

Rexford's Saturday night busy

It was a busy weekend in Rexford.

I got to help with my youngest daughter's Valentine's Day party at Golden Plains preschool on Friday. They frosted and ate heart-shaped cookies and played Valentine-themed bingo. It's a joy to see the excitement at their parties.

Saturday we joined 4-H families from all over Thomas County to make over 1,000 pizzas. These pizzas had been sold as a fund raiser, and thanks to the organization of those in charge, we had all of them made and ready to deliver in about two hours.

Saturday evening, Main Street in Rexford was filled with vehicles. Kids from Scott City, Phillipsburg, Norton and other towns arrived in time to enjoy homemade burgers, fries, and milk shakes in the Ranch House, and then headed to The Hall for games, worship and a lesson.

The Gideons had their annual membership drive at the Main Center.

And in the Red Barn, people of all ages gathered to play bingo. I



Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

had the chance to stop in and check out the game, and was surprised to see people of all ages participating. And it wasn't just Rexford residents; one lady told me she and her table-mates had been driving in from Colby, Brewster and Hays each month for years.

Sunday evening our family traveled over to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church south of Stedley for a pancake feed and concert by Eternity Focus. This group of four sisters is from Lebanon and has been performing all over the United States since 2007.

This week looks like another busy one, with parent-teacher conferences today, school pictures on Wednesday and Spuds and Splits at 6:30 Thursday at the Red Barn. If you're part of the 40 and over crowd in Rexford, come on out for



GWEN GRIFFITHS/Colby Free Press
Martha Hullet of Colby won a round of bingo Saturday night in Rexford. Rexford has visitors from Colby, Brewster and Hays each month for bingo night.

a fun night.

So that's the news from Rexford this week. Enjoy your Valentine's Day – give a hug to someone you care about.

And as always, you can leave your news in the jar at the Red Barn, call it to me at (785) 687-2076, or email it to griffithsgang@gmail.com. Have a great week!

All-American selections few but worthy

I look forward each year to the announcement of the All America winning vegetables and flowers. This year marks the 80th anniversary of this announcement, and although there seems to be a lack of numbers this year, the selections committee more than made up for the lack of numbers with seemingly beautiful and useful plant life that will soon grace our gardens.

All America Selections is a non-profit organization that oversees the planting, growing, harvesting and introduction of never-before grown flower and vegetable varieties. There are actually 200 professional gardeners in America and Canada who grow the plant life to maturity. They submit their best offerings to the committee for judging, and then the best of the best is offered for sale to the public. It is indeed a tough ticket for these outstanding cultivars to reach our backyard garden.

The selection process was organized in 1932, and seldom have



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

there been so few introductions made as there are this year; there are only five selections for 2012. Apparently, in the eyes of the judges, none of the other hundreds of submissions were worthy.

It was also distressing that the committee was so late in making the announcement of the new selections that it was impossible for catalogues to list them.

But here are the winners, in all their new found glory. First, we have an ornamental pepper called **Black Olive**, described by the judges as truly a standout. It features a bushy 20-inch-high growing habit and forms little black or purple fruit in small clusters on its stem. The peppers will turn red in the fall, and are indeed edible, but

fiery hot! The bright purple flowers and dark purple foliage add to its usefulness, and it is highly recommended for container growing.

Gardeners who enjoy vincas will absolutely love the new **Jams N' Jellies Blackberry** vinca that boasts deep purple two-inch blooms that have a white eye. The flower petals appear almost black. The easy-to-grow plants have excellent tolerance to heat and drought.

Then we have an award winning salvia called **Summer Jewel Pink**. It is listed as a dwarf plant with a prolific blooming capability that will bloom as much as two weeks earlier than other salvias. It is said to be a favorite of hummingbirds.

Next, a couple of interesting vegetable winners. One is a slightly spicy pepper whose name is **Cayennetta** that yields dozens of three-to-four inch fruit that have extremely good pepper flavor. The extra thick foliage protects the

fruit nicely from sun scald.

