

Time for pumpkins to 'face off,' weighing in to see who's champion

Alright all you backyard gardeners. It's time to grab your bathroom scales and head out to the pumpkin patch to find out if you have a record-setting pumpkin out there.



Kay Melia

The Gardener

Wait a minute – you say you don't have a pumpkin patch? You say you don't even have a bathroom scales? No problem. You are not alone – 94 percent of all backyard gardeners do not have pumpkin patches, although surely most Northwest Kansans have bathroom scales.

We are nearing that time of year when the world's pumpkin growers are simply going nuts. Hundreds and hundreds of pumpkin growers all over the world are anxiously watching their pumpkin patches to see if that big yellow gourd is going to be big enough to capture the award for the biggest pumpkin of the year, at least in their block or township. County fairs, fall festivals of all kinds, and even areas where there is no organized event, find pumpkin producers nervously watching their pumpkin patch.

It seems that with each passing year, more and more gardeners have become pumpkin fanatics and pull out all the stops to grow big pumpkins that will hopefully assure them of bragging rights for the coming year. As you read these words there are pumpkins out there that are gaining up to 25 pounds a day as growers are feeding their plants all kinds of magic elixirs that they hope will win them the big prize.

The current world record for pumpkins is 1,810 pounds, 5 ounces. The pumpkin was grown by Chris Stevens of New Richmond, Wis., and was exhibited at the Stillwater, Minn., Harvest Festival on Oct. 9 last year. Stillwater, a suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul, is located just a few miles across the state line.

It broke the previous world record by almost 50 pounds. Surely, a new record will emerge this fall.

Chris Steven's huge pumpkin was a Dill's Atlantic Giant. We can all buy Dill's Atlantic Giant seed off the rack in the spring at just

about every store, generally for about \$1.49 a packet. But if you were so lucky to buy one seed produced by Chris Stevens word record pumpkin, you would have to pay upwards of \$300!

That's why a few growers who strive to produce a record breaker are wealthy. The late Howard Dill was one such man. He worked for 30 years by crossbreeding all kinds of pumpkins before he came up with the now-patented Dill's Atlantic Giant variety, which is now the most popular variety available to those who want to try their hand at growing the big ones.

Strangely enough, Mr. Dill's pumpkin farm is located near Windsor, Nova Scotia, just northwest of Halifax, in a very fertile valley. The farm continues their pumpkin producing by Mr. Dill's family.

We probably will never see a world record vegetable specimen grown in northwest Kansas. But if you have a hankering to try the great big pumpkin thing, pick up a packet of Dill's Atlantic Giant seed next spring, and have a go at it.

Babies

Gracyn Avery Ritter



Gracyn Ritter

Gracyn Avery Ritter, daughter of Paul and Kaly Ritter of Monument, was born Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, at Gove County Medical Center in Quinter. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 21 inches.

Welcoming the baby home were her sisters Mackenzie and Jocelyn and brother Reilly.

Grandparents of the baby are Carl and Phyllis Osthoff of Athol and Vince and Mary Ritter of Dresden.

Ciya Lee Finley

Ciya Lee Finley, daughter of Christa Finley of Colby, was born Thursday, Aug. 22, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She

weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches.

Sister Tatyanna Lee Finley welcomed the baby home.

Serenity Noel Garcia

Serenity Noel Garcia, daughter of Dalton Garcia and Brittney Burkholder of Brewster, was born Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces

and measured 20 1/2 inches.

Grandparents are Rachel Garcia of Fort Scott, Johnny Garcia of Brewster and Duane and Angie Burkholder of Brewster.

John Ayden Wilson

John Ayden Wilson, son of John Michael Wilson and Megan Shea Ryan of Colby, was born Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and

measured 20 inches.

Grandparents are Doug Wilson of Gem, Debb Ream of Gem, Sandy Wilson of Colby and Alan Ryan and Sherri Ryan of Oakley.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies' Auxiliary

Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars met Sept. 14 with President Anita Thiel presiding.

The meeting opened with a prayer followed by patriotic instructions, flag salute, the national anthem and prayers for prisoners of war and missing in action, hospitalized veterans and women veterans.

Minutes were read and approved, the treasurer's report was read and bills were allowed for payment.

Correspondence included General Orders president's message, a letter from the district American-

ism chairman and a letter from the district president with information from the national convention.

The legislative chairman read a letter about two prisoner of war/missing in action veterans who were found and identified.

Hospital chairman reported 22 pairs of briefs and 21 pairs of T-shirts purchased for the Leavenworth veterans' hospital and showed a sample of a gift bag we will make for the hospital. Other comfort items made for the hospital were displayed.

