

Peony blossoms sweet, beautiful; plants can last through generations

It is extremely fragrant, exceptionally beautiful, and the plant itself seems to last for generations.

It's the peony, of course. It's the flower that wakes up our senses and evokes instant associations such as Grandma's garden, a spring wedding or vases and other containers filled to capacity and placed on loved ones graves at the cemetery, especially on Memorial Day. It seems that the gorgeous flowers just ooze memories of past spring events and bright promises of what is to come!

I'm not sure there is a more beloved bloom available for us to utilize in our contemporary flower gardens. Without question, roses seem to win all the popularity contests nationwide every year, especially since the introduction years ago of the beautiful hybrid tea roses. But for so many reasons, I'll take a garden full of peonies anytime.



Kay Melia

• **The Gardener**

For one thing, caring for a number of peony plants is so much simpler than the seemingly extreme insecurity of a group of rose bushes. So many bad things can happen to a rose bush. But plant a few peony roots in the full sun and they'll provide beauty and usefulness for years to come with practically no care at all. The peony is like the little black dress of flowers – stylish, timeless and always reliable. And they just keep coming back, year after year after year.

When planted in a proper growing area, peonies will bloom for 50, 75 or even 100 years. Because they were favorites of our grand-

parents, they're often labeled as old fashioned, but they have enjoyed a modern appeal, too. Their new colors of coral, salmon and yellow, and their versatile flower forms offer the new generation of flower gardeners real beauty in both the garden and the vase. Their showy structure, and absolutely out of this world fragrance, can't help but win you over and entice you to plant more of them.

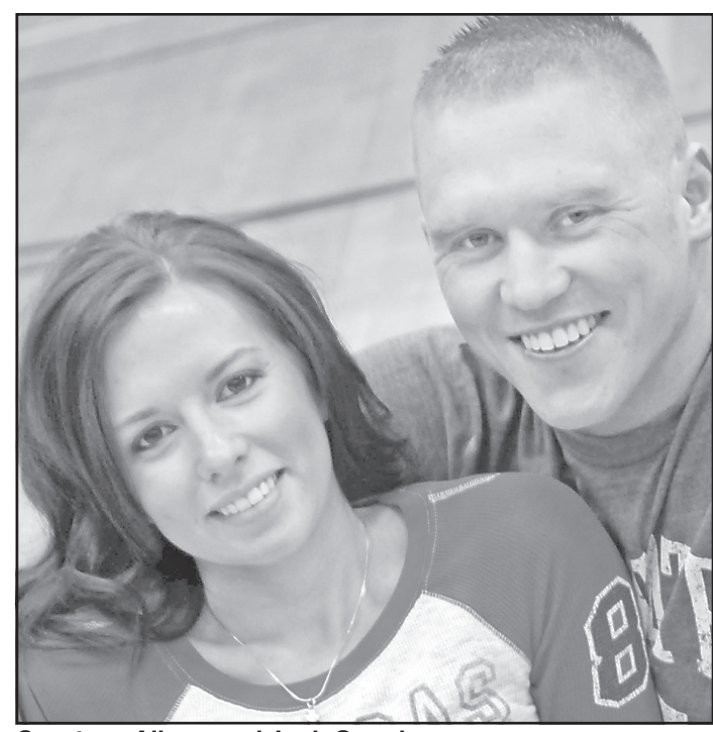
Horticulturists tell us to plant carefully when we plant peonies. We should not plant them near trees that will give them unwanted shade. They should always be planted in well-drained soil because they don't like wet feet. Peonies also detest being transplanted to a new area.

Their 6 to 7 foot roots make moving them difficult. They should be fertilized just once a year, ideally in the spring while they are growing and using up soil

nutrients. When the foliage turns brown after that first hard freeze in the fall, cut the old stalks back to the ground, and expect it to be even more beautiful the following spring.

One of the most popular peonies in this area is one called Festival Maxima, complete with elegant white blooms with a few red streaks, which was introduced more than 150 years ago. Yellow peonies are a bit more rare, but there is a new one called Yellow Crown that offers blooms up to 8 inches across under proper growing conditions, and can be ordered for \$49.95 per root, or 4 for only \$159.95. Most established cultivars of peonies are priced as low as \$5.95 each.

