. It focuses on five characteristics that a father needs to be a great dad 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Snacks will be provided. To join the program, call Paige Campbell at (785) 460-8177. Every father is welcome.

## Yard winners get deserved congrats

The Rexford City Council began acknowledging a yard of the month during the summer to establish positive recognition.

The "yard" winners receive free city utilities for the month. Congratulations, Reed and Jody Rogers, who were selected in July; Wes and Jeannette Bencken in August; and Maxine Ross in September, the last one for the season. The selection process will begin again in the spring. The council and mayor are exempt.

My daughter, Kristin Wark of Mission, and two friends from Overland Park spent Thursday night at our home. They were on their way to Colorado to attend the wedding of another friend in Estes Park. After breakfast and a short tour of Golden Plains High School, where Kristen attended, they were on the road by 10 a.m.

Last week, Marjorie Leh and four other members from this area rode together to attend a meeting of the Oberlin Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star. This was the first meeting for the year, since



**Vicki Allison**

• Rexford Correspondent

July and August are free from meetings.

Saturday was the first bingo night held at the Red Barn. My calendar was not marked to attend, so we forgot, or we would have been there. Bingo is the second Saturday of the month.

It disgusted me when I heard about the break-in of Gilbert's building on Main Street. Sometime between midnight and 7 a.m. Saturday, an someone threw a heavy chunk of concrete through the front plate glass window of the building in order to break in and steal a Toshiba 32-inch flat-panel television. Anyone with information should call Sheriff Rod Taylor at (785) 460-4570.

Until next time, enjoy making those memories.

## As disease name, thousand cankers is apt

Thousand cankers may seem like a strange name for a disease that kills black walnut trees and is the object of a new Kansas quarantine.

For those who know what it means, however, the name is both awful and accurate, said Nicole Ricci, forest health specialist with the Kansas Forest Service.

Colorado State University scientists discovered the disease and named it in 2008. In his early attempts to tell other experts how the disease works, CSU plant pathologist Ned Tisserat compared it to the old Imperial Chinese style of painfully slow execution - "death by a thousand cuts." The disease's official name continues the comparison, Ricci said.

"It's apt because a pair of pests causes the disease, but both of them are tiny," the forester said. "So, they have to work for quite a while to add up enough damage to be fatal."

"The larger of the two is the walnut twig beetle, which bores an almost invisible entry hole and starts eating out tunnels under the bark. It's about the size of the 'I' on a penny's 'In God We Trust.'"

The beetle transports the second pest, a fungus that actually causes the cankers, she said. The fungus aggressively colonizes and starts to work around each beetle's tunneling. The tree tissue it affects shows up as brown-black blotches of dead cells - cankers - that are several times larger than the tunnel damage.

"Because they work out of sight behind the tree's bark, this pair can be causing damage for years before any outward symptoms appear," Ricci said. "By the time the tree starts to lose branches or its canopy thins, the walnut is basically a goner. It could easily be averaging far more than 1,000 beetles per linear inch of branch."

For information, go to [www.ksda.gov/plant\\_protection/content/350/cid/1615](http://www.ksda.gov/plant_protection/content/350/cid/1615).

## Horseshoes

Winners of the Gem Lions Club's eighth annual team horseshoe tournament Aug. 24 were first, Danny Carmen and Jeff Tubbs; second, Kyle Klinger and Ray Schindler; third, Travis Fromholtz and Alex Ryan.

## Donor helps ag advocates

MANHATTAN - The nonprofit Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom kicked off an "agriculture advocate challenge" in July, designed to raise money for agriculture literacy programs for Kansas students, their teachers and their families.

Several agricultural businesses have joined the foundation in the mission of "Connecting Classrooms to Kansas Agriculture," including Frontier Ag, with a donation in the Standard of Excellence

range - \$5,000-\$9,999. Mid Kansas Cooperative Association and ICM Inc. issued a challenge and provided \$5,000 each as seed money towards the \$60,000 fund-raising campaign.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
**Hi-Plains Co-op**

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.19
Corn (bushel)	\$4.20
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.01
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.56

## 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**

The family of  
**Robert Potter**  
  
invite you to share in the celebration of his  
**80th Birthday**  
at an Open House on Saturday Sept. 18, 2010. 2:00-4:00p.m. at City Limits, 2227 S. Range, Colby, KS. Your Presence would be a treasured gift, we kindly request no other. Birthday greetings may be mailed to 1 Lee Circle, Colby, KS. 67701.

Card Shower for  
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# 125 Years of Thomas County

Brewster, the second-largest town in Thomas County was plotted in 1888, just three years after the incorporation of the county. The land, just this side of the county line, had been owned by Leander and Lottie French.

The railroad has been an important part of Brewster since its earliest days. Betty Wolfe, who researched the history of the town, said in 1985 that the town may have been named for Robert Brewster, a railroad foreman who helped laid tracks through town. Wolfe said, however, that there are other possible stories as to how the town got its name.

Brewster eventually became a stop for the Rock Island Railroad, which helped grow its population and wealth. By the fall of 1888 it had grown to about 80 people, living in mainly sod houses. Later that year, the town got some of its first businesses, a meat market and the OK Restaurant. The next year it got a bank, four general stores, a lumberyard, a hotel and many other businesses.

By 1909, the thriving prairie town had grown to 500 people. It was incorporated as a "second class city" in 1920. Brewster had a newspaper at the time, which described the town as, "a diamond in the rough within a circle of wondrous wheat fields." About that time, power lines were built between Brewster and Colby, allowing the smaller town to have electric street lights on Kansas Avenue for the first time.

The Brewster School District was established on Oct. 20, 1888. School started in January the next year. It opened with 11 students, but had 23 by the end of the week. The school's current brick building was built in 1925 and remodeled in 1954. The district had 101 students last year.

In 1985, the county clerk's office reported that Brewster's population was 359. The 2000 census put the number at 285 people, living in 115 households. The town covers .3 square miles, sitting just north of a bend in I-70.

This school, which still serves Brewster today, was built in 1925 to house all grade levels. It was remodeled in 1954.

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