

# Family

## Gardeners know value of Mason jars

Some of the early maturing garden crops are beginning to grace our dinner tables now, and it's nice to have a taste of some ultra-fresh green stuff.

Radishes, green onions, asparagus, spinach and rhubarb are all welcome at our house. It won't be too long before the peas and new potatoes will be showing their faces — and not a minute too soon.

Before we know it, fresh vegetables will be at their peak of production and we'll be looking for ways to do something with the excess. Some us freeze a few of the early vegetables, such as spinach, broccoli and peas. And a lot of us still fill dozens of jars with our favorite crops as we fulfill the natural extension of the gardening season by preserving what we just can't use in fresh form.

One of my gardening heroes is a gentleman by the name of John Landis Mason, because on Nov. 30, 1858, Mason was issued a patent for what is known today as the Mason jar. He wasn't even a glass blower, but a rather obscure tinsmith who plied his trade in New York City.

You'll not find his name in the encyclopedia or in books about important and famous inventors, but it has been perpetuated on fruit jars to this day. He died in 1902, penniless, a charity case, but his invention will live for ages.

Mason did not invent canning. Actually, the way to preserve food in jars and cans was found during the reign of Napoleon. The French were looking for a way to protect troops' rations and actually were able to extend the life of certain foods.

Not too long after that, American housewives began experimenting with early jars, called "wax sealers," that were topped with cork or metal lids and melted wax. None of the experiments was very successful, because the top of



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

early hand-blown jars just weren't smooth enough to guarantee an unbroken seal. Then, along came Mason, who introduced a square-shouldered jar that closed with a zinc cap and a rubber ring that indeed created an airtight seal.

There were certain disadvantages to the zinc caps, which sometimes imparted a zinc taste to the food, but it was the surest way to preserve food with an airtight cap. There are still those who preserve food utilizing the zinc cap with the rubber ring, although such materials are difficult, if not impossible, to find these days.

But there was one advantage that outweighed all the problems, and that was Mason's square-shouldered jars with the perfectly smooth rim. Home canners were quick to adopt the square-shouldered jar and public demand for Mason jars grew by leaps and bounds.

Mason did not profit from his invention. He sold his patent rights to the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. for a small price, and when those patent rights expired, 40 or 50 factories began to make the jars using the Mason name. Glass-jar production has dwindled over the years as the market for canning dwindled, and now there are just a few major producers. The Ball Co. is probably the best known of the remaining companies, having bought out the Kerr name in recent years.

Let's hear it for John Landis Mason, the inventor of the modern-day fruit jar. He unknowingly changed the way American gardeners preserve food.



Catherine Muriel Hakanson and David Crielly Hendrix Jr.

## June wedding planned

Catherine Muriel Hakanson and David Crielly Hendrix Jr. of Wichita plan to marry Saturday, June 27, 2009.

The bride is a 2009 graduate of Butler County Community College. She is a certified addictions counselor for the Paral-

ax Program in Wichita.

The groom is a 1989 graduate of Colby High School and a 2004 graduate of heavy equipment operator's school in Sikeston, Mo. He is a Telebelt operator for Brundage-Bone Concrete Pumping in Wichita.

## Deaths

### Lindon C. Montgomery

Lindon C. Montgomery, 65, a McDonald farmer and banker, and Rawlins County civic leader, died Friday, May 29, 2009, at his home near McDonald.

A lifelong area resident, he was born Oct. 23, 1943, in rural McDonald to Burl and Nellie (Pickett) Montgomery. He started school in McDonald and graduated from Atwood High School and Fort Hays State University, where he was president of his fraternity.

On Dec. 27, 1969, he married Diane McGuckin in Kansas City, Mo. They raised wheat, sheep and three sons on the family farm. At the same time, he worked at the People's State Bank in McDonald, retiring as branch manager.

Montgomery was a member and had served as president of the Kansas Sheep Association. He had been a member of the Cheylin School Board, serving McDonald and Bird City, and was a board member of the ACE Foundation and Rawlins County Economic Development. He had been an elder of the McDonald Federated Church, president of the Rawlins County Farm Bureau and Farm

Bureau district Leader of the Year.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Danny Montgomery of Slidell, La.

He is survived by his wife, of the home; three sons, Jeff (Ginger) Montgomery, Abilene, Texas; Mark (Catina) Montgomery, Denver; and Brad (Misty) Montgomery, Oklahoma City; two brothers, James Montgomery, North Little Rock, Ark., and Denis Montgomery, Poplar Bluff, Mo.; two sisters, Connie Bretz, Dighton, and Monti Montgomery, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and seven grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, 2009, at the church, with Pastor Mark Adams officiating. Private inurnment will be later. No visitation.

