

Family

Deaths

Lulu L. Grady

Lulu L. Grady, 93, Colby, died Sunday, Aug. 1, 2010, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 462-7979.

High Plains Lions Club

The High Plains Lions Club met Monday, July 12, at the Robert Burnett Student Union, following a chili-dog dinner with homemade cherry and apricot pies provided by Norm Whittaker.

Justin Burris called the meeting to order. The club sang happy birthday to Norm for his 69th birthday. The president then introduced his wife Kelli as a special guest to lead the program.

Kelli talked about the Caring Assessment for Rehabilitation Education Services. This is an organization that trains dogs for people who need physical assistance. The organization has placed about a thousand dogs in the last 16 years, she said. Kelli said she believes that the program would be a good 4-H project for boys and girls.

The club heard there will be no Colby Relay for Life this year due to lack of volunteers. A sign-

Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met at noon Tuesday, with 23 members and guests including Dr. Luke Tubbs and Brennan Ziegelmeier.

Ken Frahm led the program, featuring Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel discussing postal operations and the Colby post office.

Krehbiel has worked for the Postal Service since 1975. The post office here processes 830,000 pieces of mail a week, and is 70 percent automated. A worker can sort 1,000 pieces of mail an hour while the machine sorts 40,000.

The zip code system, established in 1963, was known as the Zone Improvement Plan. All international mail for the U.S. is processed in Chicago.

In 1881, John W. Irwin was Colby's first postmaster. The Colby office currently has 23 employees, with four city carriers who walk about 10 miles a day each. There are three rural carriers who take a census of wildlife several times a year to assist the Department of Wildlife and Parks.

A special commemorative cancellation has been approved for Thomas County's 125th Anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Nancy LePell won Roto-Lotto.

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.

Cantaloupe aroma scent of success



Kay Melia

The Gardener

One of the crowning achievements of any northwest Kansas gardener to my way of thinking is the successful growing of a good cantaloupe.

There is just something about the aroma and flavor of a home-grown ripe cantaloupe that gives a gardener an indication it has been a good season. The nurturing of a good crop of cantaloupe from the planting of the seed to the day of harvest is not the easiest garden project, but perhaps the most satisfying to one who has successfully completed the task.

You can call them cantaloupes, or you can refer to them as muskmelons if you wish. Both names are correct. The name muskmelon refers to the "musky" aroma and taste of the melon. The moniker cantaloupe comes from the Castle of Cantalup, Italy, where they were first grown successfully in Europe

several hundred years ago. Of one thing we can be sure: both names describe the wonderful sweet, musky, earthy, floral, spicy or berryish taste that is truly ambrosial, the nectar of the gods.

Several good gardeners tell me they just don't plant cantaloupe and generally give a couple of reasons. No. 1 is because they just don't have room in their small backyard garden plot for all those vines. And yes, cantaloupes tend to move around their planted area. Unlike newer developments in cucumbers, I haven't heard of the offering yet of a bush type, compact cantaloupe plant.

No. 2 given by many gardeners is the difficulty of coaxing the seeds to germinate. This can sometimes present a problem for one of two reasons: either planting too early in cool soils or by piling too much soil on top of the seed and literally smothering it.

Some of us have learned the hard way that planting before the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees just isn't a good idea. A reading of 65 degrees is even smarter, and that means that the cantaloupe seed should be one of the last crops to go into the ground in the spring. Not only does the seed need a warm birthplace, but the plants require warm temperatures to give you good growth and proper maturity in August and September.

Even harvesting a melon can be tricky. One indication of a cantaloupe's readiness is the absolutely

wonderful aroma it gives off when ripe. An even better test is called "the slip" method. When you thing the melon is ready for plucking, pick it up carefully and give it a slight tug. If it is indeed ready, it will detach from the vine easily. If it doesn't, try it again tomorrow.

If you think the color of the melon indicates it is ready to harvest, be advised that different varieties show different colors at maturity, some still with a few green streaks in the good tan color.

Years ago, I heard the story from a gardener that when cantaloupes are ripe and the aroma begins to drift over the neighborhood, the possibility of theft is extremely high. A famous plant breeder sympathized with that assessment, but was not encouraging: "Finger blight," he said. "Very serious. No cure!"

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE Thursday

1:59 a.m. - Sheriff's office requested assistance at the fairgrounds for an attempted burglary

3:42 a.m. - Intoxicated subject left the 100 block of E. Fifth in a vehicle. Not found.

9:29 a.m. - Stalled semi in the 600 block of W. Willow moved.

12:03 p.m. - Call about question on checkbook ownership between caller and ex. Spoke to reporting party; civil matter.

2:43 p.m. - Dog complaint at Second and Chickamauga. Spoke to owner.

4:38 p.m. - Vandalism to bike at Colby swimming pool.

4:50 p.m. - Disorderly conduct: Subject called 911 to report a problem with granddaughter. Report filed for domestic conflict and criminal damage to property.

5:04 p.m. - Vandalism to vehicle at 1155 Terrace Dr.

5:28 p.m. - Back windshield broken out of vehicle in the 100 block of E. Fifth. Damage was due to hail storm last week and owner has been driving it.

6:54 p.m. - Suspicious incident: 911 caller reported boyfriend wouldn't let her out of truck at Pilot station; five officers advised vehicle not found.

10:34 p.m. - I-11 report of person on ground on I-70 east of exit 53. Hitchhiker was told to stay at bottom of ramp.

11:26 p.m. - Ex-girlfriend harassing subject by phone. Officer spoke with subject; tried to make contact with ex-girlfriend but she hung up.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF Thursday

1:59 a.m. - Attempted burglary: report filed on incident at the fairgrounds.

1:59 a.m. - Report filed for de-

Markets

Table with market prices for Wheat, Corn, Milo, and Soybeans, including quotes as of close of previous business day.

8:46 a.m. - Two cows out at Franklin and Veterans Memorial Drive. Owner contacted.

9:06 a.m. - Transient reportedly seen Wednesday in Levant. Thursday his dog was running loose around town.

11 a.m. - Cow out on northbound U.S. 83 at mile 169. Owner contacted.

4:10 p.m. - Accident on K-25 at mile 203. Citations issued. 5:20 p.m. - Civil standby requested in Brewster. Standby done at 6:28 p.m.; other party wouldn't

answer door. 6:54 p.m. - Assisted police in looking for vehicle in reference to 911 call.

10:34 p.m. - Subject laying on I-70 east of exit 53. 11:44 p.m. - Paxton E. Bohnert arrested on warrant.

LOCAL TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

Table of TV listings for Tuesday Evening and Wednesday Evening, August 3 and 4, 2010.

RE-ELECT VOTE, August 3 BYRON SOWERS Commissioner District 1, Thomas County Commissioner

Dr. Steven Bear Joins Family Center for Health Care

"From a professional stand point, I knew Colby was a town that had what I needed to grow as a physician and practice good medicine. I wanted a thriving hospital, strong colleagues with the heart for medicine, committed nursing, and an administration with foresight. The people we have met have been the type of people you want to work with, the kind of people whose kids you want your kids to play with, the type of people who make good neighbors and good friends."



- Elder Care
Disease management
Preventative medicine
Pediatrics
Obstetrics and C-sections
Endoscopic procedures including colonoscopies and EGDS



To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bear call Family Center for Health Care. Our Family Taking Care of Your Family 310 E. College Drive, Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-6184 or 1-800-453-6751, or after hours (785) 443-5171