

It's time to prune fruit trees

This time of year is a good time to think about pruning fruit trees, which can be done in February or March.

Pruning when temperatures are below 20 degrees F is not advisable due to possible injury. It is important to prune before dormant sprays are applied to avoid pruning out sprayed wood and discarding it. Also, you are more likely to get total coverage of limbs, branches and shoots after you have pruned.

Prune older trees first because older, larger wood tolerates lower temperatures than young trees with small diameter wood.

Pruning Young Fruit Trees

Young fruit trees should be pruned to begin developing a strong structure of the main or scaffold limbs. This will help prevent limb breakage over the years when the scaffolds carry a heavy fruit load. Apple, apricot, cherry, plum and pear trees generally are trained using the central leader system. The growth pattern for these trees is for a center branch to be dominant.

Peach and nectarine trees are normally pruned using the open center method because they do not have a strong tendency for one shoot or branch to dominate the growth of other shoots or branches. In this system, the tree is pruned to a vase-like pattern with no central leader.

Regardless of the system used, the three to four scaffold branches should:

- Form wide angles (about 60 to 80 degrees) with the trunk.
- Be distributed on different sides of the tree

Deadline set for entries to wheat yield contest

Three \$1,000 cash prizes and several potential bonus awards are at stake for wheat growers who enter the 2012 Kansas Wheat Yield Contest, sponsored by the Kansas Wheat Commission and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

The contest includes three regions – western, central and eastern Kansas. Entry deadline for the 2012 Wheat Yield Contest is Sunday, April 15. Producers achieving the top yield receive a \$1,000 cash prize and plaque. In addition to these cash awards, contest sponsors also have cash and product prizes for winners.

For the second year in a row, contest entrants will be eligible to participate in the quality initiative of the wheat yield contest. Each contestant will be asked to submit a five-pound sample of wheat from the contest field. That sample will be evaluated for quality components such as test weight, protein content, variety and kernel quality. Top scoring samples will be further tested in a quality laboratory, where a small loaf of bread will be baked. The sample with the top quality score will receive \$250 in cash, sponsored by Louis Dreyfus Commodities.

Contest winners will receive their awards at the 2012 Kansas State Fair.

Justin Gilpin, president of Kansas Wheat, says the yield contest helps identify best management practices for wheat producers.

“Kansas farmers are recognized around the world for production of top-quality wheat. Combining quality with high yields maximizes profitability for our state’s

wheat producers,” he says.

The April 15 deadline gives wheat farmers an opportunity to gauge the condition of the wheat crop as it breaks dormancy. Folks who enter the contest will be asked to share management information about their farm, including details about tillage and agronomic practices, crop protection products usage and more. A third party verifier will be employed at harvest to ensure the integrity of the contest.

Wheat farmers who are 18 years or older from throughout Kansas are eligible to participate by enrolling a plot at least five acres in size. The fee is \$50 per entry. Producers may enter more than once, but each entry must be submitted on a separate entry form. Kansas Wheat directors, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest. Contestants must use certified seed. The contest is open only to dryland fields.

Details can be found online at www.kansaswheat.org, by requesting an information packet via e-mail at kswheat@kswheat.com, or by writing to Kansas Wheat, 217 Southwind Place, Manhattan, Kan., 66503.

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.



Singer, Songwriter “MONTE SELBY IN CONCERT”

Grainfield Opera House

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 • 2 p.m.

With Dessert and Coffee Bar

In conjunction with GRAINFIELD LIONS CLUB

GROUNDHOG PANCAKE FEED

Serving 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Grainfield American Legion

All proceeds to benefit Elevator Project

Clint Milliman

• Knowledge for Life



for good balance.

- Be spaced about 6 to 10 inches apart on the trunk with no branch directly opposite or below another.

Pruning Overgrown Apple Trees

Apple trees that are not pruned for several years will often produce so many branches that little energy is left for fruit production. Overgrown apple trees are also difficult to harvest and spray. Gardeners who have such a tree are often at a loss as to how to get it back in shape.

Often the best recommendation for such a tree is to make one pruning cut at ground level and start over with a new tree.

However, trees may have sentimental value that will make revitalization worth the time and effort. Realize that this will be a multi-year process because no more than 30 percent of the tree should be removed in one year. Here are some steps to follow:

1. Remove all dead wood. This does not count toward the 30 percent.
2. Remove suckers from the base of the tree.
3. Choose about six of the best branches to

keep as scaffold branches.

Remove all others. Branches should be cut flush to the branch collar. The collar is the natural swelling that occurs where a branch connects to the trunk or to a larger branch. Removing the collar would leave a larger wound that would take additional time to heal. Do not paint wounds. Wounds heal more quickly if left open.

Candidates for removal include branches with narrow crotch angles, which are more likely to break in wind and ice storms, and those that cross branches you will save. This may be all that is possible the first year if the 30 percent threshold has been reached.

4. Thin the branches on each scaffold branch. Remove crowded branches to open up the tree to light and allow humidity to escape. Shorten each scaffold branch by cutting back to a side branch. When you are through, the tree should have enough wood removed so that a softball can be thrown through the tree.

Severe pruning often will cause an apple tree to produce vigorous side shoots from the trunk called water sprouts. These should be removed throughout the growing season so the center of the tree stays open.

Publications on how to properly prune trees are available at the Extension Office.

Clint Milliman is the Thomas County agriculture and natural resources agent with Kansas State Research and Extension. A native of Illinois, Milliman works with area 4-H clubs, farmers and ranchers.

Shooting Stars Square Dance

The Shooting Stars Square Dance Club will have a Tenderfoot dance at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Roosevelt Elementary School, 2000 MacArthur in Hays. Everyone is welcome.

