

Family

Celebrate date of frost-free planting

This will be a weekend for a great gardening celebration. It's a weekend that comes only once a year, and it has nothing to do with Harry Truman's birthday on May 8 or mine the next day.



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

Oh, no! This weekend has far more importance than mere history or old codgers' birthdays. You see, this weekend marks the dates of the average last frost date in nearly all of northwest Kansas, and it means that gardeners all over the area will find it safe to plant just about anything that strikes their fancy.

Reason for a celebration? Well, maybe not quite yet. We might want to put it off another week or ten days. The key word above is AVERAGE last frost date. It doesn't mean that it absolutely cannot frost or freeze our gardens tonight, or tomorrow, or, in all honesty, anytime this month.

The average last frost date in any area is merely an average, the same as the average FIRST frost date in early October, and if we have already transplanted tender vegetable or flower plants outside, we should be very cautious and listen for the predicted low temperature on just about any given May morning.

If the chance of a frost is in the forecast, we should have a means quickly available to cover them up the night before.

Or better yet, just don't take a chance for a few more days, and leave them in their safe haven out on the porch with a box over them, or in the garage. But uncover them quickly and find them some daytime sunshine until you have nerve enough to plant them outside in their final resting place.

The month of May in Good-

land, as recorded over the years at the National Weather Service, can indeed cool off a little from time to time. The coldest ever recorded in May in Goodland was May 1, 1967, when the thermometer hit 21 degrees. But after May 10, there are five dates in recent history when the low was 27, and one as late as May 26, 1992, when it dropped to a record 25 degrees. And hear this: on June 2, 1951, Goodland recorded a 31-degree reading, which still stands as the latest freezing temperature ever recorded here.

Another good barometer for determining planting and transplanting dates in this area is the soil temperature. A good rule of thumb concerning planting or transplanting the so-called warm-weather crops, such as tomatoes, squash, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumbers, okra or sweet potatoes, is not to do it until the soil temperature has warmed to at least 60 degrees, maybe 65. Seventy is better. The season is plenty long (on average) for those crops to mature properly and provide a good harvest before the first frost date in the fall. Match the crop, the soil temperature and the last average frost date in the spring, and all should be well.

My tomato cages are at the ready, the cucumber seed is awaiting its fate in my pocket, and if it doesn't rain tonight (Friday), and a frost is not predicted, I'm planning a busy weekend.

High Plains Lions

The Colby High Plains Lions club met April 27 at Colby Community College, with vice president Justin Burrus presiding. Three guests were introduced.

Past District Gov. Mike Baughn gave a program about the Smokey Hill Trail, better known in Colby as the Butterfield Trail. Baughn said the Smokey Hill Trail Association is working get the trail recognized as a National Trail, a process that is expected to take about 10 years. The association also wants to promote the trail, preserve the buildings along it and gather historical material, he said.

Baughn told that this area was in the middle of the Plains Indian Wars, and that the trail brought settlers, then the military for protection, and that is when the extermination of the buffalo began.

The Smokey Hill River, he said, got its name from a clump of trees near Winona that looks like smoke against a hill, and because a haze that fills the valley around the once-flowing river. It was also known as the Denver road because it was a trade route.

Brothers who started west to seek gold followed the Smokey Hill Trail west and took the north fork in Logan County, ending up going north. The missed turn led to getting more soldiers involved in protecting the west, which then led to Col. George Custer being called to the area.

Baughn reviewed the Beecher's Island battle, the 1864 decision to build the railroad, and the Indian massacres.

He concluded by telling about the Butterfield freight and stage line, and the Fort Wallace military supply center, and its eventual sale to Wells Fargo.

The meeting concluded with acceptance of the officers for the new year, and singing happy birthday to Lions Baughn and Roger Hale.

The club will be involved in the Thomas County Relay for Life, the state Lions convention and the Brenn 40th anniversary.

President Hale held a short board meeting following the regular meeting.

