

Family

Here's a tomato progress report

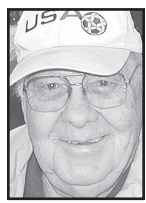
The constantly asked question in August and September every year is, "How are your tomatoes doing?"

Nobody cares how your carrots are doing. No one gives a hoot about whether or not your potatoes are thriving. And when was the last time anyone inquired about your parsnips?

America's love affair with the tomato continues, as 96 percent of all backyard gardeners planted at least a couple of tomato plants again this year. Nothing in the garden is so wantonly craved as a ripe tomato, and those who don't grow them will pay just about anything for a few pounds.

Several weeks ago in this space, I outlined a plan that would help me determine the most productive variety of tomato in my own garden. I wanted to find out how at least four of the varieties performed. And so I planted eight plants each of Northern Exposure, Shady Lady, Prime Beef Goliath and Super Tasty. I had never tried Shady Lady or Prime Beef Goliath before, while Super Tasty and Northern Exposure have been favorites of mine for years.

I set out my home grown plants into the garden on Thursday and Friday, May 13 and 14, in soil that was planted to sweet corn and cucumbers last year. The days I set out the plants, I placed the cages around them. They are five feet high and constructed from concrete reinforcing wire and the bottom 18 inches are covered in black plastic to protect them from the wind and also to capture a bit of the daytime heat that young plants enjoy in mid May. The plants thrived and were fertilized just once on Monday, June 21, with a liquid "pour-on" type of plant food especially designed for tomatoes.



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

I picked the first tomato, a Northern Exposure, on Sunday, July 25. The first Super Tasty changed color on Wednesday, July 28; the first Shady Lady was ready to pick on Friday, July 30; and the initial Prime Beef Goliath began to turn color Sunday, Aug. 1.

At random, I selected two plants from each variety and tagged them as the plants I would use in the contest. Since the first fruit was picked, I have counted and weighed every tomato from each of the eight selected plants. As of Friday, Aug. 13, here are the numbers:

- Super Tasty, 14 tomatoes weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces, a remarkable average of slightly over seven ounces per fruit.
- Northern Exposure plants, a total of 17 tomatoes weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces, averaging five ounces per tomato.
- Shady Lady, a total of 15 fruit totaling 4 pounds, 12 ounces, with an average weight of just over four ounces per fruit.
- Prime Beef Goliath, 10 tomatoes weighing a total of 40 ounces, an average of about four ounces per fruit.

In just two weeks of the experiment, the numbers are very close, as you can see. Overall, my tomato patch is about as productive as a year ago, with very large fruit and loaded with more to come.

Correction: Last week's column should have read: Marty Melia won top honors with a gorgeous exhibit of beets (not carrots). Jean Cech was runner up with her display of nearly perfect carrots....

Wheat school Thursday

The Thomas County Extension office is sponsoring a pre-plant meeting to address problems affecting wheat yields in 2010 at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Thomas County 4-H Building.

Poor emergence, fertility, diseases such as wheat streak mosaic virus, barley yellow dwarf and stripe rust were all factors influencing 2010 yields.

Discussing options available to manage these problems will be K-State specialists Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, soil nutrition specialist; Erick DeWolf, wheat disease specialist; and Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist.

There is no cost to attend however, reservations are requested by Wednesday to the Thomas County Extension office, 460-4582.

Roller coaster rider sets record

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. (AP) — A 78-year-old man rode a Pittsburgh-area roller coaster 90 times in one day — bringing his lifetime total to 4,000 rides.

Vic Kleman spent about five hours on the Jack Rabbit roller coaster at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin.

The wooden coaster is no spring chicken, either. It's celebrating its 90th anniversary — the number that prompted Kleman's marathon

riding session on Sunday. The Jack Rabbit has an 85-foot, double-dip drop. Kleman says he's been going on it since 1959, and usually rides it about 20 times a visit.

Kleman, who lives in nearby Knoxville, Pa., is a member of the American Coaster Enthusiasts.

