

# Family

## Season for weeds has arrived in force

Every gardener knows there are a number of critical times out there in the vegetable garden. There is a critical time for planting, for watering, for mulching and of course for harvesting. Guess what time it is now?



**Kay Melia**  
• The Gardener

After all the rain and cool temperatures, it is absolutely the time to weed! If you put off pulling those terrible six-inch amaranth-type pig weeds, they will be twice that size in just a few days, and in another week, two feet tall and too well-rooted to pull. I have had my share of them this spring, and it's my own fault. Somehow, I allowed a few of them to go to seed last year and here are their progeny this year in huge numbers.

But that's not the only weed problem out there. Not by a long shot. I had lots of lamb's quarter, but ate most of those. There are Mexican sandburs, spurge, henbit, eastern black nightshade, Russian thistle, marrow and oxalis, none of which are edible, as far as I know. Others remain nameless. The worst one are the delicate little grassy types that always seem to show up between the onion plants and out of reach for the hoe. Therefore, the old "thumb and forefinger" method of weed control must be instigated, and once again this year, I have a bad case of weedpuller's finger. My doctor tell me it will be fine by the time the first frost arrives this fall.

And so, getting rid of the weeds is job one right now, just like it was last year at this time. When the weather warms up, the weeds grow, usually faster than the beans and the beets. And if we don't get rid of them, we have what is

commonly referred to as a "crop failure." If only we had carefully added great gobs of mulch between those rows of potatoes and tomatoes a few weeks ago, we would have greatly reduced the numbers of weeds now growing there. But even now, as you clean out the weeds, replace them with some grass clippings or straw or old hay. That will go a long way toward restoring the vegetables back to normalcy.

It goes without saying that most vegetable gardens are at a critical stage right now. Most of us waited until the soil warmed before we planted this spring, and as a result we didn't get very many seeds in the ground as early as usual. And so, after all the rain, the garden crops and the weeds are involved in a race for dominance. It takes some real effort to stay ahead of rapidly growing weeds. And as summer temperatures rise into the 90s on a regular basis, it all becomes very discouraging and we begin to wonder why we bothered with it in the first place.

But hang in there! Get up an hour or so earlier in the morning and get out there before the thermometer begins to rise. The birds are singing, the air is delightfully cool, and the quietness is wonderful! The weeds await your visit, and so do all the good things in your garden.



Marcia Kaus and Jeff Williams

## Colby couple plans July ceremony here

Jeff Williams and Marcia Kaus plan to marry Saturday, July 10, 2010, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby.

The bride is the daughter of Ron and Charlene Kaus of Colby. She is a 2005 graduate of Colby High School, and a 2009 graduate of Kansas State University in mathematics and secondary education. She is a teacher and coach in Hoising-

ton. The groom is the son of Scott and Donnie Williams of Colby. He graduated from Colby High School in 2002 and in 2008 from K-State with a degree in industrial and manufacturing systems engineering. He is a manufacturing engineer at Superior Essex in Hoisington. The couple will live in Hoising-

## Money available for buying a house

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has money to loan under the the Rural Development Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program.

This program offers affordable 100 percent financing to eligible buyers. In past year, the fund has begun to run low by mid to late summer, said Patty Clark, state director of the Rural Development agency, but this year with a double allocation, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, money will remain plentiful. Buyers should act soon, she said, as Sept. 30 is the cutoff date.

Loans can be used to buy, re-

pair or refinance a house. Income guidelines apply. The program does not require a down payment, does not charge origination or funding fees and does not require mortgage insurance. Most applicants qualify for a subsidy called payment assistance which reduces their monthly payment. Homes must be in good repair and located in an eligible rural area, which includes most towns up to 20,000.

Contact the Hays Area Office at (785) 628-3081 for information. For information on rural programs, call the state headquarters at (785) 271-2700 or go to [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks).

## How many credit cards should you take along?

While some might take pride in displaying a wallet with several credit or debit cards, carrying more cards than you need increases the risks if your wallet or purse is lost or stolen.

So, should you carry one – or more than one – credit or debit cards?

Lifestyle and financial practices can influence the number of credit or debit cards that should be carried and when using them can be beneficial, said Carol Young, Kansas State University Research and Extension financial management specialist.

