

# Family

## Dill keeps a spot as garden volunteer

Even if dill were totally useless for cooking or canning, I would grow the plant just for its looks – and its aroma.

However, dill is a far cry from useless, as most good cooks realize. Dill's foliage can be picked any time, and it's delicious with potatoes and cucumbers, as well as in soups, stews and meat and egg dishes. Its seed heads and green seeds are the very essence in dill pickles.

I haven't actually planted dill in my garden for years and years. Although, the family uses a lot of it, there are always a few plants that are allowed to seed themselves, drop onto the soil surface in the fall of the year and emerge into healthy growing plants the following spring.

When I plow the garden early in the spring, I always leave a short narrow strip of the emerging plants. That strip becomes my new dill patch for the coming year. Dill seeds in the fall are scattered in the garden and the plants can become something of a nuisance if not controlled early in the season. Many gardeners who have a steady use for dill during the growing season are convinced that the self-sown plants that emerge in the spring are more robust than those that the gardener plants himself.

Like most herbs, there are many, many uses for fresh dill, including those mentioned earlier. I think it is especially nice to chop a little dill weed or part of the fern-like leaves and scatter it on those spinach salads that we all enjoy early in the spring. And like most herbs, it can add a delightful flavor to most freshly cooked garden vegetables. But at our house, most of the dill



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

is used for those dozens of jars of dill pickles we can each year.

Already, there are several pints of dills on our shelves and I can safely guarantee there will be many more.

As is the case with most things in the garden the year, the dill seems to be extremely healthy. It's almost five foot tall and heads bloomed and set seed earlier this year than any I can remember. So far, I have not detected any of those green-and-black worms that seem to be around every year. If they have shown up on your dill plants, keep in mind that eventually those ugly rascals will become beautiful butterflies.

Perhaps we can all share a bit of our dill with these freeloaders. We have the same decision to make if and when the big ugly tomato horn worm makes his appearance. Decisions, decisions!

You might be interested in knowing that in the Middle Ages, dill was used as protection against witches, as well as for treating coughs and headaches, for calming infants and was even added to wine to enhance passion. Biblical accounts refer to dill as being valuable enough to use as payment of taxes.

As I note in my book, a noted health writer in the 14th century tells us that "dill is good for cold and damp temperments and for old people." Maybe that's why I like it.



Jeremy Blake Hinkle and Erin Elizabeth Carney

## Couple to marry at Wilson State Park

Erin Elizabeth Carney and Jeremy Blake Hinkle plan to wed Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at Wilson State Park.

The bride, daughter of Thomas and Lisa Carney of Sylvan Grove, is a 2003 graduate of Brewster High School. She earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 2007 and a Master of Science in swine nutrition in 2009 from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She is working towards her doctorate in the same field.

The groom, son of Lynn and

Cindy Hinkle of Chanute, graduated in 2002 from Chanute High School. He received a bachelor's degree in 2007 from K-State and is set to complete a Master of Science in meat science in 2010 from UNL.

Grandparents of the bride are Betty Carney and the late James Carney of Colby and Galen and Peg Wichman of Richmond.

Grandparents of the groom are Luther (Bud) and Katherine Hinkle of Pratt and John and Joyce Jones of Warsaw, Mo.

The couple plan to continue at the university in Lincoln.

## Deaths

### Evelyn 'Maxine' Reuber

Evelyn "Maxine" (Cousins) Reuber, 89, formerly of Colby and Ludell, a drugstore clerk, beautician and farm wife, died Friday, July 17, 2009, at the Catholic Care Center near Wichita.

She was born June 29, 1920, on a farm near Rexford, the daughter of Joseph and Lillie Esther (Hawkins) Cousins. At the age of 2, her family moved to a farm west of Menlo. She attended the Menlo Consolidated School, graduating in 1937.

In 1939, she graduated from Venus Academy of Beauty Culture in Wichita. She was a beautician and later owned a beauty shop in Oakley. She enjoyed meeting the public and working with people.

On July 6, 1941, she married A.F. Dible, and they lived on a farm near Colby. From 1963 to 1979, she lived on a farm near Menlo, and was a sales clerk at the Rexall Drugstore in Colby.

On Sept. 1, 1979, she married Edwin H. Reuber. They lived in Ludell, where they farmed. Edwin died on February 7, 1998, at their home in Ludell. She returned to Colby in 2004, living here until 2008, when she moved into the Catholic Care Center in Wichita.

