

Family

Time to begin those transplants

And now, soon to come, one of the most enjoyable and productive gardening projects of the year. That's my humble opinion.

It is time to grab a few seeds and some quality starting soil mix and grow a few of your own transplants. It's a project more of us should tackle, and here's why.

When you start your own transplants, you have the freedom of selecting the variety of tomato or the type of pepper you really want to grow in your garden. If you haven't been overly pleased with the variety – or quality – of store-bought transplants in the past, it just makes sense to try growing your own. It also gives you the opportunity to get yourself involved in the gardening process earlier in the season.

Let me be very clear here. Very few of us ever have a quarrel with the transplants we purchase each spring at the community's reputable greenhouse and garden center, if we're fortunate enough to have one. But for those of us who don't, or if we are insistent on growing a specific variety, this "grow your own" project is most worthwhile.

It's simple to determine when to start your transplants. In the case of tomatoes or peppers, remember that it will be May 10 to 15 before you should plant them outside. To grow a garden-ready transplant requires about seven weeks of indoor care before they are ready to go outside.

Cabbage and broccoli plants can withstand a bit of frost, so they can go outside about May 1, or earlier. So, just count back seven weeks from the outside plant-



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

ing dates and you should come up with March 22 to 27. The time to act is very near.

So pick up a small bag of seed starting formula soon. Do NOT try to start your seed in regular garden soil. Locate some kind of plastic tray or pan in which to start your seeds. Now comes the most critical part of the procedure.

Just as soon as the plants emerge, move the tray into an area of very bright light, but not direct sun. Failure to follow that step will result in tall, leggy, yellow, useless plants. So-called "grow lights" are best, but there are very few homes that cannot provide an area where there is 10 to 14 hours per day of very bright light. Again, failure to do so will result in project failure.

When the little plants get their first set of true leaves, repot them into their own individual little 2x2 inch peat or plastic cubicle. Keep them in the intense light until outdoor planting time. During their final week of indoor captivity, let them outside on nice days for a couple of hours so that they will get used to what is in store for them at planting time.

It's a fun project, allowing you to plant what you specifically desire. It also allows you to get your hands dirty just a little earlier. Questions? Call me or send me an e-mail at vkmelia@yahoo.com.

Brewster students spell well

By Bonnie Holm

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Following in the footsteps of his older brother Nathan, Brewster eighth grader Jace Jorgensen took third place in the Thomas County Spelling Bee to qualify for the regional Sunflower Spelling Bee.

Eighth graders Cheyenne Ortnor and Rachel Urban of Colby Middle School took first and second place in the competition. Since Brewster is a member of the Scripps National Spelling Bee Program, Jorgensen was to travel to Great Bend to represent Thomas County in the regional spelling bee on Saturday.

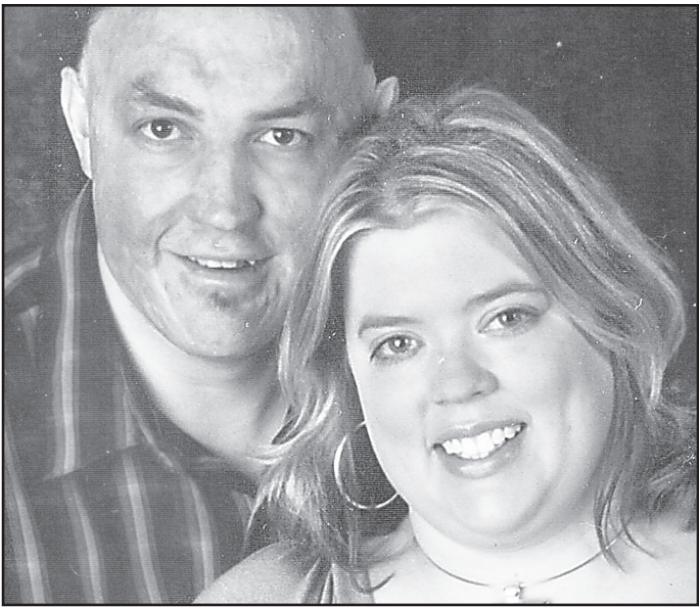
The spelling bee, held Feb. 17 at Heartland Christian School, included students from Brewster, Colby, Golden Plains, Heartland,