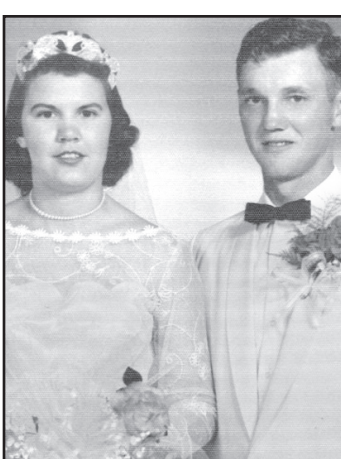
Next meeting will be Monday, May 11.

Corrections

The article on Page 4 of the Wednesday, May 7 edition of the Colby Free Press entitled "Winona couple to celebrate with reception, dance on 50th" did not include photos, which were inadvertently misplaced. This was an editing error. The announcement is reprinted in today's paper with

photos.

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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.



The Ausmuses in 1959



The Ausmuses in 2009

Dance to honor 50th

Roger and Margie Denning Ausmus, Winona, will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a 5:30 p.m. (Central Time) reception and 8 p.m. dance May 30, 2009, at the Holy Ghost Parish Center in Sharon Springs.

The Ausmuses were married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church

in Oakley on June 6, 1959. They live in Winona, farming and operating Ausmus and Son Trucking.

The couple have three children and five grandsons.

Cards can be sent to Roger and Margie Ausmus, Box 38, Winona, Kan., 67764.

Colby painter wins

Colby High School student Samantha Schmidt won first place in the painting category of the 2009 Congressional Arts Competition who were honored at a ceremony at the Denies Cultural Center in Russell. The annual competition showcases the artistic abilities of Kansas high school students. This year, more than 100 entries were submitted from 11 schools throughout the First Congressional District.

The competition was divided into six categories: painting, draw-

ing, collage, prints, mixed media, computer generated art and photography. Katie Wolters, of Osborne, received Best of Show for her drawing entitled, "Girl Undefined." Katie's artwork will be on display this year in the U.S. Capitol. Joel Auer, also of Osborne, received Runner-Up for his mixed media piece entitled, "Triangular Escapade," and Jacy Porter of Little River received Honorable Mention for his photograph, "Farmer's Helper."

Plains class starts June 1

Community origins, local history and cultures of the High Plains will be the focus of a Colby Community College class beginning Monday, June 1.

The class, taught by Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens, will meet at the Prairie Museum of Art and History located on South Franklin Avenue from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"The course will utilize science, art, history, social studies and language arts," Davis-Stephens said. "Learning activities will combine with the Prairie Museum Teacher Workshop 'Connecting Kids to Their Home.' Credits for the summer archeology survey along the Smoky Hill River may also be available."

Highlights include town tours, area field trips, Smoky Hill survey, landmarks, and archeology sites. Extended overnight trips are possible

For more information contact Davis-Stephens at (785) 460-5528 or email linda.davis-stephens@colbycc.edu.

Babies

Alexa Y.E. Strutt

Alexa Yvonne Elizabeth Strutt, daughter of Melody Strutt and Joshua Brommer of Oakley, was born May 5, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and measured 19 inches. Grandparents are Michelle and John Strutt, and Terina Brommer all of Oakley.



Alexa Strutt

Thank You!

The Family of Libby Ziegelmeier extends appreciation, and a special Thank you, to all our family and friends for the Prayers, calls, cards, visits, food, flowers and memorials extended to us at the time of our Mother's illness and passing.

We are very grateful for the love and concern we were shown at this time, and will always remember it.

Thank you to Paster Gene & Joy Rothfuss for all their visits and support during this time.

The Ziegelmeier Family

Deaths

John D. Scott

John D. Scott, 66, Colby farmer, died Friday, May 8, 2009, at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, May 14, 2009, at the United Methodist Church, Atwood, with Pastor Dan Carson and pastor Gary Davison officiating. Burial will be in the Atwood Fairview Cemetery, with conclud-

ing services by the Atwood Masonic Lodge.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Williams Funeral Home, 109 N. Second in Atwood.

