

# Family

## Lenexa home awaits newlyweds

Alexis Cox and Damian Severson married April 12, 2009, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby.

Parents of the couple are Wayne and Cheryl Cox of Ithaca, N.Y., and Wallace and Carol Severson of Gem.

The bride's grandfather, the Rev. Richard Lewer, officiated and her grandmother, Nancy Lewer, was organist. The Lewers are from Cumberland, Ind.

Sisters of the bride Rebekah Cox, Emily Shoaff and Jessica Cox sang, "You Have Made Us One" during the lighting of a unity candle.

Matron of honor was Shoaff of Seward, Neb., and maid of honor was Katie Bohl of Lawrence. The bridesmaids were sisters Jessica, Seward, Neb., and Rebekah, Cumberland; Sarah Lewer, Indianapolis, a cousin; and Ariel Severson of Gem, sister of the groom.

Best man was Rusty Raymo, of Denver. Grooms-men were Mark Walker, James Copelin, and Jason Munk of Colby, Steve Stewart, Oklahoma, and Isaiah Cox, Ithaca.

Ushers were Kevin Porter, Merriam, and Dave Dresher, Wichita, brothers-in-law of the groom. Flower girls were Trinity and Jaya Munk. Ring-bearer was Gabriel Dresher, nephew of the groom.

The bride attended Olathe High School and will graduate from Colby Community College with an



Alexis and Damian Severson

associate's degree in general science in May.

The groom graduated from Colby High School in 2002 and is a crane operator for Commercial Sign Co. in Colby.

The couple spent their honeymoon in St. Lucia, and will living in Lenexa.

## Fresh doesn't equal organic

It was nice to read recently that First Lady Michelle Obama and her daughters have decided to plant a vegetable garden at the White House this year.

Pictures showed Mrs. Obama digging and raking debris away from a small plot that had been cleared. She also was pictured lecturing dozens of her daughter's classmates about the reasons for raising some of their own fresh food in the backyard as the kids sat quietly at tables and enjoyed an afternoon of apple juice and fresh, raw vegetables.

I don't know how much of the actual planting, watering, hoeing or harvesting Mrs. Obama and the girls will do, but their example of growing a little of their own food certainly should be applauded.

Of course, the media jumped all over the occasion, as well they should. Over-zealous reporters and editors gushed about how the Obama family would be enjoying the organic vegetable that would be harvested this summer and the excess would be give to "various food banks and soup kitchens around the Washington area."

Maybe the garden plot, located within sight of the Oval Office is larger than I thought. Maybe more of the lawn was removed than pictures indicated.

But forget about the food har-



Kay Melia

The Gardener

vested being organic, as the media reported over and over again. It takes many years for a plot formerly occupied by a lush green lawn to be correctly converted to raising an organic crop. For years, the White House lawn has soaked up tons and tons of the very best fertilizers and weed-preventing chemicals in order to get that lush, green, thick carpet. Much composted biodegradable material will have to be worked into that soil before it can truly raise crops that are called organic.

The word "organic" is bandied about these days by uninformed reporters, most of whom have never seen a vegetable garden, let alone what goes into the steps to made the produce truly organic. The writers and reporters would lead you to believe that all gardens produce organic food.

The word organic has become a buzz-word in the media as reporters apparently try to make readers and listeners believe that the only healthful, nutritious, safe food to eat is labeled "organic." Nothing could be further from the truth.

No person, no professor, no organization, no government agency and no media type can prove that organically produced foods are more healthful or nutritious than inorganically produced foods. The Department of Agriculture refuses to make the claim that the organics are safer or more nutritious.

We must absolutely commend the Obama family for making the effort to grow some of their own food, as well as urging all Americans to do the same. No store-bought food is as fresh and tasty.

But the media should learn that all backyard gardens don't produce organic food. The rules and regulations set down by the government make that impossible without serious work by the grower. To be classified as "certified organic," those rules must be followed to the letter of the law.

## Academic exchange needs hosts

Ronald Boller of Rexford has been named as community coordinator for this region by the Program of Academic Exchange.