and Sacred Heart. Jorgensen was joined by sixth graders Tad Holm and Jaden Schmidt from Brewster, along with other spellers from the county schools. The Brewster trio qualified for the county meet by placing in the top three during a spell-off held in Brewster the previous week. Sixth grader Shavaun Barnes was the alternate.

Holm misspelled the word, "rhinestone," to open the door for Jorgensen. After spelling the word correctly, Jorgensen spelled the next word to take third place.

Holm was to make the trip as an alternate.

Brewster sixth grade teacher Rae Stewart is the county coordinator. She said she was very proud of all the county spellers and thanked them.



Mike W. Margheim and Jamie D. Hankins

Colby grad to marry in Hutchinson church

Jamie D. Hankins and Mike W. Margheim are planning to marry Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hutchinson.

The bride is the daughter of Jim and Glenda Helus of Colby, and Don and Judy Hankins of Kechi. She graduated from

Colby High School in 1998, and works at the First National Bank in Hutchinson.

The groom is the son of Mike and Sandi Margheim of Winona. He graduated from Winona High School in 1998 and works at Walmart in Hutchinson.

CHS collecting food, cash for Feeding America network

CHS Agronomy Centers are gathering donations of money, food and grain through Friday, in a "Harvest for Hunger" campaign.

CHS is accept contributions of food or money at all locations including Colby, Selden and Brewster. Donations will go to Feeding America's network of food banks in Wichita, where goods will be weighed and a portion returned to the communities.

Manager Jeff Kahle says, "For every donation we collect, CHS Country Operations will also make a local contribution to help friends and neighbors right here in our community. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to multiply the impact of every donation we make."

Financial donations are encouraged because food banks can use their buying power to provide nutritious food at deeply discounted

rates; in fact, every \$1 donated helps provide seven meals, according to Feeding America, the nation's leading hunger-relief charity.

The energy, grains and foods company says it has valued volunteerism and responsible community stewardship for nearly 80 years; the first-ever food and fund drive is designed to harness the power of CHS Country Operations locations to address America's growing hunger problem.

"Hunger is a reality for one in six Americans," says Kahle. "Our goal of helping to harvest a million meals is within reach, so let's pull together and show how much the country cares."

Contact Jennifer Riedel at (785) 754-3318 or jennifer.riedel@chsinc.com for more information about where you can donate.

Program discusses women in Civil War

The Prairie Museum of Art and History will offer "Kansas Women in the Civil War," a presentation and discussion led by historian Diane Eickhoff, at noon Thursday at the museum, 1905 S. Franklin.

The free program, part of the *Food for Thought* series, will include a light lunch. Call the museum at (785) 460-4590 for information.

The role of women in the Civil War has often been overlooked, but Kansas women served as nurses, cooks, clerks and factory workers, Eickhoff said, while others were even soldiers and spies. Women's work on the home front also played an important role. As writers, some raised support for the Union, while other championed the Republican Party, and most hoped women's suffrage would be addressed at the war's end.

Using historical photographs and editorial cartoons, Eickhoff's

presentation will challenge the stereotypical idea of women's roles in the war popularized by books, such as "Gone With the Wind."

Eickhoff's biography, "Revolutionary Heart: The Life of Clarina Nichols and the Pioneering Crusade for Women's Rights," was named a Kansas Notable Book for 2007 and won the gold medal in biography for the Book of the Year Award sponsored by *ForeWord* magazine.