Corrections

A story, "College board, president spar over procedure" on Pages 1 and 3 of the Friday, Aug. 20, *Colby Free Press* incorrectly quoted Colby Community College President Dr. Lynn Kreider as saying the college does about 12,000 contracts a year. The correct number is 1,200 a year. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆

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)	\$5.55
Corn (bushel)	\$3.67
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.94
Soybeans (bushel)	\$9.14

Thank You

I would like to thank the Colby High Students, businesses and the community for the clean up at the Beulah Cemetery this week. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together after a horrible event.

Sincerely,
Viola Jones



Thank You

I would like to thank the Thomas County Fair board, the sponsors, the ambulance crew, the local motorcycle group and all other who participated in various ways to make the FLAT TRACK MOTORCYCLE RACES at the Thomas County Fair on July 29 a great success. A special "thank you" to Kerry and Kaid Wark for their very professional track preparation, and for the great turnout of race fans!

Larry Dickey,
Pro Racer #6
Goodland, KS

Couple married in August rite

Courtney Leeann Moser, daughter of Dan and Kristy Moser of Winona, and Matthew David Schippers, son of David and Stephanie Schippers of Hoxie, were married Aug. 8, 2009, at the United Methodist Church in Colby.

Grandparents of the bride are Verla Moser and the late Archie Moser of Russell Springs and Sharon Murray and the late Charles "Jock" Murray of Garden City and the late Betty Murray of Colby.

Grandparents of the groom are Howard and Carol Baalman of Menlo and George Schippers and the late Lillian Schippers of Hays.

The Rev. James Mardock performed the ceremony.

Presented in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by her sisters, Chelsey Lindenman and Natalie Frost, as matrons of honor, and Nicole Moser as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Jordan Schippers, Ashley Stroup, Amber Dinges and Kysha Nichols.

Emily Ernst was the bride's personal attendant.

Jason Schippers, brother of the groom, and Doug Campbell, cousin of the groom, were best men. Groomsmen were Mat Gilliland, Kurt Schamberger, Jeremiah Moss, Sam Schippers and Boone Moser.

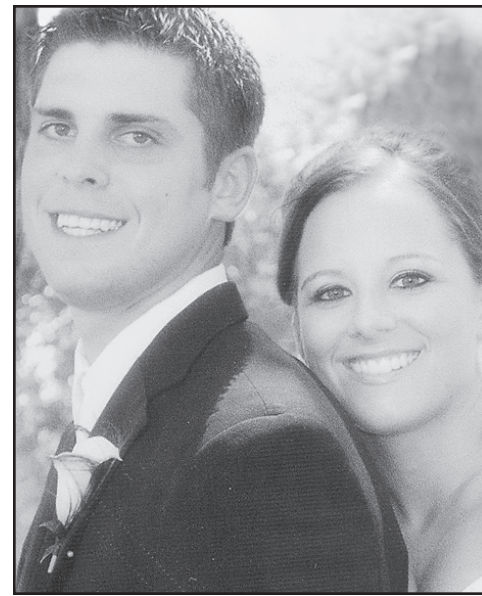
Ushers were Dustin Moser, Brandon Tice, Kyle William and Matt Yeager. Ring bearer was Whitley Frost.

Flower girls were Taegan Lindenman and Evie Schippers. Lauren Tice was candle lighter. Vocalist J.W. Tancayo was accompanied by organist Pat Ziegelmeier.

Reception dinner and dance at City Limits Convention Center followed the ceremony.

The bride is a 2004 graduate of Triplains High School and a 2008 graduate of Colby Community College, where she received a degree in dental hygiene. She works with Dr. Karl Neuenschwander of Hoxie.

The groom is a 2004 graduate of Hoxie High School and a 2010 graduate of Kansas



Matthew and Courtney Schippers

State University with a bachelor's degree in construction science and management. He works for DCJ Farms in Hoxie. The couple are living in Hoxie.

Deaths

John Henry 'Jay' Mosier III

John Henry Mosier III, 51, Hoxie, died Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010, in Clarksville, Ark.

He was born May 11, 1959, to John Jr. and Sharon (Dean) Mosier in Hoxie, where he spent most of his life.

