

Family

Salsa a great topper for gardening's end

For the last two or three weeks, many folks who enjoy eating have been making salsa.

You certainly don't have to be a gardener to enjoy making and eating salsa, but so much the better if you happen to have a few of the ingredients growing out in the backyard. Right now, you can literally feel the "hurry hurry" attitude beginning to kick in, because we're only about three weeks away from the average first frost date here in northwest Kansas.

We're talking to the tomato vines, encouraging them to produce just a little faster, and we're enjoying the peppers that add the "kick" to the big pot of salsa simmering away on the stove.

Several people have told me they are using the salsa recipe in my recent book and are looking forward to seeing if it's as good as I insist. A few of you have told me there is no way they can accumulate 20 pounds of tomatoes at one time, as the recipe in the book calls for. That's why I prefaced the recipe by suggesting that you can size it down to meet the amount of ingredients you have available.

I'm glad I did that, but in retrospect, I should have made it less complicated for everyone by presenting the numbers for a smaller batch. Last week, I gave a "cut down" recipe to a friend that called for just five pounds of tomatoes, with the rest of the ingredients reduced accordingly. That's probably a size most people can better utilize unless you have a great big tomato patch. If you don't have my book and would like the recipe, in any size, just give me a call.

Indeed, you can almost feel the rush to stuff that home-grown food into canning jars right now. The average first frost date in Sherman County is Oct. 10. It's only an average, of course, but last year, the temperature dropped to a record low of 29 degrees on Oct. 3, pretty much ending the growing season for another year. The year before that, 2008, it wasn't until Oct. 23 that the temperature dropped to 31, with wind and a couple of



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

inches of snow.

When a frost threatens, most of us rush to the garden and try to find a way to cover the tomatoes, even though you can be pretty sure that it will only be a few more days before another frost or freeze comes along. Not only that, but the cool nights of October make it tough on garden crops, particularly tomatoes, to mature any further. Covering them up when the first frost forecast comes along is a bit of a waste of time.

If your tomatoes have been slow to produce this year, do yourself a favor and try to remember when you set them outside last spring. Tomato maturity is a long process. You must plant them earlier if you expect to harvest earlier.

The last frost date is May 7 or 8. Your plant should be in the ground by then, or shortly after, with some means of protecting them in case of a late frost. That's the only way you'll enjoy a long and late summer harvest.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Thursday

9 a.m. - Vehicle blocking alleyway in the 500 block of E. Fifth Vehicle moved

9:38 a.m. - Two dogs at large in the 1100 block of Summer Sun turned over to owner.

11:53 a.m. - Provided information about traffic ordinances.

1:09 p.m. - Assisted ambulance crew on call at 24/7 Store.

2:26 p.m. - Subject called about complaint at 1:09 p.m., thinks woman is misusing 911. Provided information to reporting party.

6:15 p.m. - Damage to fence at

Deaths

Donald W. Ziegelmeier

Donald W. Ziegelmeier, 74, a Colby farmer and rancher, died Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, at the Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, Colo.

He was born July 27, 1937, in Colby, the son of Bernard and Wilma (Chandler) Ziegelmeier.

He is survived by his wife Patsy, of the home; a son, Lance Ziegelmeier, Oklahoma City, a daughter, Patti Stephens, Oakley, a sister, Helen Toburen, Pittsburg;

and six grandchildren.

Services were to be at 2 p.m. today, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, at the Colby United Methodist Church, with the Rev. James Mardock officiating and burial in Beulah Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials in his name to be designated at a later date, in care of Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 745 S. Country Club, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Newlin E. White

Newlin E. White, 91, Stockton, formerly of Colby, died Friday, Sept. 17, 2010, at the Solomon Valley Manor in Stockton.

He was born March 5, 1919, in Oxford, the son of Charles E. and Mary Eva Jane (Ford) White.

A graduate of Colby High School, he attended Ft. Hays State University where he ran track and played basketball. He set several records in track and field, some of which are still standing.

During World War II he served as a medic in the 5th Armored Tank Division.

On Nov. 4, 1942, he married Bettie Mae Johnson in Hays.

An office machine technician for Northwest Office Supply in Colby for many years, he was a Mason

and enjoyed collecting antiques and arrowheads, golfing and gardening. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife in 2007, a grandson, Judd Hamit, and a stepfather, Vernon H. Emmons.

Survivors include a son, Gary (Linda) White, Burlingame; a daughter, Terry (Don) Hamit, Stockton; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at a later date.

The family suggests memorials to the Stockton Ambulance Fund, in care of the Smith-Moore-Overlease Funeral Home, 723 N. First, Stockton, Kan., 67669

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.mooreoverlease.com.

Gatherings galore make Rexford busy

There will be an 80th birthday celebration for Delores Dible Sunday. A reception will be held in her honor from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Rexford Community Church. You are asked not to bring gifts. Cards may be sent to Delores at 2822 County Rd. 36, Rexford, Kan., 67753.

The Shepherd's Staff was host to eight college students from the Christian Challenge organization in Colby on Sunday. These students spent the afternoon playing paintball and then had a hotdog roast.