Using a debit card, rather than cash or a check for routine purchases is handy, she said. Using a debit card means that money is withdrawn from your checking account at the time of purchase.

"Consumers who use debit cards are currently being contacted to opt in or out of overdraft coverage, but people who monitor account balances closely probably won't need this coverage to avoid overage fees," she said.

Carrying a credit card for larger purchases can help track expenses and simplify returns if a product

or service is unsatisfactory. And, in the event of a dispute, having charged the purchase can help avoid tying up funds during the resolution, Young said.

Using a credit card to pay for a larger item like a new dishwasher or refrigerator may offer incentives such as an extended warranty or cash back, she said. But evaluate reward offers carefully.

"Using a credit card to earn reward points may be tempting, but ... charging more than you can reasonably pay to clear the balance at the end of the billing cycle is counterproductive," Young said.

Reserving a separate credit card for business expenses can be helpful in identifying tax deductible expenses or tracking personal expense categories, Young said.

Carrying a second card when traveling also should be considered, as not all cards are accepted everywhere, she said. If you're close to a credit limit, carrying a second card will provide a backup to cover unexpected expenses, especially in such cases as a delayed or cancelled flight, a car breakdown or other unplanned event.

## Swine classic open to all kids

MANHATTAN – Kansas State University will hold the 2010 Dr. Bob Hines Swine Classic Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 19, at CiCo Park in Manhattan.

This year's event marks the 25th anniversary of the event, sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry. The classic includes educational workshops, showmanship contest and a prospect and market hog show. It is open to all Kansas kids, ages 7 to 18 as of January 1.

This year's event will feature

the K-State Swine Knowledge Challenge, along with a Swine Photography Contest. For the photography contest, youths may submit up to two photos, 8 by 10 inches and not framed or matted. Photos displayed in plastic sleeves through the weekend.

Information and a registration form are available at [www.KSUSwine.org](http://www.KSUSwine.org) or by contacting Joel DeRouchey at (785) 532-2280 or [jderouch@ksu.edu](mailto:jderouch@ksu.edu), Sharon Breiner at (785) 532-1264 or [sbreiner@ksu.edu](mailto:sbreiner@ksu.edu), or Jim Nelssen at (785) 532-1251 or [jnelssen@ksu.edu](mailto:jnelssen@ksu.edu).

## Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday with 25 members and guests Brook Ziegelmeier and Sheila Frahm.

Sandy Wilks gave a most interesting and informative program on the basics of Islam.

Lon Frahm won Roto-Lotto.

The club meets at noon each Tuesday in Room 106 of the Col-

by Community College Student Union.

– Relda Galli

## Minnesota asks drivers to brake for turtle crossings

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Why did the turtle cross the road?

Minnesota wildlife managers say it's because turtles are trying to get from their winter homes to their warm-weather nesting areas. And the state Department of Natural Resources is urging drivers to give turtles a brake.

Carol Hall, an agency specialist in amphibians, says many turtles are killed on roads each year, especially during the nesting season.

The agency says drivers who see a turtle on the road should slow down and go around it. The department says it's best to let tur-

gles cross unassisted. If it's necessary to help, the department says to move them in as direct a line as safely possible.

Minnesota has nine turtle species, some of which are protected, the agency says.

## 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.

Send local news to [colby.society@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.society@nwkansas.com)

## Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$3.38
Corn (bushel)	\$2.81
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.55
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.81

# Hot Savings

**JULY 1, 2, 3, & 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**JULY 4<sup>th</sup>**  
1 - 5 p.m.

**Interior Connection & Quilt Cabin** 1525 S. Range  
462-3375

## MOVIE PASSES

Watch for your name in the Wednesday movie listings for 2 free passes.

*(Passes must be used within 7 days.)*

Pick up your passes at your:

**COLBY FREE PRESS**

## • CARRIERS WANTED •

The Colby Free Press is looking for Carriers!

After School; Monday - Friday  
About 1 hour per day

*A great job for students, moms, or retired people wanting a little "fresh air."*

For more information call the Colby Free Press office: 785-462-3963 or stop in at 155 W. 5th Street

# Picnic In The Park

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

## Pieces of Eight

Wednesday, June 30th  
12:00 noon @ Fike Park

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