"Women's critical roles in early Kansas and the Civil War have often been over-shadowed by the men who gained the headlines and wrangled over power," she said. "Women were involved – and not just behind the scenes. You had to be 'strong-minded' to survive and thrive in Kansas, and they were."

Kansas Women in the Civil War is part of the Kansas Humanities Council's Kansas 150 Speakers Bureau commemorating the Kansas sesquicentennial.

Cretaceous fun coming

"A Cretaceous Carnival" at Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 3, will raise money for the museum's Discovery Room through good old-fashioned fun games with a natural-history theme.

"The games are for specific age groups," said Thea Haugen, Discovery Room manager. "For younger children, there will be a shark pond, a dino-rock monster and many others. There will be prizes for the games if you win."

Carnival admission is free. No ticket is needed to get into the lobby. The games start at 25 cents and go up to \$1 to play.

McDonalds will donate punch for the carnival, which will include a cakewalk and dinosaur

cookies. Each cookie sold comes with a ticket to win a large stuffed dinosaur.

Volunteers are needed to work game booths, sell tickets and make or buy cakes, pies and cookies for the cakewalk. Museum staff and volunteers are making stuffed animals and need fiber filling or fur. The museum is also looking for an air-hockey game to use.

All money raised will be used by the Discovery Room and the education department to buy animal food and supplies.

For information, contact Haugen at (785) 628-5517 or 650-7431 or thaugen@fhsu.edu.

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.

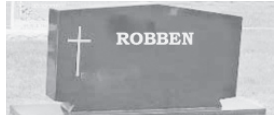


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THANKS



The Colby FFA Chapter would like to thank the community for their support during FFA week. All of the events were extremely successful and would not of happened without the support of community, business and school leaders.

National Quilting Day

March 19

SaleABRATION

March 17, 18, 19
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



1525 S. Range • 462-3375

Lloyd Edward Sharp

Lloyd E. Sharp, born June 10, 1941 at the family home in Colby, Kansas. Passed into the arms of our Lord March 7, 2011 in Paulden, Arizona.



Lloyd is survived by his loving wife Maryland (Schorzman); sons, Vance Sharp, Nathan (Tanya) Rice; daughter, Macy Rice; 4 cute grandchildren, Keaton, Destiny, Ryleigh, and Drake; and one great granddaughter, Harmony. Brothers Deacon (Jodi), Ken (Melanie), Bill and sisters Greta (Beryl) and Karen (Bob). He is preceded in death by his father, Norman Edward Sharp and his mother, Kathleen (Robinson); and brother Pete.

He was employed by the Southwest & Mt. Bells for 21 years and later subcontracted to the phone company as Lloyd Sharp Construction in St. Joseph & Kansas City Missouri. In 2002, he and his wife relocated to Prescott Valley, Arizona and were licensed real estate agents. Lloyd enjoyed the beautiful Arizona outdoor activities with his wife, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great granddaughter. He and his wife shared 21 wonderful years together, and have provided their family with a lifetime of love and priceless memories. His family will always remember his handyman abilities, tree house construction, and overall words of wisdom and so much more.

Besides a supportive father, a devoted husband and a supportive grandfather, Lloyd was passionate about helping others. Several souls are touched in this world due to his works. A true and loyal friend. He was generous with his time, always had a kind word, and we always could count on him for solid advice.

Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday March 13th at Chino Valley funeral Home.

Lloyd's life will be celebrated with a memorial service at Chino Valley Community Church at 10:00 a.m Monday March 14, 2011, burial will be Tuesday at Resthaven cemetery in Glendale, Arizona.

In lieu of flowers family requests donations to The Lloyd Sharp Memorial fund c/c National Bank of Arizona, 1299 N Hwy 89, Chino Valley, AZ 86323

To sign Lloyd's guestbook and share memories visit www.heritagefuneralchapel.com. Chino Valley funeral home is caring for the family.



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Send a letter and resume to Steve Haynes, Publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansan.com

