

# Family

## Onions like rain, hate weeds and grass

Talk to just about any wheat farmer around the area and you'll immediately notice the smile on his face. For those who escaped the hailstorms, it has been a good summer in the field, although the recent price drop took a bit of the edge off the final numbers.

It has been much the same story for the backyard gardener this spring and summer, as timely rains and the absence of triple-digit heat have been most welcome. Garden crops, for the most part, have thrived and the harvest has been good.

The exceptions are mostly gardeners who just weren't able to keep ahead of the weeds, which have thrived right along side of the garden crop. No vegetable in the garden seems to be bothered more than those big sweet onions. If you have an onion patch that is overrun with weeds or various kinds of grasses, chances are pretty good that those onions have suffered.

Onions hate competition from anything, especially weeds. They must be kept weed-free during the critical spring and early garden season or they just won't develop into those big, mild globes of flavor that everyone is looking for.

Indeed, weeds in the onion patch are a serious problem. But the most serious problem in producing a good-sized onion is lack of moisture. If those rows or onions don't receive ample moisture during the spring and summer growing season, you can write them off.

No vegetable crop in the backyard garden requires as much water as the onion! After all, the onion is about 90 percent water. If they are not watered regularly, they will not grow to their potential size and will likely be much more pungent than you'd like. From the day you set them out in early spring until just a few days before harvesting, they must not



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

be allowed to dry out.

My onions seem to be in good shape, and I have actually harvested the early variety, known as Texas Supersweets or 1015Y. The size was very good, but more importantly, they are indeed very mild. I also have a couple of rows of Candy, a row of the white Super Star and a row of the new Candy Apple Red.

All look pretty good. They have all begun the flopping process, which big onions do naturally. When they are through growing, they simply fall over, as if to tell you they have done their best for you, and now are almost ready to harvest.

Keep them wet for a week or so after the entire row flops and then pull them and spread them out in a shady spot until the tops turn brown. Do not cut off the tops until you are ready to use them, or until you are ready to store them for fall and winter.

Storage should be in the root cellar, but since you probably don't have one, find the darkest, coolest environment there is around your place, and use them with delight for as long as they last.

A good onion crop means you have worked hard in your garden this summer. No vegetable requires more attention and management than the onion. I hope your hard work has paid off for you with an abundant crop.

Kay Melia's book, "The Gardener's Common Sense Guide to Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest," is available in Goodland at Elliott's Inc., Jacque's Hallmark or Prairie Rose Floral and in Colby at Golden Plains Greenhouse and Garden Center.



Shannon Haley Cork and Cody Mark Poell

## October rite planned

Shannon Haley Cork, granddaughter of Don and Marilyn Surmeier, and great-granddaughter of Alice Ostmeier, all of Colby, and Cody Mark Poell plan to marry Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence.

She is the daughter of Dennis and Tammy Cork of Dodge City and a granddaughter of Normand and Zoe Hrabec of Stockton

The future bride is a 2002 graduate of Dodge City High School, and a 2006 graduate of Southwestern University in

Georgetown, Texas. She will graduate in 2010 from the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy in Lawrence.

The future groom is the son of Dr. Mark and Carol Poell of Hoxie, and a grandson of Loretta Poell of Hoxie.

He is a 2000 graduate of Hoxie High School. He graduated from Colby Community College in 2002 and received a doctorate in pharmacy from KU in 2007.

He works at Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Lawrence.

## Colby student completes camp for astronauts

Trevor Strutt, son of Darvin and Tammi Strutt, graduated from level 4 of the Future Astronaut Training Program on June 27 at the Kansas CosmoSpace and Space Center.

Strutt will be a sophomore at Colby High School in the fall. He is a grandson of Duane and Chris Trauer, Hays.

Developed by CosmoSpace staff, the recognized camp teaches students teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills. The camp motivates kids to pursue careers in science or space-related industries, the museum says.

Before attending level 4, campers must have completed levels

1 to 3, also held at the CosmoSpace.

Level 4 campers spend five days at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. While there, they visit Space Florida, where they work in teams to build a payload for a weather balloon. They launch and track the balloon, which can reach altitudes of more than 80,000 feet.

They also tour the Space Center and visit the Rocket Garden, Early Spaceflight Exploration Center and Florida Space Authority. In a private tour, campers see the launch pads at Cape Canaveral

## Council checks property cleanup

As usual, the summer season will be quickly disappearing now that the month of August has crept up on us.

Some area schools will have enrollment during this first week of the month. Golden Plains enrollment will be Thursday and Friday, Aug. 13 and 14., and the first day is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 26. Only a few weeks left to plan a family vacation.