The family suggests memorials to the Shriners Hospital for Cripple Children, in care of the Isis Temple, Box 2778, Salina, Kan. 67401.

Reuben T. Bonner

Reuben T. Bonner, 63, Colby, died Saturday, May 9, 2009, at Citizen's Medical Center. He had been an area resident for a year.

He was born April 4, 1946, in Dickinson, N.D. He was retired from the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his wife, Beatrice G. Orr Bonner; four sons, David, Daniel, Reuben, and James Bonner, all of Billings, Mont.; four brothers, Harold and Willis Bon-

ner, Glendive, Mont., Cliff Bonner Billings, Mont., and Walter Bonner, Ohio; and three sisters, Phyllis Larson, Centralia, Wash.; Maria Jorgenson, Glendive, Mont.; and Sharon Baird, Wilboux, Mont.

There will be no local service or visitation. Inurnment services will be at a later date in the Ft. Harrison Military Cemetery, Ft. Harrison, Mont.

High Plains Art Club

Members of High Plains Art Club met at the United Methodist Church April 14.

President Marlene Carpenter was unable to attend the meeting. Secretary Marj Brown showed a video on portraits.

After the program, Vice President Margaret Deneeler called the meeting to order. Brown reported she had attended the the Northwest Kansas League Art Show in Oakley on Tuesday. The show is in a different town each year.

Deneeler appointed Ruth Hughes and Karen Reed to the nominating committee. They will report at the May meeting for elections.

Lee Fleckenstein announced that her worsening vision means she must discontinue art club. Members voted to make her an honorary member. She can attend meetings without paying dues and show any work she can create, or her past work, in the club's shows.

Deneeler mentioned she had noticed that Anna Seeber Shaw was giving watercolor workshops in Oberlin and was wondering if she would come to Colby to do a workshop. It was suggested that Carpenter contact her.

Brown suggested contacting Rosanne Dougherty about a show at the museum this coming winter. Treasurer Bev Kern will do it.

Deneeler reported about the Paulette Karlin quilt show she went to Hays to see last month and the ceramic show at the Prairie Museum in Colby.

After the meeting adjourned, several members went to the library's lunchtime review by Janice

Haney of her book, "Greensburg, the Twisted Tales." Haney was a survivor of the Greensburg tornado. At 2 p.m., members returned to work on individual artwork.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, at the church. President Carpenter will be program chairman and hostess. All artists are invited to attend.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.78
Corn (bushel)	\$3.86
Milo (hundredweight)	\$6.00
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.11

Thank You

The Family of Libby Ziegelmeier would like to extend a Heartfelt Thanks to Dr. Hildyard, all the nursing and P.T. Staff, and all others who were involved in our Mother's care while she was a patient in the Logan County Hospital.

We couldn't have asked for better care for her, as well as the concern for us, as we stood by her. We will always be grateful for your thoughtfulness.

The Ziegemeier Family

Earl Wesley Oard

Our beloved, Earl Wesley Oard, was received by Our Lord Jesus Christ, on Sunday, May 3, 2009. He passed away after a prolonged fight against heart disease at the Citizens Medical Center. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Shirley Oard Frame and both of his parents, Fred Earl Oard and Grace Mae Dieffenbaugh Oard.