In my opinion, the 2012 All America Selection with the most overall interest is a new 4 to 6 pound watermelon named **Fairie**. There have been several new so called "ice box" watermelon introductions in the past 10 years, but this one is a nontraditional melon. It matures into a creamy yellow outside color with thin stripes, and deliciously crisp pink-red flesh inside. The vines are extremely vigorous but spread to only about 10 feet. Fairie is its name.

There you have it – this year's rather meager offerings from the All America Selections committee, circa 2012. If you can find the seed or plants this year, you'll be lucky. But if you do, you can depend on them to grow and produce exceptionally well.

Markets

| Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op | |
|--|---------|
| Wheat (bushel) | \$6.28 |
| Corn (bushel) | \$6.15 |
| Milo (hundredweight) | \$10.52 |
| Soybeans (bushel) | \$10.86 |

Oakley has business reception

S&T Communications will be the host Thursday, Feb. 22, for the Oakley Chamber of Commerce's Business After 5 for February.

Concert Thursday in Mingo

The Josties will be in concert at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Mingo Bible Church. Based in Milk River, Alberta, Canada, the Jost family shares God's faithfulness through

Deaths

David Del Ponte

Memorial services for David Del Ponte, 59, Colby, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, at the College Drive Assembly of God church, with the Rev. Ron Alexander officiating.

Born, June 23, 1952, to Har-

old and Grace (Cox) Del Ponte in Atchinson, he died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at his home.

The family suggests memorials for sound equipment at the church, in care of Baalmann Mortuary, Box 391, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Graduate near top

Janelle Grace Rice of Colby earned a bachelor of science in family studies and human services from Kansas State University this fall.

She was one of 23 students who graduated summa cum laude, earning the university's top graduation

honor, by earning a 3.95 or higher cumulative academic average.

There were about 1,300 graduates – 1,100 with bachelor's degrees, 22 with master's, nearly 50 doctorates and about 15 associate degrees.

Rexford gets third

By Leea Juenemann

On Jan. 23, the Golden Plains High School Scholar's Bowl team went to Brewster where they captured their fourth third place medal.

There were three categories under which the majority of questions were answered: science, mathematics and language arts. However, the team, which consisted of Trey Schwarz, Macayla Eas-

ton, Kylie Jones, Leea Juenemann and Jacob Antholz, struggled to answer most questions. Team captain, Trey Schwarz commented, "We were all very surprised that we won third place." This was the last meet before the Regional Scholar's Bowl which was to be last Thursday in Tribune.

The team has high hopes of qualifying for State Scholar's Bowl.

Respiratory scholarship set

The Bickle Family Foundation has established a scholarship for students majoring in Respiratory Care. The \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded annually through the Hays Medical Center Foundation.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, references, leadership potential and career goals. Recipients will be required to complete one year of employment at HaysMed after becoming credentialed as a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

Stan Munsch, HaysMed's director of respiratory care, said, "This is a unique way for us to assist a student earning a respiratory therapy degree and also help the medical center in attracting skilled staff in this profession. The Bickle Family's long support of HaysMed has been generous and their commitment to respiratory therapy is deeply appreciated."

For information and an application form go to www.haysmed.com/scholarships or call the Foundation at (785) 623-2350.

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.



Oberlin dinner theater set Feb. 25

Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission's annual dinner theater will be Saturday, Feb. 25, at The Gateway.

A steak and shrimp dinner will start at 6:30. Make reservations by Tuesday, Feb. 21. Complimentary wine and/or sparkling grape juice will be available before dinner.

Following dinner, renowned New York guitarist David Burgess will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the theater. Both dinner and theater are season ticket events or \$30 for adults and \$15 for youth under age 12.

Burgess, recently returned from a seven-city European concert tour. Praised by critics for his polished technique and flamboyant style, he will perform some of Brazil's finest solo guitar music. He has performed throughout North and South America,

Europe and the Far East and has recorded a number of albums.