During the July City Council meeting, City Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman gave a status report on property cleanup. She reported 10 properties with vehicles in violation of city ordinance 168 (Motor Vehicle Nuisances), three properties with tall weeds in violation of Ordinance 167 (Weeds and Vegetation), and one in violation of Ordinance 165 (Unsafe or Dangerous Structures). The council OK'd sending out the letters to the property owners.

The unsafe structure required a resolution to be passed and published concerning the property at 240 Ohio Street, requesting the owner's presence at a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9. Mayor Dennis Allison



**Vicki Allison**

• Rexford Correspondent

said the city's intentions are to enforce the ordinances.

A public hearing for 2010 budget will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Ray and Jackie Johnson celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary Aug. 1. Chad and Desiree Wark will celebrate their anniversary Wednesday, Aug. 19.

August birthdays: Frank Dingwerth, 2; Chad Wark, 1; Lee Luna, 12; Frances Bange, 25; Lane Purcell, 30.

Red Barn happenings: 2-5 p.m. Monday: Barnswallows.

10 a.m. Wednesday: Ladies Bible Study.

2-5 p.m. Thursday: Come on Down

Fridays: Kaffe Klatch, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Until next time, make your week memorable!

## Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners for Tuesday, July 28, were first, Mary Molstad; second, Joy Davis; third, Ken Ptacek; fourth, Elaine Ptacek; fifth, Sarah Jane Barrett; sixth, Margaret Denneker.

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

## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE

#### Thursday

12:05 a.m. - Barking dog at Hill St. Condo. Spoke to owner.  
12:43 a.m. - Unable to locate barking dogs at 1150 S. Franklin.  
4:47 a.m. - Two security checks to residences.

7:45 a.m. - Someone sleeping in a vehicle half a mile south of I-70 on Country Club Dr.

1:42 p.m. - Arrested Miles Justin Ackerman on warrant. Four officers involved.

3:22 p.m. - Checked out transient at I-70 and K-25.

4:31 p.m. - Criminal damage to property: boyfriend broke door lock.

5:53 p.m. - Man going door to door on S. Court Place.

6:51 p.m. - Man going door to door at 400 block Lawrence Dr.

10:59 p.m. - Man driving by 1150 S. Franklin. Not found.

11:14 p.m. - Assisted Community Corrections.

11:30 p.m. - Man knocking on doors and running at Amber Waves.

### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

#### Thursday

3:04 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on David Jordan.

3:04 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on Wade Smith.

3:04 p.m. - Served arrest warrant on Hunter Hodson.

4:31 p.m. - Assisted Colby Police.

## Corrections

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.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.67
Corn (bushel)	\$2.93
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.41
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.89

# Relay For Life

## DAY OFF GIVEAWAY

**SOME LOCAL BUSINESSES ARE FIGHTING CANCER BY GIVING ONE LUCKY EMPLOYEE AN EXTRA DAY OFF.**

S & T Telephone, Farm Credit of Western Kansas and Colby Community College have donated a day off for one of their employees. Colby Community College donated 1 day for a staff member and 1 day for a faculty member.

Employees are able to purchase an opportunity to win the day off for \$1 each, 6 chances for \$5, 12 chances for \$10, 18 chances for \$15 or 25 chances for \$20.

S&T and Farm Credit will be awarding their day off the first part of August and Colby Community College will be giving away their 2 days before the end of August.

For more information about participating in the day off give away contact Jennifer Van Eaton at 462-2183.

# First Annual Duck Race

FOR

What is a Duck Race: Purchase a rubber duck, if your rubber duck is the first across the pool you are the winner

When: Thursday, August 6, 2009 5:30 pm

Where: Colby City Pool

Prizes:

- Automobile Stain Guard Protection—MC Auto Outlet
- 2 ft Stuffed AFLAC Duck and 5 small AFLAC ducks—Brad Schumacher/Trent Schneider—AFLAC Representatives
- 2010 Pass to Trojan Home Events—Colby Community College
- 2010 Family Swim Pass—Colby Public Pool
- Family Fun Night—Colby Bowl
- Oil Change & Car Wash Package—Kansas Quick Lube

Advertising Sponsor—The Ride KRQ/KXXX and the Colby Free Press

Ducks are \$1 each or a 6 quack pack for \$5

To purchase your ducks call 462-2183 or send donation to 1140 Maize Rd Colby, KS 67701

## Thank You

Heartfelt thanks to everyone for the prayers, cards, emails, food, flowers, and visits during my hospital stay and recovery.

Special thanks to Luetta Flanagan, Dr. Fisher, Dr. Benton and their nurses for the excellent care I received.

I am very grateful to my family and coworkers for their support.

God Bless You All!