The family suggests donations to the Lindon Montgomery Memorial Scholarship fund. These may be left at Farmers Bank and Trust in Atwood, or at Peoples State Bank in McDonald or Colby.

The Harrison Chapel of Colby was in charge of arrangements.

## Corrections

The "Congratulations Colby High School Baseball Team" ad on Page 6 of the Thursday, May 28, issue of the *Colby Free Press* incorrectly said the state competition will be June 29 and 30. The games were on May 29 and 30.

This was a typing 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.

## Topeka branch acquired by national adoption agency

Bethany Christian Services, which bills itself as the nation's largest adoption agency, has acquired Shiloh Adoptions in Topeka, now Bethany Christian Services of Kansas.

"We will provide the same quality adoption and pregnancy counseling services as we continue the transition from Shiloh to Bethany," said Myndee M. Reed, president of the Kansas unit. "It is a true blessing to be affiliated with an agency with the same values, mission and goal to serve more of God's children."

With the Kansas branch, Bethany has added adoption programs for Taiwan and Bulgaria that had available through Shiloh, she

said.

"We asked to be part of the Bethany family, and we discovered Bethany was interested in expanding into Kansas," said Executive Director Teri Williams.

Bethany offers international adoption for 14 countries. Both agencies have received Hague Accreditation.

"By joining Bethany, Shiloh is able to continue helping children worldwide by connecting with a nationwide agency," Williams said.

The office is at 4125 SW Gage Center Drive, Suite 212, in Topeka. For information, go to [www.bethany.org/kansas](http://www.bethany.org/kansas) or call (785) 273-0937

## Senior Center

Tuesday, following lunch, there will be a board meeting at the Senior Progress Center.

**Tuesday:** 10 a.m., exercise; board meeting following lunch.

**Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m., shuffle board.

**Thursday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., domino game.

**Friday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., pool game.

Menus for the week: **Tuesday:** barbecue pork sandwich, potato salad, pork and beans, bun, and peaches. **Wednesday:** oven-baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, bread, and cottage cheese with pineapple. **Thursday:** sloppy joes, cook's choice with vegetables, bun, cinnamon apple slices. **Friday:** liver and onions in gravy, pea-cheese salad, parslid potatoes, bread, and strawberry shortcake with topping.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch Monday through Friday at the senior center. Home delivery is available, as is pick-up service. A contribution of \$2.75 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5 for others. For anyone

## Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.32
Corn (bushel)	\$4.01
Milo (hundredweight)	\$6.26
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.84

**Army Birthday Trap Shoot**  
Colby Trap Club  
CR 15 and Q 5 miles W. on College St.  
June 7, 2009 • 10:00 AM • **\$30 Entry Fee**  
50 Singles • 50 Doubles • 25 Skeet  
**Prizes and Give Aways**  
Escort 12 Gauge Shotgun Synthetic.  
1 Case 12 Gauge Trap Rounds.  
Army hats, t-shirts, coffee mugs, to include gift certificates from local businesses for Colby.  
**Ticket prices are \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20**  
For Tickets call 1-877-571-4241

**18 Meadow Lake Golf Course & Lounge**  
**GOLFING SEASON HAS JUST BEGUN!**  
Purchase a Season Pass and enjoy one of the top recreational sports in American that will fit your budget!  
**SEE YOU THERE!**  
785-460-6443  
1085 E Golf Club Rd  
Colby  
MEADOW LAKE GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT

**MOVIES**

**NOW SHOWING**  
May 29th - June 4th

**NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN**  
Starring - Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson  
PG 1 Hour, 45 Minutes  
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00  
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

**UP**  
PG 1 Hour, 36 Minutes  
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:00  
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

**FREE SUMMER MATINEE THE ADVENTURES OF ELMO IN GROUCHLAND**  
Tuesday, June 2nd @ 2:00 p.m.  
G 1 Hour 17 Minutes  
Sponsored by: Rita Roe-Peters Agency, Western Kansas Farm Credit, and Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby

**Colby Cinema**  
1935 S. Range • 785-460-9600  
[www.colbycinema.com](http://www.colbycinema.com)

**Picnic In The Park**

Bring your lunch and lawn chair and enjoy the musical talent of....

**Larry Booth & Friends**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH**  
**12:00 noon @ Fike Park**

SPONSORED BY COLBY/THOMAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COLBY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AND YOUR COLBY FREE PRESS.

Economy getting you down?  
Worried about making bills on time? **We've got good news!**  
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Call 462-3963 if you're interested in a newspaper delivery route.

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