He was a truck driver and worked for Triple J Trucking of Hoxie.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Survivors include his wife Polly Mosier, Salina; his father; two sons, Josh Mosier and Jacob (Miranda) Mosier, of Hoxie; a

daughter Jade Mosier and fiancé Jonathan Spellmeier, Topeka; a brother, Bert (Jarod Thiele) Mosier, Ukiah, Calif.; and a grandson.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010, at the Mickey-Leopold Chapel in Hoxie.

No visitation, there was cremation.

The family suggests memorials to the education fund for his grandson Aiden Mosier, in care of the funeral chapel, Box 235, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.

OK to use leftover seed

Because of the wet fall last year, some farmers may not have planted all the wheat seed they had on hand, but it may be OK to use the leftovers.

Erick DeWolf, a plant pathologist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, says that certified wheat seed treated with a fungicide might still be usable. He said the two main issues to consider are the germination quality of the seed and the viability of the seed treatment.

"Assuming the seed was stored under dry conditions and did not

get wet, the germination quality of the seed will likely be fine," said DeWolf. He recommended a germination test before planting.

Storage in a dry environment also helps preserve the effectiveness of a fungicide, he said.

"The fungicide seed treatment should still provide protection from common bunt, loose smut and other seed-borne diseases, as well as whatever soil-borne diseases are on the label for the product used to treat the seed," said DeWolf.

CONGRATULATIONS

Brett Bandy

On your First Place ranking in the Help Desk category at the National Collegiate Computer competitions held in Nashville, TN this July.

- Colby United Methodist Church
- High Plains Printing
- Ken & Beverly Lang
- MC Auto
- Pioneer Memorial Library
- Thomas County ADAC

- Commercial Sign Company of Colby and Hays
- Kansas Quick Lube
- James Mardock
- Northwest Kansas Recycling -E Waste Center
- Stramel Law Firm
- Neil & Sherry White

Best of luck pursuing your business in Colby with Cumulus Computers.

John David Urban

John David Urban was born on May 26, 1933, to Ralph and Eleanor (Kundyssek) Urban on a farm southeast of Atwood, KS. John passed on August 20, 2010, at the Logan County Hospital in Oakley, KS. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Franklin and Delvin, sisters: Roberta and Sylvia, and grandson: Vance Pentico. John was drafted into the U.S. Army as a young man. He was able to serve 16 months. He was honorably discharged in 1955. He married Agnes Fae Kathka on June 25, 1956. John and Agnes made their home on a farm northeast of Colby. He is survived by his wife, sisters Donna Frandsen of Oberlin, KS, and Mary Depe of Trenton, NE. His children: Daniel of Colby, Christine Belknap and Donnie of Garden City, Rocky Urban and Cheryl of Colby, Marvin and Martina Urban of Colby, Marlene Ritnour and Lendall of Lincoln, NE, and Linda Adwell and Douglas of Valley Center. Nine grandchildren: Christall, Spencer, and Shelbie Ritnour, Darren, Logan, and Denae Adwell, Andrew Urban, and Rachel and Treva Urban. He also has six great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2010 at the Wesleyan Church, Colby, Kansas with Pastor Gene Rothfuss officiating. Burial will follow at Beulah Cemetery, Colby, Kansas. Visitation at Harrison Chapel, Colby, Kansas will be Tuesday, August 24, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.. A memorial fund has been established in John's granddaughter, Denae Adwell's honor and may be made to Children's Miracle Network and left at any Colby bank, or Harrison Chapel.

Gem Lions Club ANNUAL HOG ROAST

Wednesday, August 25, 2010

5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Gem Community Building
Blue Grass, Folk & Country Music

Featuring:

Wayne & Millie Lauritsen, Jeff Wagoner & Rick Carter, The Old Timers Band, Prairie Rose Harmony, Bugbee Sisters, Larry Booth

Come out to Enjoy Food & Fellowship

Free Will Donations

Net Proceeds used for Community Betterment Projects

Bring your used eyeglasses & hearing aids.

Don't need it? Sell it

in the classifieds Call 462-3963

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