

Rexford church has new signs up

Have you noticed the new Rexford Community Church signs along the highway? They sure add a bright spot on the way into town.

A group of students from Golden Plains attended an awards night for the Sheridan County Conservation Coloring Contest on Monday in Hoxie. A big congratulations to all students who did such great work.

The quilters from Country Quilting and Keepsakes of Oberlin arrived Thursday afternoon and spent a busy weekend piecing together projects of all kinds.

We always enjoy checking in on the ladies and seeing the progress they've been making. They will be back in April with a whole new batch of projects.

Tyson and Jesalynn Griffiths competed in the High Plains Home Educators Mid-Winter Tournament Friday in Garden City.

Tyson earned a second place ribbon in the spelling bee and a third place ribbon in the chess competition. Jesalynn came home with a first place ribbon in the Bi-



Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

ble Bowl.

Sunday a number of Rexford residents drove to Oakley for the "Blues Brothers Review" sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association. We spent two hours listening to blues music of all sorts, and the audience had lots of fun participating.

Shepherd's Staff has a variety of events coming up in the next few months: Christian Workers Conference in Colby, scrapbooking retreat, men's day, and more. Visit www.shepherdstaff.org to see what's coming up and what you might be interested in.

That's it for this week. Don't forget to leave your news in the jar by the door at the Red Barn, call me at 687-2076, or email your events to griffithsgang@gmail.com.



Kay Weber of Hoxie was hard at work this weekend during the quilting retreat at Shepherd's Staff.

Rewarding season ahead for gardener

If this year's seed and plant offerings are any indication, the new garden season we are about to enter promises to be a rich and rewarding period for backyard gardeners everywhere.

No matter at what stage of gardening you find yourself, there will be something to tempt and delight you. Never before has there been such a diversity of seeds and plants available to the everyday home gardener. There are hundreds of new flower and vegetable varieties being introduced for the first time, many new roses developed by the world's renowned hybridizers, not to mention the always welcome addition of greater disease resistance and increased hardness to propel us to greater garden production.

And so, with the sun at our back and an imagined threat of a spring breeze in the air, it's time to prepare for the 2012 garden season. The old Gardener hibernated successfully and is pleased to greet you again among the pages of the *Colby Free Press*. Together, we shall explore the immediate garden season with a renewed vow to grow good things for the dinner table, and to add color and beauty to our own little corner of the world.

Alright, that takes care of the formal stuff, so let's get to work. There are about nine dozen things to do before we can even begin to think about planting a garden. Thank goodness we have a couple of months to prepare for this year's outdoor adventure. Here are just a few projects we should either be thinking about, or doing something about.

Number one on my list is finding the seed for this year's plantings,



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

hopefully after doing some serious planning about what I want to grow this year and what I want to eliminate from last year's effort. If the family showed an aversion to the peas I planted last year, then I must not plant peas this year. If you were disappointed with the container-grown geraniums out there on the patio last year, then try some Shock Wave petunias in that pot this year.

I've already made a few of those decisions. For example, I will plant only two hills of zucchini this year, and absolutely no Brussels sprouts. My Tidal Wave petunias were great last summer, but I also want some of those beautiful Bubblegums this year, so I'll have to buy another container. I'm also thinking about interspersing a few tall Lofty Lady yellow marigolds among some of the vegetables just for effect and color in the vegetable garden.

And another thing. This weekend, go out there in the backyard and take a look at your garden plot, unless of course there's a foot of snow on the ground. Make a few notes about where the tomatoes were planted last year. Where were the beans located? Can you remember where you planted the cucumbers? And remember to plant everything in a different place this year. No exceptions accepted!

The future looks bright. Welcome to a sparkling new gardening season!

Brewster sets honor roll

The Brewster School District has released the honor roll for the second nine-week grading period. Students on the Superintendent's Honor Roll have earned a 4.0 grade average. Those on the Principal's Honor Roll have averages of 3.5 to 3.99. Those on the Honor Roll have 3.0 to 3.49 grade averages.

High School Superintendent's Honor Roll Juniors: Will Allen.
Principal's Honor Roll Seniors: Kasey Hoyt, Luiz De-Arruda, Corinna Hanisch.
Juniors: Dan Brown, Michael Schmidt.
Freshman: Dara Roulier.
Honor Roll Seniors: Aaron Luckert.
Juniors: Ben Baird, Amber Barrie.

Sophomores: Ashley Barrie.
Freshman: Alicia Barrie, Layton Werth.