Mrs. Reuber was a member of the Colby Methodist Church and a former member of the Atwood Methodist Church. She was an active worker in senior citizens' groups, a long-time member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and participated in several county Extension units and church women's groups.

She was preceded in death by her parents in 1988, a son Robert in 1946, her first husband, and her husband Edwin Reuber in 1998, and a brother, Marvin Cousins in 1999.

She is survived by a daughter, Linda (Ivan) Pechanec, Wichita; a son, Larry (Patty) Dible, Colby; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 21, at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, Colby, with burial in the Rexford cemetery.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at the chapel.

The family suggests contributions to the Colby United Methodist Church or the Thomas County Historical Society, in care of the funeral home, 745 S. Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

## Take care with containers

MANHATTAN – Recycling is generally encouraged, but recycling some commercial food packaging materials can compromise food safety and health, a Kansas State University food scientist said.

Washing and storing a lightweight butter tub or yogurt container to refrigerate leftovers for a day or two will protect the food when food storage containers are in short supply, but leftovers should be transferred to a microwave-safe container before reheating, said Karen Blakeslee, a K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

"The plastic used in the lightweight disposable food packaging is not typically made to withstand the heat in a microwave and can melt," Blakeslee said. Such containers might contain cottage

cheese, sour cream, chip dip, margarine, etc. They are made for specific types of foods at a specific temperature, and are not designed for repeated use or cleaning.

Other one-time use food packaging includes plastic wrap, foam meat trays, convenience food dishes, and egg cartons, she said.

Blakeslee recommends storing leftovers in food-grade plastic or glass containers.

To protect leftovers which will be frozen for future meals, she recommends using freezer bags, wrap or containers.

More information on food storage and food safety is available at county and district K-State Research and Extension offices and on the Extension food safety Web site: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/foodsafety/](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/foodsafety/).

## Vacations can be lose-lose for lawns

MANHATTAN – Out-of-town business trips and summer vacations can conspire to keep lawn owners from maintaining the mowing practices recommended for fescue and bluegrass health. The results can be long-lasting.

"If you're about to leave town for awhile, you should resist the temptation to mow these cool-season turfs much shorter than usual," said Ward Upham, a horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. "When you return, you should practice patience and gradually return a too-tall lawn to its recommended height. Ignoring either practice could easily lead to your having to overseed or replant this fall

During hot weather, an abrupt change to a much shorter mowing height can seriously diminish cool-season turfs' root growth, he said. The "scalped" plants crave excessive watering. If they don't get it, the outcome is likely to be a thinner, weaker lawn with more room for weeds.

"If you rank Kansas' common turf grasses on their tolerance for short mowing, tall fescue is the least tolerant. Kentucky bluegrass is next in line," Upham said. "Besides, these turfs 'fight back' if you cut off more than a third of their grass blades' height at one time. They quickly send up new growth, drawing on what's left of their stored energy reserves ... and, defeating your purpose."

Allowing cool-season turfs to grow too tall can greatly erode lawn quality, he warned. They can

become coarse and stemmy and may lodge (fall over). Because it's a bunch grass, tall fescue may also get clumpy.

"You can compound the situation by mowing off more than a third of an overgrown lawn," Upham said. "If your mower won't adjust that high, though, just set it as high as you can. Then bring the turf's height down slowly by cutting often and at progressively lower mower settings until you reach target height."

K-State recommends keeping tall fescue mowed 3.5 to 4.5 inches tall. So, given the one-third rule, the deadline for getting out the mower is whenever a fescue lawn reaches 3.75 to 5.25 inches high. The recommendations are the same for Kentucky bluegrass, except 0.5 inch shorter overall.

For information about mowing for turf health, go to [www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF1155.pdf](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/MF1155.pdf).

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.78
Corn (bushel)	\$2.76
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.10
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.64

## Corrections

The caption for the middle photo in the story "Music festival gets off to a delicious start" on Page 1 of the Friday, July 17, issue of the *Colby Free Press* incorrectly identified the right-most person as Duane Burns. The correct identification is Bill Summers of Colby, who along with his wife provided the guitar being raffled at the festival. This was an error in information given to the *Free Press*.

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In the Wednesday, July 15, *Free Press*, a Page 1 photo caption incorrectly identified the state inspector as Dave Cuthbertson. He is Steve Wilterding. This was due to misinformation given to the

### Thank You

Paul Layland and his family would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts he received on his birthday. It really perked him up! Thank you all!  
**Paul Layland, Sandy Kriss, and Cogie Heigele**

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