He was born on a farm North of Levant on May 7, 1920. His life was filled with many opportunities and few disappointments. He graduated from Levant High School with a high school diploma in 1938. On May 10th, 1941 he married Mary Margaret Brown at the Scott City Court House. Their wedding was one that started as a date and ended in an elopement. It is known to all that the love they shared was made to last a life time. As of his passing, they were only days away from celebrating 68 years of marriage. This union produced four Children, Son, Dan Oard (Maria Teri) of Colby, Daughter, Shirley (Dutch Frame) of East Lansing, M. Daughter, Lila (Bob Amos) of Colby, Son, Dale Oard (Vickie) of Colby, Nine Grandchildren, Maria (John Milberger) of Pueblo West, CO. Jennifer (Tim Bruebaker) of Cheney, KS. William Oard (Julia) of Holcomb, KS. Andy Frame of Davis, CA. Justin Amos (Megan Rhodes) of Abilene, KS. Ashley (Chris Sherman) of Colby. Cheyenn Oard (Josh Isom) of Pueblo, CO. Shannon Oard (Sid Unruh) of Valley Center, KS. Grace Lynn Oard of Colby. Four Step-Grandchildren, Martina Oliver of Colby. Braulio Borges of Garden City, KS. Janeth (Damon Thorstenberg) of La Feria, TX. Jaime Murillo of Pueblo, CO. Five Great Grandchildren and Twelve Step-Great Grandchildren. The family also wants to include numerous nieces and nephews.

Earl spent his life mastering the art of farmer. The trade of farming was passed down by many generations of farmers before him. Earl and his wife, Mary retired from many happy years of hard work on the farm in the summer of 1996. They moved their home from the farm in the year of 1994 to Colby where they have resided ever since. Earl was baptized at the First Christian Church where he served many years in various positions of the church body. Upon retirement and moving to town he found enjoyment in meeting the guys at the True Value coffee club for guy time. Earl and Mary enjoyed many years of traveling to Yuma, AZ during their retirement. The sun and fun with friends was a good way of getting away from Kansas' cold winters.

All those who knew him, knew that he loved life to the fullest. His love for family and friends gave us something to mirror our own lives by. He shared with all those around him his good nature and understanding of life. It was his belief that if you couldn't say something good about someone, then you should just keep your mouth shut. This was evident in his relationships with all those around him. We as a family, never heard a cross word spoken by Earl, ever. He was a natural born story teller who loved to tell a good joke. His laughter would surround you and strengthen you all at the same time. He loved to wear different silly hats from time to time just to see people laugh. He had many hobbies including hunting, fishing, boating, horse shoe pitching, playing snooker on the family table, and traveling. During a good game of snooker, no matter who was winning, him or you, he was always rooting for you. He liked the power of a finely tuned machine. This being evident throughout his life in the vehicles and farm equipment that he took pride in maintaining meticulously. This was also evident in his manner of dress, style of hair cut and the greenness of the lawn. After his heart attack of last summer he was limited to what his heart would allow him to do. One of the things that we heard many times over in the last months of his life was, "Enjoy working and playing as long as you can."

He enjoyed more than anything the gathering of family and friends to participate in a good home cooked meal. His understanding of the workings of the kitchen stopped at the boiling of water, but he could make the "meanest" batch of homemade ice cream and looked for any old occasion to do so. The only thing in his mind that would come close to complimenting homemade ice cream was a slice of homemade pie, any kind would do.

As the leader, of our family, he naturally took a place at the head of the table. That chair now looks empty as the physical body of Earl has been taken from us, but through our faith, that chair is FULL with a spirit that will never be forgotten.

Please join us for the celebration of Earl's life. Funeral services were held Friday, May 8th at 10:30 AM, Harrison Chapel, Colby, KS. Burial was at the Beulah Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the First Christian Church, Colby, KS, in memory of Earl Oard.

MOVIES

NOW SHOWING

May 8th - May 14th

X-MEN ORIGINS:
WOLVERINE

Starring - Hugh Jackman
PG-13 1 Hour, 47 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00
Sunday -Thursday 7:00

HANNAH MONTANA
THE MOVIE

Starring - Miley Cyrus &
Billy Ray Cyrus
G 1 Hours, 42 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00
Sunday -Thursday 7:00

Colby Cinema

1935 S. Range • 785-460-9600
www.colbycinema.com

Sports Physicals

Thursday, May 14

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

As a service to area schools - this office is doing FREE physicals. Students will need to go at the time listed and will have to bring the physical forms.

DOC'S

on-call

Gary Slavens, M.D.

Andy Rose, PA-C

Lindsey Clark, PA-C

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