Please do not resist the urge to plant a few peony roots this fall. You'll love 'em, and those that follow you will forever be grateful!



Courtney Albers and Josh Gooch

Colby grad to marry at Colby's Cooper Barn

Courtney Albers and Josh Gooch of Salina plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, in the Cooper Barn at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby.

The bride is the daughter of Randy and Barbara Albers of Colby.

She is a graduate of Colby High School and earned a bachelor's degree in medical diagnostic imaging from Fort Hays State University. She is now a technologist at Comcare in

Salina. The groom is the son of Dwight and Ronda Gooch of Tribune.

A graduate of Greeley County High School, he received a bachelor's degree in secondary math education from Bethany College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Kansas Wesleyan University with an emphasis in sports. He is now a math teacher and coach at Salina Central High School.

High Plains Art Club

The High Plains Art Club met April 10, at the Colby United Methodist Church. The meeting was led by co-president Bev Kern. Members present were Karen Reed, Marj Brown, Marlene Carpenter, Shirley Baker, Barb Highland, Margaret Denneler, David Ketchum, Mary McNutt, Christina Beringer, Maxine Nelson, Ruth Hughes, Alice Wolf, Poppy Dean, Tom Peyton, Kathie Peyton and Fritz Ostmeier.

Members signed a birthday card for Lily Plummer. Christina Beringer was welcomed as a new member.

The Community Art Walk was to be from 6 to 9 p.m. April 20, with the club displaying in the basement of the Sunflower Bank.

Colby Community College art instructor Rebel Jay asked those who attended Ketchum's instruction class to bring their drawings to the scale house for display.

Kern will take exhibits to the art show in Oberlin. Brown will send some items.

Brown led discussion for the club's first juried amateur art show Friday to Sunday, June 8 to 10, at Heartland Christian School. Hughes will call the Thomas County Coalition regarding use of the big sign downtown.

Registrations and entry forms for the art show must be turned in to Baker by Friday, May 25. Each entrant will receive one free ticket and a free guest ticket for the Saturday night reception. Brown has tickets and badges.

Highland said donations have been received from Walmart and Dillons. The club will prepare meat and cheese trays. Ostmeier is donating a centerpiece. Each member is to bring three dozen cookies.

Wolf will bring a CD player for background music. Baker will bring urns loaned by her church.

Highland will buy plates, napkins and toothpicks in May.

John Scott will do judging on Saturday morning.

Prize ribbons featuring a badge with three ribbons will be provided for first place, second place, best of show, people's choice and judges merit award.

The club thanked Ketchum, Kern and Marj and Jim Brown for hanging the paintings at the Prairie Museum of Art and History where they will be on display through May.

Carpenter gave the program about Akiane Kramarik, a child prodigy artist. Kramarik was born July 9, 1994, in Mount Morris, Ill., to a Lithuanian mother and an American father. She was home-schooled.

Carpenter said she is primarily a self-taught painter. However, she says God has given her the visions and abilities to create her artwork – unusual for her family, considering both her parents were atheist at the time, although they converted to Christianity because of Kramarik's paintings and visions.

Kramarik started drawing at the age of 4, advancing to painting at 6 and writing poetry at 7. Her first completed self-portrait sold for \$10,000 and a portion of the money generated from sales is donated by Kramarik to charities.

According to Kramarik, her art is inspired by her visions of heaven and her personal connection with God. Kramarik's art depicts life, landscape and people.

At the age of 10, she appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show and at the age of 12, on CNN.

Reed will be hostess at the next meeting, at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, at the Methodist Church. Ruth Hughes will have the program. Guests are welcome.

– Maxine Nelson

Electronics recycling boosts Colby musicians

Music instructor Jennifer Koel has provided an update on the the Colby Public Schools music department efforts in recycling empty printer cartridges, used small electronics and old cell phones.