Saturday evening, Teens for Christ met for their monthly Edges meeting. More than 50 youth had burgers, fries and milkshakes at the Ranch House, then held an Amazing Race and ended with worship and a challenge.

The Thielier reunion was held at the Red Barn in Rexford, Sept. 12. Those attending were Don and Lily Thielier, Kenneth Thielier of Colby; Keith Barnett, Donna

Gator in cuffs at grade school

OLDSMAR, Fla. (AP) — Deputies in Florida had to handcuff a rather unusual suspect — a 7-foot-long alligator.

A crossing guard at a Tampa-area school spotted the gator lounging near an elementary building around the time children would be walking to school.

As she and three deputies waited for a trapper to arrive, the alligator started walking toward the children. Three deputies roped the gator's neck and tail as the animal rolled and thrashed. Its tail broke off chunks of stucco from a nearby wall.

Deputies later secured the gator's mouth with electrical tape and handcuffed its hind legs. Florida Fish and Wildlife officials took custody until the trapper arrived.



Vicki Allison

• Rexford Correspondent

Waterman of Atwood; Virginia Solko of Ludell; Carolyn Rosenfelt, Melissa Rosenfelt of Benkleman, Neb.; and Rex and Betty Carswell of Rexford.

As the fall season approaches, the county is prepared with flu vaccinations this year. Unfortunately, flu shots will not be given at the Red Barn Senior Center this year. A flu shot clinic will be held from 2 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Thomas County 4-H building in Colby. When going to get the shot, you've been asked to be prepared with the following: payment of \$25 or copy of insurance card, wear loose fitting clothing that will provide easy access to your arm, and a completed vaccine consent form. Consent forms are available at the Red Barn. If more information is needed, call (785) 460-4599.

Until next time, make your week memorable. Go Chiefs!

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.28
Corn (bushel)	\$4.55
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.32
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.54

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
A reception will be held on September 26th to honor **Delores Dible** on her 80th birthday. The reception will be from 2:00 - 4:00 at the Rexford Community Church. No gifts are requested. Cards may be sent to Delores at: 2822 Co. Rd. 36 Rexford, KS 67753

GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

The Thomas County Health Department will be hosting a Mass Flu Clinic on September 22, 2010 at the Thomas County 4-H building from 2:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. No appointments are necessary, you may pick up paperwork prior to the clinic at the health department. The cost will be \$25 payable by cash, check or insurance (be sure to bring a copy of your card). For further information please dial our Flu Information line at 785-460-4599, or our main line at 785-460-4596.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Wayne Horlacher!
Q: "How did you get to be 80?"
A: "I started soon enough."
Celebrating Wayne's Birthday with cookies and lemonade, Wayne Horlacher Trivia Game, and Discounts throughout the store!
HORLACHER JEWELERS
442 N. Franklin Colby, KS 462-2241

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

In Loving Memory of **Fred H. Albers**
1951 - 2008
You've been gone from our lives for almost two years and I often feel your presence, especially during early summer or late fall. When the sun is hot and the wind is blowing the wheat during harvest time, I think of you all the time with tears in my eyes. Memorial weekend was special when I came to visit you on the farm, as well as those phone calls during September for your birthday. Miss those occasions each year now. Hope you are walking across green pastures with running water and your faithful dogs at your side. Wish you rest and peace with the Lord. Miss you brother.
With Love, Your Sister,
Shirley Sharma

125 Years of Thomas County

Like many of Thomas County's small towns, Rexford owes its life to the railroad. The Rock Island Railroad built several depots in Thomas County, including one in Rexford, as it continued its westward expansion. Rock Island eventually dissolved its company in northwest Kansas, but it still operated the line, which brought many settlers to town. The town itself was founded on May 10, 1888, just three years after the incorporation of the county. It was named for Jacob Rexford, a homesteader in the area, but if anyone can be named the "Father of Rexford," it would be Ira Thompson, who homesteaded just south of town. The first building in Rexford was a store belonging to Thompson. He had it moved from Gem. The Thompson store would stay in his family for more than 90 years. Thompson was a busy man, he was also the town's postmaster, manager of a grain elevator and editor of the *Rexford News*. Thompson's post office was established before the town itself in 1887. It was the first one in the eastern part of the county. Thompson owned the first automobile in Thomas County, a one-cylinder Oldsmobile that he bought in 1903 for \$950. Thompson wasn't the only merchant in Rexford. W. Tilden moved to town with only the contents of his wagon in 1888. He had farmed north of town. By 1910 he had a brick building in Rexford and more than \$10,000 worth of stock. The Rexford State Bank was established in 1904. The Methodist Church started up soon after the founding of the town and a Christian church was founded later. The Rexford Community Church, which is still active today, was formed in the 1930s. A wooden schoolhouse was built in 1889, not far from the present site of Golden Plains High School. Several districts were consolidated and moved to Rexford in 1921. Several buildings were taken from rural areas and moved next door to the Rexford school, which was set up as a four-year high school. Rexford also had the first hospital in Thomas County, built by Dr. B.G. Patterson in 1908.

This photo of Rexford's main street in the 1920s shows a thriving prairie town.

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The Spirit of the Prairie Lives On
1885-2010
125 Years in Thomas County