Junior High Superintendent's Honor Roll Eighth grade: Rachel Friess.
Seventh grade: Tad Holm, Jaden Schmidt.
Principal's Honor Roll Eighth grade: Justin Schmidt, Takoda Turner.
Seventh grade: Dalton Arntt, Erica Hernandez.
Sixth grade: Levi Rall.
Honor Roll Eighth grade: T-Aera Abbott, Nathan Brown.
Seventh grade: J.B. Felzien.
Sixth grade: Jacob Benham, Adrian Mercado, Nickole Snethen.

Golden Plains scholars third

By Leea Juenemann
Golden Plains High School

On Jan. 18, the Golden Plains team traveled to Winona for the annual Western Kansas Liberty League scholar's bowl.

The teams that they faced were tough, but Golden Plains had seen them before. The majority of the questions that the team answered were under the categories of language arts, science and social science.

Trey Schwarz and Macayla Easton led the scoring, along

with Kylie Jones, Jacob Anholz and Leea Juenemann. At first, there was a three-way tie for third place, but after comparing wins and points scored, Golden Plains pulled ahead of the other teams.

"We were all pleasantly surprised to place in the league meet," Macayla commented.

This was the third time that the scholars had placed third throughout the year. Golden Plains has only one meet left, the Regional Scholar's Bowl on Thursday.

Make game party a winner

Department of Agriculture consumer food specialists report the quantity of food consumed on Super Bowl Sunday is second only to Thanksgiving.

And, while food safety information is plentiful during holidays, bowl parties create additional food safety risks, said Karen Blakeslee, K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

"Football games last for several hours, making it more difficult ... to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold," Blakeslee said.

"The danger zone, in which food borne bacteria can multiply, is 40 to 140 degrees F," the food scientist said. If perishable food sits out for more than two hours, it should be discarded, said Blakeslee, who recommended replenishing perishable foods periodically to reduce food safety risks.

Use a food thermometer to check the recommended temperature for steaks (145 degrees F); ground beef (160 degrees F) and

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.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.50
Corn (bushel)	\$6.25
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.70
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.76

Lawn overseeding can start

In a break with long-term trends, fall 2011 in Kansas wasn't a great time to start or overseed a tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass lawn.

"Normally, Mother Nature helps out with seed germination, but last fall we didn't get any help. I saw poor germination in irrigated lawns and zero germination in non-irrigated lawns," said Rodney St. John, turfgrass horticulturist with K-State Research.

Homeowners who got such results now have three options, St. John said. They can wait to reseed in fall. They can plan to seed this spring. Or, they can get outdoors and try dormant seeding.

For homeowners, dormant seeding is the least favorite approach, because it's timed for when the weather is cold - too cold for seed to germinate. In Kansas, that's between December and February.

As with any turf-seeding approach, however, good seed-soil contact is important during winter. So, St. John generally recommends homeowners choose one of the following.

- Spread seed by hand after a light snowfall (when you can still see the lawn's bare spots). As the snow melts, it will bring the seed into good contact with the soil.
- Or, sow when the soil is moist and freezing weather is in the forecast. Freezing creates little bubble-like pockets in wet, bare soil that are perfect for catching and holding seed.
- Or, if soil is fairly dry and not frozen, use a core aerator or verticutter. Then broadcast the seed.

"With good soil contact, the seedlings will emerge in early

spring. If we have typical cool, damp weather then, the seedlings may not need any care until they're tall enough to mow," St. John said. "Homeowners rarely try the approach to seed an entire lawn, but it's hard to beat as a low-stress way to fill in some thin or bare spots."

Crabgrass prevention can be a problem, however, for both dormant- and spring-seeded turf. Most crabgrass preventers will kill turf seedlings until the new grass has grown enough to merit mowing three times.

"The two exceptions on the crabgrass preventer market now have different advantages...." he said. "You can apply siduron - found in ... Tupersan - even before seedlings begin to emerge in newly planted areas. It ... can be hard to find. Siduron won't last as long or tend to be as effective as the other choice, but it's safer on new grass seedlings.

"That second choice is dithiopyr or Dimension - found in Hi-Yield Turf and Ornamental Weed and Grass Stopper. It becomes useful two weeks after fescue, bluegrass or perennial ryegrass germinate. But, you can apply it up to four weeks after crabgrass germinates - about the time that grassy weed becomes visible. And, it remains effective for about six weeks."

For spring and fall lawn seeding, the steps are basically the same, St. John said.

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