Family

Volunteers fill gap in Extension service

They seem to be everywhere! You'll nearly always find them lurking in and around some of the area's nicest gardens. You may find them prowling the flower beds that have been created in city parks all around northwest Kansas. Sometimes you'll find them gathered around newly planted trees in your hometown.

I've seen them in St. Francis and Oakley, and from Oberlin to Sharon Springs. Just about any summer day, you'll find them hanging around the Northwest Research-Extension Center gardens in Colby or the beautifully tended flower gardens in Gulick Park in Goodland.

We're not talking about a scourge of insects here. Not by a long shot. We're talking about Master Gardeners, those volunteers who spend time doing things to make your community more beautiful – men and women who not only tend their own gardens at home, but find time to help others with some of the finer points of growing flowers and vegetables.

So, what is a Master Gardener, and why are they so busy? All Master Gardeners have received several weeks of training from the Extension Service, as well as using the knowledge they have accumulated over the years in their own backyards.

The Master Gardener program was created by the Extension Service to meet an enormous increase in requests from home gardeners for horticultural information. The increase derives primarily from the urban nature of modern American life.

Fifty years ago, an Extension agent dealt with the questions of a few hundred families. Now, the number of families interested in growing some of their own food, unteering. And if you would like and their hunger for knowing a lit- to become a Master Gardener, call

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Kay Melia • The Gardener

made it almost impossible for an agent to spend the time needed to satisfy a huge increase in requests for individual garden training.

And so, the Master Gardener Program was created in 1972 in the state of Washington. Since then it has spread to 48 states, and Master Gardeners have become a vital part of Extension's ability to provide up-to-date reliable knowl-B. Niblock edge so they can enjoy and protect the value of the growing things around their homes.

Master Gardeners receive an intensive seven to eight weeks of instruction in just about all facets of horticulture, everything from fertilizer to insect control. The schools are held at different locations each year as the Extension people strive to make it just a little more convenient for interested people to receive the training. I drove to Grinnell every Tuesday for seven weeks in February and March several years ago to get my credentials.

We must remember that Master Gardeners certainly are not the know-all, do-all representatives of gardening and other forms of horticulture. They are strictly volunteers, who have received some training from the Extension Service, who do what they can to make our communities more beautiful and to answer occasional questions from backyard gardeners like you.

If you see one prowling around the area where you live, shake their hand and thank them for voltle more about a healthy lawn, has your county Extension office.

Babies

Aiden Meyer

Aiden Scott Meyer

Aiden Scott Meyer, son of Troy and Kary Jo Meyer of St. Francis, was born Aug. 11, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center.

He weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces, and measured 18.25 inches.

Sister Audrey Annette welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are Bud and Lounie Erskin and Dave and Charlene Meyer, all of St. Francis, and Marshall and Connie Squires of Goodland. Great-grandparents are Annette Erskin and Edwin Meyer of St. Francis and Bob and Zadine Elliott of Akron, Colo.

Bristol Kate Niblock

Bristol Kate Niblock, daughter of Terry and Brandi Niblock of Brewster, was born Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Brother Breck Niblock welcomed the baby home. Grandparents are Gary and Mary Moore of Bird City and the late Henry and Loretta Niblock.

Fake nurse charged for fraud

NORWALK, Conn. (AP) - A a registered nurse, especially after Connecticut woman who authori- she was named the Connecticut ties say spent more than \$2,000 Nursing Association's "Nurse of to stage a dinner honoring her as "Nurse of the Year" has been charged with pretending to be a nurse at a doctor's office.

Fifty-six-year-old Betty Lichtenstein of Norwalk was charged Aug. 6.

Prosecutors say Dr. Gerald Weiss believed Lichtenstein was

Markets

| Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op | |
|--|--------|
| Wheat (bushel) | \$4.16 |
| Corn (bushel) | \$2.73 |
| Milo (hundredweight) | \$4.05 |
| Soybeans (bushel) | \$9.79 |
| | |

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.

the Year" in 2008. According to the arrest warrant,

that association does not exist.

The state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit began investigating after a patient complained about Lichtenstein.

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Paxton Robert Neitzel

Paxton Robert Neitzel was born to Tim and Jill Neitzel of Goodland at 2:11 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2009, at St. Luke's-Presbyterian Hospital in Denver. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches. He is their first child.

Grandparents are Rue and Marilyn Sowers of Goodland, and Karen Neitzel of St. Francis. Greatgrandparents are Pat Nelson of Colby, Lon Sowers of **P. Neitzel** Gem and Glenn Neitzel of St. Francis.

Miley Noelle Ohman

Miley Noelle Ohman, daughter of Kayla Ohman and Matt Brooks of Goodland, was born Aug. 10, 2009, at Citizens Medical Center.

She weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 18 inches.

Grandparents are Melissa Johnson, Goodland, and Bill Blank, of Brighton, Colo. Great-grandparents are Norma and Robert Williams of Goodland.

Students win scholarships

Pioneer Hi-Bred Seeds.

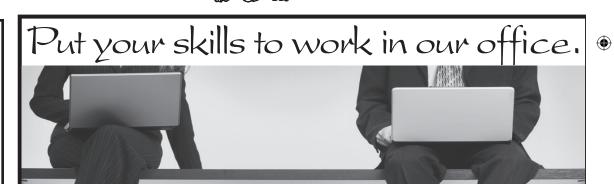
Rose, son of Jackie Rose of City Community College.

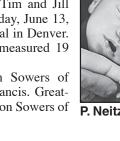
Tanner Moss, a Golden Plains graduate, and Spencer Rose, graduate of Hoxie High, have been tend Colby Community College.

Moss, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kent Moss of Menlo, plans to at-

awarded \$500 scholarships from Neff Seeds, a sales agency for Hoxie, plans to attend Garden **CIRCLE OF SAVINGS**

Eldie Griggs August 17th-22nd July 7, 1940-August 17,2008 25% OFF! So Sadly Missed ALL AROUND SAVINGS Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us everyday. cash & carry Unseen, unheard, but always near, XCLUDES FRESH **COLONIAL CANDLE** Still loved, still missed & very dear. FRAGRANCE OF THE MONTH Cómeplace In loving memory of our FARMERS MARKET father & grandfather. pecial 185 W. 4th St. Shirley, Ronda, Scott 785-462-7136 floral & Gifts (Vickey), Jason and Daniel

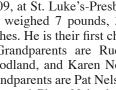






Miley Ohman







Are you looking for a good job?

The Colby Free Press is looking Must have good communication a full-time advertising skills, and excellent customer for executive to sell advertising for service skills with attention to Nor'West Newspapers. The work detail. Send a letter and resume week would be 40 hours with to Steve Haynes, publisher, at occasional evening and weekend 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., Computer skills with 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansas. duties. Excel, Photoshop, inDesign, and com. This could be the job you've Acrobat helpful but not necessary. been looking for. EOE M/F/H





Office MANAGER/billing clerk full or part-time

The Colby Free Press needs an office manager/billing clerk to take a key spot in our front office. This person will do all billing, using a standard bookkeeping program, handle customer calls, direct traffic in our office, co-ordinate customer service, deal with postal issues, work mail, answer phones and generally help run the office. We are looking for someone who likes challenges and knows how to solve problems, work with people and get results. It could be just the job for you. Can be part-time 8-3. Send letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas. 67701, or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. eoe m/f/h