Noreline Narensza

## HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**Openings available for Heartland Christian School's 3 & 4 year old Preschool Program. Cost comparable to daycare.**

**Contact Heartland at 785-460-6419 or check out our website at www.hcscolby.org**

**Call the office for a visit at 1995 W. 4th Street in Colby.**

ACSI Association of Christian Schools International

# Auction

**FOR JEAN HAWKINS, MARY ARLISS PHILLIPS AND OTHERS**

**Date: Saturday, August 15, 2009 Time: 10:00 a.m. CT (doors open 8 AM)**

**Auction Location: T-N-T & Jones Auction Facility • 200 N Franklin • Colby, KS**

**Preview sale items between 5 - 7 p.m. CT, Friday, August 14, 2009**

**FURNITURE:** Oak Sectional TV Cabinet, Rocker Recliners, Cedar chest, Assorted table and floor lamps, Leather and wood round table and chairs, Oak end tables, Early American lamp, Stereo cabinet, Flat top trunk, Sofa love seat, Bedroom set full size, Drop leaf table, Lighted small curio cabinet, Light Oak Chest of drawers - top drawer needs work, Children's chairs (3 wooden chairs), Vintage four poster twin bed that needs repair, plus mattress and box springs, Kino pad with magnets-Queen size, Vintage bedroom set; full size bed, dresser w/ original hardware 48x24x36; framed mirror, Dark wood bed side table with drawer, Vintage wooden book case with carved hearts on top tilted shelf, French Provincial Style end table with book/magazine shelf, French Provincial Ladies Side, Chair Gold Fabric wooden chair, Montgomery Ward Cedar chest, 1 Queen size mattress and box springs, 2 wooden lamps with red fringe shades, Three tier wicker corner shelf, Glider Chair

Vintage upholstered chair with wooden wing back. **KITCHEN:** 2 stainless steel milking cans, Schaefer ice cream deep freezer, Microwave oven, Assorted pots and pans, Assorted glassware, Cookie jars, Assorted silverware, Assorted records and tapes. **ANTIQUES:** Ladies wrist watches, Waltham pocket watch, South bend pocket watch, Elgin pocket watch, Oak dressers, Kerosene lamp, Assorted costume jewelry. **YARD AND GARDEN:** BBQ gas grill, Glasstop patio table, Cement lawn decorations, Uncle Sam wood yard ornament, Lawn edger, Rototiller, Shovels, Hoe's, Mr. Heater, 2 wheel cart, Craftsman electric chain saw, Electric weed/Lawn trimmer, 2-Craftsman #53918 1/2 HP chain drive garage door openers, Gas post hole digger, 2 vintage spray guns for powder and for liquids. **HOUSEHOLD:** 1 large decorative vase gold leaded glass with stopper, Vintage Hoover vacuum cleaner with bags, Vintage Eureka vacuum cleaner with cloth bag, Wind Tunnel vacuum sweeper, Antique Free Westinghouse Sewing machine and cabinet. SN ARE92021 1930, Eldridge Treadle Sewing machine with 6 drawers, attachments, Pool Table & Equipment, Bar stools, Assorted baskets, Motorcycle helmets, Pictures: 2 of young women in Hawaii taken in 1940, Woman with cigar, man with hat, 2 pictures of oriental motif done in oils (paint by number kit from 1960's), Golden leaf, Brown Bag sign board, Autumn tree wall square picture, GE Air conditioner (includes manual and schematics), 3 clocks (2 bell jar clocks, 1 working people in a factory clock), 1 Electric razor...vintage, 1 Polaroid camera, Vintage girl's bicycle, Vintage copper coiled heater, Dark red magazine rack, Doll house, Shaw Walker Metal desk, Wooden desk, Hon Steel file cabinet letter size 4 drawer, Canon NP125 Copier, Fluorescent desk lamp, Metal office desk, Typewriters: Antique Royal, Portable Underwood, Portable Remington, Antique Remington, Electric Olympia, Blue bathroom sink, Beautiful etched wall mirror 30" h x 40" w Vintage blanket/quilt holder, Fans, Assorted pictures, Oak wall clock key wind, 3 porch benches, Christmas lights, Assorted Christmas items, Washer & dryer, Upright deep freeze. **AMMUNITION/GUN EQUIPMENT:** 12 ga shells, 22 cal, 30-30 cal, 25 cal, 45 cal, Primers, Powder, Cleaning Kits, Gun cab

**We are still unpacking boxes, so come and find that special treasure!**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!**

[www.tntjonesauction.com](http://www.tntjonesauction.com)

**Tom Harrison-Auctioneer-Broker: (785) 443-0136**  
**Tom Simpson-Auctioneer: (785) 443-1153**  
**Bob Jones-Auctioneer: (785) 443-0138**

**TNT AUCTION**

200 N. Franklin, Colby, KS (785) 460-5022