Peggy Anschutz will call the squares. There will be refreshments and Pot o’ Gold.

For information, call Opal Flinn at (785) 726-4432.

Distance education tech and associate librarian hired

Michael Halbleib has been chosen by Colby Community College as the new Title III Distance Education technician.

Halbleib is a 2010 graduate of the college with an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer support specialist-software. In addition, he received his Associate of Science in general business from the college in 2011.

Megan Allen began her duties

as associate librarian earlier this month. Allen graduated from the college in May 2009 with an Associate of Arts degree in history.



Megan Allen

served for two years as a student assistant in the KU libraries.

‘UFO’ bird group forms

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP) – A new UFO group in Roswell has formed.

But members aren’t trying to track down THOSE type of flying objects.

The *Roswell Daily Record* reports (<http://bit.ly/ycePMs>) that the United Field Ornithologists of Roswell held its first meeting and members plan to hold a number of events soon. Ornithology is the

Deaths

Howard Leroy Warren

Howard Leroy Warren, 75, of Comanche, Okla., retired Colby IGA owner, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, at his home.

He was born June 18, 1936, in Goodnight, Okla., the son of Howard Henry and Myrtle Odell (Bostian) Warren.

He grew up in Perkins, Okla., and attended Perkin’s High School where he excelled in football and basketball. Soon after graduation, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve where he served for six years.

In 1955 he married Bonita Gardner in Perkins. He later moved to Medford, Okla., where he operated a supermarket along with his parents.

On June 12, 1976, he married Joyce Coffey Herrington at Duncan, Okla. They lived in Colby for 25 years and were active in the community. They owned and operated IGA stores in Oakley, Colby and Phillipsburg.

He received awards as IGA retailer of the year and IGA merchandiser of the year, as well as other special recognitions.

In 1995 he retired and along with his wife moved to the Comanche area in 2001. In retirement he was active, taking on home remodeling projects as well as working on his own home. He also pursued his hobbies of hunt-

ing and fishing.

He was a member of the Ray of Hope Church of Comanche and actively involved in the food pantry ministry, dedicating himself for the last 12 years to helping make sure families in need were fed.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a brother, Charles Warren, a daughter, Kate Warren, and two grandsons, Logan Lee Herrington and Talon Dale Grover.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; four sons, David (Donalea) Warren, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Doug (Pam) Warren, St. Charles, Mo.; Ronnie (Melody) Herrington, Comanche, Okla.; and Ben Herrington, Duncan, Okla.; two daughters, Connie (Hayden) Jones, Eufaula, Okla.; and Shona (James) Ballard, Norman, Okla.; a sister, Ann (Darrell) Agard, Chandler, Texas; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were Friday, Jan. 27, 2012, at the church, with the Rev. Dow Pannell, the Rev. Mike McCord and David Warren officiating and burial in the Fairlawn Cemetery, Comanche, Okla.

The family suggests memorials to the Ray of Hope Food Pantry, in care of the Carter-Smart Funeral Home, Carter-Smart Funeral Home, 1316 Oak Ave., Duncan, Okla., 73533.

Pi Gamma Club

The Pi Gamma club met Friday. The meeting began at the Movement Connection in Colby and ended at hostess Diana Schiffner’s home; Joan Calhoon was co-hostess.

The program was presented by Brenda Mazanec, owner of

the new gym at 430 N. Franklin, while the club members tried out the equipment.

After the presentation, the meeting resumed at Schiffner’s home. Coffee and dessert was served.

— Joan Calhoon

Amish horse abandoned

SOUTH RUSSELL, Ohio (AP) – Wally the Walmart horse is looking for a new home.

That’s the nickname given to a 9-year-old standardbred horse that a humane society says was left at a northeast Ohio store by an Amish teenager more than two months ago. Humane Officer Christian Courtwright in Geauga County says the teen apparently unhooked

the horse from a buggy, tied it to a rail at the Walmart in Middlefield and never came back for it.

He says store employees noticed the horse the next day and tended to it until police took it to a caregiver.

He says the humane society now has control of the horse and expects it to be available for adoption soon.

Protection sought for murals

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) – Preservationists hope to win state historic recognition for the officers club at a former prisoner-of-war camp in Douglas to help maintain 16 Western murals painted on its walls by Italian prisoners during World War II.

The *Casper Star-Tribune* reports (<http://bit.ly/wXEthQ>) the building is owned by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and isn’t open to the public on a regu-

lar basis.

The Douglas Historic Preservation Commission has worked with the Odd Fellows to maintain the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sherri Mullinnix, a longtime advocate for the camp, says the Odd Fellows have agreed to turn the building over to state management so it can be opened to the public if the Legislature declares it a state historic site.

THANK YOU!

We want to say THANK YOU for helping us celebrate our 125th anniversary. We had a great time sharing memories and taking a look at the past with you. Our Business After Five and Open House were both a success because of you, our community. We wouldn't be where we are today if it wasn't for our community and the wonderful support you give us. So thank you for the memories and here's to another 125 years!



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My father and grandfather would be pleased that F&M Bank continues to be a locally owned bank. Not only locally owned, but a bank that supports the community and it's growth. It was a thrill to meet the employees and discover many shared roots in Colby. Their dedication to carry on tradition while investing in the future of Western Kansas is honoring the vision of August Lauterbach!

-Mary Lauterbach-Wagner



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-Brent Wiedeman, President/CEO

More than 500 people attended the Business After Five Celebration!

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.65
Corn (bushel)	\$6.23
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.66
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.56



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