Money raised has been allocated for a commissioned piece of music for the schools, sound equipment in the grade school classroom and helping buy uniforms for the high school band.

The school is having a "Recycling Rumble" with a school from Neptune, N.J. If able to collect more items than that school by the end of May, they will receive 50 percent more points to be converted into money for the program.

Anyone with items to recycle can drop them off with Joey Nickols at the high school, Jill Nickols at the middle school or Koel at the grade school.

New labels now mark ground meat, poultry

Under a new Food Safety and Inspection Service rule, packages of ground or chopped meat and poultry, such as hamburger or ground turkey, now feature nutrition facts panels on their labels. Additionally, 40 of the most popular whole, raw cuts of meat and poultry, such as chicken breast or steak, will also have nutritional information either on the package labels or on display to consumers at the store.

"Providing nutrition information on meat and poultry products in the store gives shoppers a clearer sense of the options available, allowing them to purchase items that are most appropriate for their families' needs," said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elisabeth Hagen. "These new labels mark a significant step in the agency's efforts to help consumers make more informed food purchase decisions."

The new nutrition facts panels

will list the number of calories and the grams of total fat and saturated fat a product contains. Consumers will be able to compare the calories and fat content for ground turkey versus ground beef, or for pork chops versus chicken breasts, right in the store. Additionally, a ground or chopped product that includes on its label a lean percentage statement, such as "85 percent lean," and is not considered "low in fat" also will list its fat percentage, making it easier for consumers to understand the amounts of lean and fat content in a particular product. Consumers will no longer have to guess which products fit their diets.

Since 1993, the inspection service has required nutrition labeling for products that are not raw or that contain multiple ingredients.

Consumers with questions about the new labels or other food safety issues can go to www.Ask-Karen.gov.

Trunk returned after 24 years

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP) – A lost trunk full of memories has been returned to its owner after more than two decades.

The Farmington Daily Times reports (bit.ly/H6iBPz) that a Farmington woman recently got her lost trunk back when a Vancouver, Wash., woman contacted her following an attic cleaning.

Shirley Wills had lost her trunk when she and her late husband, George, moved from their Farm-

ington home in 1988.

Julie Hoice said her husband, Phil, found the trunk letters under the sink of an apartment he was renting in Farmington and just kept it. But after rediscovering it in the attic, the two decided to research and find out who owned it.

Shirley Wills said the trunk contained lost love letters from her late husband that he wrote while serving in the Korean War.

Driver takes cop on wild ride

By Tran Van Minh

Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam – A Vietnamese traffic cop went on a wild ride in Hanoi, clinging to the windshield wipers of a moving bus for nearly a kilometer (0.6 mile) after the rogue driver tried to avoid a ticket, police said in April.

Traffic police 2nd Lt. Nguyen Manh Phan ordered the bus driver to pull over the 39-seat passenger coach Monday, said a police officer in Ba Vi District outside Hanoi. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

The driver allegedly refused to show his paperwork and drove off – but not before Phan leaped onto the front, he added. The officer said the bus reached a top speed of about 50 kilometers per hour (31

mph).

A video shot by one of Phan's fellow police officers shows the officer trying to get his footing and dangling precariously from the moving bus as oncoming traffic whizzes past. Phan can be heard yelling, "Call the police!"

The driver, Phung Hong Phuong, eventually pulled over after being chased by police and residents.

Online: bit.ly/1sdX2n

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.11
Corn (bushel)	\$6.08
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.45
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.63

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**Sunday
May 6th**

**5 p.m. @ Colby
Community
Building**

Tickets may be purchased for only \$10 at the following locations:
Palace Drug Store, F&M Bank at Dillons, J&B Meat Market, Sports Shoppe in Colby, Farmers Bank & Trust in Brewster and People's State Bank.

Doors open to Senior Citizens age 65+ and handicapped/disabled individuals at the southwest door at 3:30 p.m.
All other ticket holders, use the south door at 4 p.m.
Concessions will be served by **WINGS UPON THE PRAIRIE**
AUTOGRAPHS SIGNED FROM 3 - 4:45 P.M.

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