Formerly a student of Andres Segovia, he has won prizes in international guitar competitions in New York, Mexico City, Toronto and Munich. Over the past 10 years, he has taken numerous trips to Brazil, rediscovering guitar music from Brazil's past, and well as finding many progressive contemporary Brazilian works. The program will include music by some of the finest Brazilian guitarists.

Currently living in North Carolina, Burgess has performed in Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall and at the Lincoln Center.

For reservations and/or information call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

School passes on mascot

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – A Utah school district has decided against using "Cougars" as a mascot for a new high school in part because of the negative connotation of the word in popular culture.

Canyons School District Superintendent David S. Doty says the selection of "Chargers" as mascot was driven by the desire for origi-

nality, despite a poll of some future students that showed 26 percent in favor of using the cougar.

At least three Utah schools, including Brigham Young University, use cougar as a mascot.

Doty says public comments reflect a desire to be different, but he also notes that some see the word cougar as carrying a "negative double entendre."

David Del Ponte

David Del Ponte, 59, of Colby, died Wednesday, Feb 8, 2012 at his home. He was born June 23, 1952, to Harold and Grace (Cox) Del Ponte in Atchinson, KS. After graduation from Del Norte High School, Crescent City, CA, he attended Hendon College of the Redwoods, Eureka, CA.

David worked for Simson Timber Co. on the green chain. He later worked for Arcada Redwood Co. as a Choker setter. He helped build the bypass between Klamath and Orick, CA as a heavy equipment operator. He was an avid fisherman of steelhead & salmon on Klamath River. David loved to hunt & camp. David loved his family and spending time with his grandson Andrew.

Preceding him in death was his mother and two brothers Thomas Gerald Hamm & Ronald Eugene.

Survivors include his daughters, Carmen, Kathryn & Leslie Del Ponte, California; one grandson, Andrew Del Ponte, California; three brothers, James (Shirley) Price, North Carolina, Ben Ediger (Lisa), Missouri, and Lenard (Eleena) French, Washington; four Sisters, Sarah Westrick, North Carolina, Lynn (James) Russell, California, Melba (Bernard) Meyer, Colby, Sandra (Horacio) Vella, Washington and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at College Drive Assembly of God church with Rev. Ron Alexander officiating. The family suggests any memorials be given to the purchasing of new sound equipment at the church in honor of David care of Baalmann Mortuary, PO box 391, Colby, KS 67701.

Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Driven for Success

Monday, February 20th, 2012
5:30 p.m. Social • 6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Motivational Speaker
Jennifer Jo Cobb, NASCAR driver
Logan County 4-H Building • 217 Kaler, Oakley KS 67748

All are welcome!

Tickets located at: Farmers State Bank, Peoples State Bank and The bank or Contact the Chamber office for tickets! **785-672-4862**

Dinner for Two

Feb. 14th

Two 8 oz. Chuck Steak Fillets
Two Shrimp Skewers
Two Potatoes & Rolls
Two Cheesecakes

Two Dinners for \$32.⁰⁰



785.460.7888
735 E. College Dr.

EAT HEARTY.....
STEAK AND SHRIMP FRY
Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
Your choice of Potato and Salad

COLBY VFW

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME!



Meadow Lake Restaurant & Lounge

Sweetheart Week Specials

Monday, Feb. 13th
\$1 Draws, \$5 Hamburgers & Cheeseburgers
Tuesday, Feb. 14th
8 oz. Filet & Shrimp Skewers \$22
Wednesday, Feb 15th
Prime Rib Sandwich \$7.95
Thursday, Feb. 16th
Grilled Chicken Breast Dinner \$9.95
Friday, Feb. 17th
12 oz. Ribeye \$14.95
• **Plus regular menu** •
Kitchen Open 5 - 9 Nightly



785-460-6443
1085 E Golf Club Rd.
Colby, KS