

# You mean I get it free?



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Kansas Farm Bureau members in Colby celebrated Food Checkout Day Thursday by passing out 100 free loaves of bread at Dillons. Food Checkout Day and Food Checkout Week celebrate the abundance and safety of food in our country as well as affordable food prices. Generally, Americans have earned enough to pay for their yearly food supply by early February. More than 24 million American workers produce, process, sell and trade the nation's food and fiber, according to the Farm Bureau.



# Franklin places in state corn yield contest

Nathan Franklin of Atwood won second place in the No-Till/Strip Till irrigated division of the 2011 National Corn Growers Association Corn Yield Contest in Kansas. Franklin won with Pioneer brand hybrid 33D49, which yielded 288 bushels per acre. He

earned one of the 411 state titles in this year's contest, and according to the firm, growers planting Pioneer hybrids won 66 percent of all state awards. The annual competition among corn farmers rewards those producing the highest yields.

Growers compete within production classes, including non-irrigated, no-till/strip-till non-irrigated, no-till/strip-till irrigated, ridge-till non-irrigated, ridge-till irrigated and irrigated.

# Immunization info on web

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has updated the School and Child Care Immunization Information for the 2012-13 school year at [www.kdheks.gov/immunize/schoolInfo.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/schoolInfo.htm). The information provided on the website is based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations and the consensus of the Governor's Child Health Advisory Committee Immunization Work Group.

Changes for the 2012-13 school year are minimal. Each required vaccination increased by one grade level. Vaccination requirements such as Hepatitis B have been phased in over the past years. The 2012-13 school year will be the first year

that all students will be required to have a complete three-dose Hepatitis B vaccination series.

"Vaccines are vital to keeping Kansas students healthy so they can have an optimal learning experience," said Robert Moser, M.D., state health officer. "Efforts by child care providers and schools have been central to the success of public health efforts in eliminating vaccine preventable diseases."

For information about the immunization program, go to [www.kdheks.gov/immunize/](http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/).

# Colby Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 31 members and guest Peggy Cabrina.

President Connie Renner, Nancy LePell and Jeff Horlacher presented Marla Crumine with the Paul Harris Fellow Award and Brian Staats with the multi-level Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Cabrina, assistant district governor, gave the program on the "Every Rotarian Every Year" campaign. This campaign raises funds for the Rotary Foundation, which advances world understanding,

goodwill and peace through health, education and fighting poverty.

Examples of grants funded by the foundation are ambassadorial scholarships, district simplified grants – which Colby Rotary has received several times – group study exchanges, health, hunger and humanity grants, world peace

fellowships and volunteer service grants.

Cabrina reviewed the goals of Rotary International to fight hunger, reduce child mortality, promote peace and conflict resolution, provide basic education and literacy and eradicate polio. She noted that since 1985, polio has

been eradicated from all but three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Marilyn Unger won Roto-Lotto.

Colby Rotary meets Tuesdays at the college student union in room 106.

— Relda Galli

# 'Lettuce' get started on transplants now



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

Comes time now to gather up all the supplies that a dedicated gardener needs to prepare himself (or herself) for one of the most satisfying projects of the entire gardening season. It's a project that we must perform inside, several weeks before we dare venture into the great out of doors.

It's almost time to press a few of your favorite variety of seeds into a shallow tray of soilless planting mix, with the confident intention of growing a few of your own transplants. These will be the plants that you set out into the garden at the proper outdoor planting time.

There are several reasons why you should get yourself involved in this procedure that will give you great satisfaction as you become a little more deeply involved in the gardening process.

Are you ready? Here we go! Growing a few of your own transplants allows you to raise that special variety of tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, broccoli, petunia, salvia or any other bit of special plant life that might not be available elsewhere. Growing your own also gives you the opportunity to "jump start" a new garden season by allowing you to work with seeds and plants as much as a month and a half before you dare plant anything outside.

So, when do you actually begin this procedure? I thought you would never ask. In the case of tomatoes, as an example, we simply get out the calendar. We know we can't plant tomato transplants outside until all danger of frost has passed. Nobody knows when that is, but the average last frost date in our area is between May 5 and May 10. So don't plan to transplant tomatoes outside until after May 10 unless you have a sure-

fire way to protect them.

It takes about six weeks to grow a nice-sized tomato plant inside, so you count back six weeks from May 10 on your trusty calendar and hopefully you see that the magic date is March 29. Wait a minute. March 29 is a Thursday. Nobody wants to do this on a Thursday, so wait until Saturday or Sunday. Timing isn't that critical in this case, so you might even decide to do it the week before, like on the 24th of March.

Follow the same schedule for pepper transplants. For cabbage and broccoli, start the seeds a week earlier if you wish. Those two can stand a light frost and can go outside earlier. Petunias and most perennials are much slower germinating, so I will plant those tomorrow.

Here's what you need to start your own transplants. Obviously, you need the seed of your choice. Pick up a small bag of starting mix at the garden center. Be sure it's starting mix and not potting soil. Do not use regular garden soil or your project will surely fail. Get a plastic tray, also at the garden center, to hold your starting mix, or use any type of plastic pan you have lying around the house or garage.

Wet the starting mix in the tray thoroughly. With the sharp end of your pencil, punch holes in the mix about a quarter of an inch deep. Drop a seed into each hole and cover with your fingers.

Place the seed tray on a plate or in a pan and set the pan in a warm room. Watch very closely for the emergence of the young plants and then put them into bright light, but not direct sunlight. Keep water in the plate or pan holding the seed tray so that the seeds and young plants can receive moisture from below. Inquire, if you wish, about some grow lights for your project. Good light, all day, after emergence, is the secret to success.

Good luck! If you have questions, e-mail me at [vkmelia@yahoo.com](mailto:vkmelia@yahoo.com).

# Bulldog adopts pigs

By David Rising

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Forget the three little pigs hiding from the big bad wolf. These six little pigs have found a new friend in a maternal French bulldog named Baby.

The Lehnitz animal sanctuary outside Berlin said Baby took straight to the wild boar piglets when they were brought in, three days old and shivering from cold.

Sanctuary worker Norbert Damm said Wednesday that, as soon as the furry striped piglets were brought in, Baby ran over and started snuggling them and keeping them warm, even though they're almost her size.

The 8-year-old bulldog has

stayed right by their side since then, making sure they're OK, Damm said.

"She thinks they're her own babies," Damm said.

It isn't the first time Baby's taken to new guests at the sanctuary — she's also raised raccoons, cats and many other animals, Damm said.

"She's an uber-mother," he said.

The piglets' own mother was likely killed by a hunter and the litter of three males and three females was found abandoned in a forest.

At the time they were found they weighed in at under a kilogram (two pounds) each.

# 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)	\$6.36
Corn (bushel)	\$6.24
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.68
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.36

We want your local news: e-mail to [colby.editor@nwkanas.com](mailto:colby.editor@nwkanas.com)

**Quilt Cabin**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**SALE-A-BRATION**

March 1 - 3 • 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
March 5 - 10 • 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Deepest Discounts in 10 years!!**



1525 S. Range  
785-462-3375

# Quotes For Kids

Entire Month of March

Get your insurance quote for home, auto, business or farm and get a donation to the area school of your choice.



# Donations

\$20\* - Home & Auto  
\$50\* - Business  
\$100\* - Farm  
\*conditions must be met

**F&M Insurance Store**  
990 S. Range, Suite 2-B, Colby  
785-462-3628  
1-800-279-4806

**Prairie Land Insurance**  
A Division of Strutt Insurance Services, Inc.  
318 Main, Brewster  
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