He said the organization is looking for families interested in sharing their lives with a young person from another country for the coming academic year. The program is a nonprofit educational organization which invites high school students to the United States for an

academic home stay.

"Foreign students have been carefully screened, speak English, have full medical insurance and come with their own spending money," said Boller. "They are selected from 35 countries, including those in Eastern Europe, Asia, South America and Africa.

Host families are asked to provide the student with meals, a warm and supportive environment

and a place to sleep and study.

As coordinator, Boller said, he provides support to the host family and student. Contact Boller, or the exchange headquarters at (800) 555-6211.

### Corrections

A story on Page 1 of the April 23 edition of the *Colby Free Press*, "City hires firm to check power," incorrectly reported that the City Council hired a consultant, Jerry McKenzie of MGT of America, to review of the city's electric rate structure for \$3,750. The council did not hire McKenzie, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong, it only considered hiring the firm. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆  
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.

## Springfest to be Saturday

McDonald will hold its fourth annual Springfest from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday on Main Street and at the McDonald Senior Center.

Shoppers will be able to buy craft items for all ages, garage sale

finds, baked goods and in-home business merchandise.

There will be hourly cash drawings.

For information, contact Iris McIntosh, Springfest manager, at (785) 538-2475.

### Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$5.25
Corn (bushel)	\$3.47
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.17
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.34

**We want your local news: e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.**

**OPEN FOR THE SEASON**  
**MOONLIGHT GARDENS**  
3 Mi. N. on Hwy. 25,  
1/2 mi. West of Colby  
**Hours:**  
Monday- Saturday  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday  
12:00 - 4:00  
Open until 8:00 p.m.  
on Tuesday and Thursday  
785-462-6355

**18 Meadow Lake Golf Course & Lounge**  
**Couple's Night**  
Friday at 5:30  
**Ladies Night**  
Tuesday's at 5:30  
**Men's Night**  
Wednesday's at 5:30  
**RESTAURANT OPEN AT 5 PM TUES. - SAT.**  
785-460-6443  
1085 E Golf Club Rd  
Colby  
MEADOW LAKE GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT

*The public is invited to a reception honoring*  
**Dr. Floyd Smith and Mary Smith**  
*2009 Honorary Associate Degree Recipients*  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2009**  
**Colby Community College Student Union, Room 108**  
**Beginning at 3:00 p.m.**  
*Join us as we honor Dr. Floyd and Mary Smith for their commitment to Colby, Colby Community College and the citizens of northwest Kansas.*

**Thank You**  
Dear Family and Friends -  
WOW!! Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts and best wishes! Howard and I have been thinking back over the last 50 years and what each & every one of you has meant to us. Words cannot express how much appreciation we feel towards everyone who made our 50th Anniversary so incredibly special. Thank you to our family for the wonderful evening at the Elks. Thank you to Carla and her crew for the delicious meal. Also, thank you to Father Thomas for the special Mass that you said for us on Sunday morning. We are so thankful for our great family and friends, not to mention the rain. Thank you once again, we are so blessed to live in such a caring community.  
*Howard and Carol Baalman*

The **Colby Area Barbershoppers** will present **Back to the Roots of Barbershop** on **Saturday, May 2nd, 2009** at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

The Featured Quartet is the 2005 International Champions, **REALTIME**. There will be 2 shows: 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Tickets in Advance: \$10.00**      **Tickets AT THE DOOR: \$12.00**

Tickets can be purchased from any chorus member or by calling 800-269-7059 or 785-462-2474. Tickets may be held for you at the window.

**ATTENTION...**  
Colby High School, Brewster High School, Golden Plains High School and Heartland Christian School  
**Senior Parents & HOMESCHOOLERS**

**Hurry in parents!! Deadline is May 1st!!!**

The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.

We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!

Call **Jasmine or Heather @ 462-3963** for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. 5th in Colby.

**WHITNEY COLETTE ADAMS**

•• Small Sample ••

I plan to attend Colby Community College and play softball  
**PARENTS:**  
Richard & Peggy Adams  
*It's been a real hoot, Whitney go get em girl, and Godspeed. Love, Mom & Dad*

**COLBY FREE PRESS**