The publicity chairman reported that the August meeting notes were published in the *Colby Free*

Press.

The Americanism chairman reported comfort items were taken to Fairview Estates and one was given to a private resident.

A report was given on the number of members who flew flags as a patriotic reminder on May 30, June 14, July 4, Sept. 5 and Sept. 11.

A flag was given to an auxiliary member.

A donation was made to the health and happiness fund for the national home.

District senior vice president Jenni Halmgren was present for the annual inspection of the sec-

retary and treasurer's books. She helped with the preparation of new report forms and information from the National Convention.

Peggy Stupka was accepted for membership.

National home prayer was offered and the meeting was closed with ritual prayer.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Post home.

Clarification

In the obituary for William Ward Fisher printed on Page 3 of the Wednesday, Sept. 14, edition of the *Colby Free Press*, the name of Vicki Lou Sheets was accidentally printed as Lou Sheets. This was an editing error.

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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.

Massage clinics planned at college

Students in the Colby Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Club will offer five massage clinics in October.

The clinics, which are open to the general public, will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday and 5 to 8 p.m. next Monday and on Friday, Oct. 7, Monday, Oct. 10, and Monday, Oct. 17. All clinics will be held in room 804 of the Health Sciences Building.

Two options will be offered, a 30-minute massage for \$12 or a one-hour massage for \$22.

The club promotes professionalism among physi-

cal therapist assistants, providing lifelong learning opportunities and helping students identify potential career development possibilities. In addition to the massage clinics, the club assists with community health fairs, campus activities and Kansas Physical Therapy Association conferences.

To schedule an appointment, contact Marie Wolkomir at (785) 460-4797 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or email marie.wolkomir@colbycc.edu.

Abilene Hustlers 4-H Club

President Jory Koon called the meeting of the Abilene Hustlers to order on June 6 with 17 members attending. Hosts were the Rundel and Regier families.

Donna Lamm gave the com-

munity leader's report. She said fair superintendents and junior superintendents were needed. Interested volunteers were requested to contact the Extension Office.

In response to a request from council, club members voted on volleyball for Family Fun Night. Pre-entries were due by July 11.

The club also decided to have

the club tour and a swimming party on July 10.

Jake Koon and Cassie Wells had recreation; the club played with water balloons.

Chance Hoeting, Shelby Cramp-ton and Alexi Regier gave talks for the program.

The club said the 4-H Pledge and the meeting adjourned.

Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$6.47
Corn (bushel)	\$6.15
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.14
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.28

Please Recycle



Attention Youth Oriented Groups in Thomas County!

The Thomas County Community Foundation (TCCF) is having a contest for YOU to give input on a new fund for TCCF. What are YOUR ideas for projects or programs that need funding in Thomas County?

Provide us with the information below by October 1, 2011, by e-mailing to tccf@st-tel.net. The winning group's fund will receive a \$500 donation to start that new endowed fund at TCCF. The winning recipient will be announced on October 3. Please visit the "current funds" page at www.thomascountycommunityfoundation.com to view current funds already in place at TCCF to avoid duplication.

- Name of group submitting idea
- Description of fund you would like to see at TCCF
- Proposed name of new fund at TCCF



Join us in our Defending Our Freedoms Section

Bring in your family member's Military photos with the information below. We will publish all the photos and information on Veteran's Day November 11. All photos must be submitted by October 15 to be included in our section Help us honor those who have served our country.

NAME _____

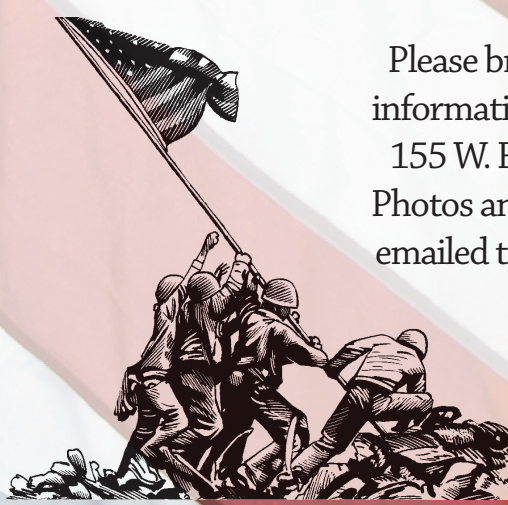
BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

THEATRE OF OPERATION _____

YEARS OF SERVICE _____

God bless all those who answer our nation's call to defend our great country's freedoms!

Vet, SSgt. Matthews USMC 3rd Recon Bn.



Please bring in or mail photos and information to The Colby Free Press 155 W. Fifth St., Colby KS, 67701. Photos and information may also be emailed to khunter@nwkansas.com



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