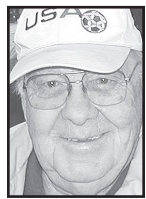


# Careful not to jump the gun, or your potatoes may freeze yet

No, I have not yet planted my potatoes.

There. I have again answered what seems to be the gardening question of the day at my house or as I am downtown shopping or as I am just walking down the street. And when I inform people that I have not yet planted my potatoes, a rather quizzical look comes over their face, followed by a smile, and occasionally an outright belly laugh as if I am being less than honest about my actual gardening activities.

I will plant my potatoes early next week, barring a snowstorm or some other freak of nature. Seldom have I ever planted them before the 15th of April, and despite the fact that this has been one of the warmest early springs of all time, I have not been lulled into doing a lot of things differently in the garden than I normally would do.



**Kay Melia**  
• The Gardener

Why? Why would I not take advantage of the warmest March on record, and quickly drop all kinds of seeds in the ground and get a good early start on harvesting fresh vegetables? Because I am constantly aware that the last average frost date in my backyard is May 6.

And despite the magnificently warm temperatures, and the resulting warm soil temperatures, it is quite probable that my backyard will play witness to a frost or light freeze before the real growing season arrives.

I planted potatoes last year on April 16. After more than two weeks of lounging around under-

ground, they began emerging on April 30, and after they were all above ground, there came an early morning 33-degree reading, and the plants turned black.

In another 10 days, they began growing again and proceeded to present me with a good crop in late summer.

But according to my records, if I had planted those spuds in mid-March, they would have suffered three frosts or freezes before the true growing season, and chances are, yield would have suffered accordingly.

That's just the way Mother Nature works. We plant too early and we pay the price. We begin to feel the warm breezes gently wafting across the neighborhood and we grab a packet of seeds and our rototiller and get to work. We get over-anxious.

After all, we have an average of over 150 frost-free days around

here, so we can be pretty sure the crop will mature before next fall's first frost, even if we wait until June to plant some of our seeds.

But yes, some vegetables must be planted early, else they will be harmed by the heat before maturity. My peas, spinach, lettuce and radishes were planted on March 24, and even with a frost after they emerge, they can withstand it and thrive and produce a crop before it gets hot.

But potatoes? With too many "burn-backs" early in the season, production will likely be seriously reduced.

It will be after the first of May before I plant the warm season crops like cucumbers, beans, sweet corn, okra or squash, as well as tomato and pepper transplants.

Will there be a frost or freeze yet this spring? I don't know, but history tells us that it will probably happen. We'll see.

## Conservation land has new burning rules

Requirements for prescribed burning of Conservation Reserve Program land have changed since last year, said Walt Fick, K-State Research and Extension rangeland management specialist.

"The USDA's Farm Service Agency has removed prescribed burning as a required CRP maintenance practice in some contracts," he said. "Prescribed burning is still a recommended practice and may be the most economical maintenance practice."

Program participants should work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service to plan appropriate maintenance practices such as mowing, spraying or prescribed burning, he said. Participants should check with their local office for actual requirements.

Maintenance practices are different than management practices, Fick explained.

"All CRP participants are required to perform a management practice that can include prescribed burning, interseeding or light disking," he said. "Management practices are eligible for cost-share."

The time to burn Conservation Reserve ground varies across Kansas depending on region and soil type, he noted.

"In the eastern half of the state, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 15 and July 16 to Aug. 31," Fick said. "These dates occur outside of the prime bird nesting season in Kansas."

"In western Kansas, prescribed burning is allowed from Feb. 1 to April 30 and July 16 to Aug.

31. Certain sandy soils are to be burned during the month of April. Lack of cover resulting from early burning on sandy soils may lead to significant soil erosion and/or water loss."

Burning program land early or during the summer is a good way to spread out the burning season and help prevent the concentration of smoke in April, when most pasture burning occurs, he said.

A prescribed burn will help reduce the thatch layer that can build up, promote grass tillering and reduce the potential for the fire to get away, Fick said.

"Burning can also help control cedars and woody seedlings such as cottonwood or Russian olive," he added. "Once established, older trees will generally re-sprout after a fire."

Producers who burn Conservation Reserve ground should follow the same general safety guidelines and go through the same permit procedures as burns on rangeland, the K-State agronomist said. For detailed information, see K-State Research and Extension publication L664, "Prescribed Burning: Planning and Conducting," at local county and district Extension offices, or at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/L664.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/L664.pdf).

Other resources include publication L565, "Prescribed Burning Safety," at local Extension offices, or at [www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/L565.pdf](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/library/crpsl2/L565.pdf), and "Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan" and other information related to conducting a prescribed burn at [www.ksfire.org](http://www.ksfire.org).

## 'Grass Roots' exhibit to open

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan is presenting "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art," an exhibit opening on Friday, April 20, and running through Sunday, May 27.

The exhibit highlights the beauty of coiled basketry and shows how the utilitarian market basket can be viewed simultaneously as a work of art, object of use and container of memory. In this exhibition, the humble but beautifully crafted coil baskets, made in Africa and the southern United States, serve as a prism through which audiences will see creativity and artistry characteristic of Africans in America from the 17th century to the present.

"Grass Roots" features more than 100 baskets and related objects including agricultural tools, small sculptures, reproduction paintings, prints and small graph-

ics, as well as photographic enlargements.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 to noon and 1 to 5 Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and holidays. There is no admission fee.

For information, call (785) 689-4846 or go to [www.hansenmuseum.org](http://www.hansenmuseum.org).

### In Memory of Betty



Please do a random act of kindness for a stranger today.

**Betty Woerpel**  
7/4/36 - 4/2/10  
We miss you!

Claude, Todd, Troy, Jeryleen, Julie, Tatum, Jessie, Eli & Greyson



## Honor 97th with cards

Lily Plummer of Colby will celebrate her 97th birthday with a card shower on Friday, April 6, 2012. Cards can be sent to her at the Prairie Senior Living Complex, 1625 S. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Her family would like to invite friends and family to join them in celebration.

Lily is the mother of Anna Dean (Ross) Rodenbeck and Larry Chambers, both of Colby. She has six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Lily Plummer

## Hoxie Medical Clinic hires family physician

Dr. Thomas R. Plumeri will join the staff of the Hoxie Medical Clinic later this month.

Dr. Plumeri and his wife Michelle will be moving to Hoxie from Phillipsburg, where they have lived the past eight years, by Monday, April 30.

A board-certified family physician, Dr. Plumeri is a graduate of the University of Health Sciences of the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, Mo.

For the past three years, he has been in private practice in Phillipsburg. He is the medical director for the Phillips County Health Department and ambulance service and the Phillips County Retirement Center. He also is medical advisor for special-needs students in the Phillipsburg School District.

Dr. Plumeri is a former chief of staff for the Phillips County Hos-

pital. He practiced at the Phillips County Medical Clinic for five years before opening his own practice in 2009.

He is a member of the Phillipsburg Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club.

"I love being a doc in a small town," said Dr. Tom, as he likes to be called. "I like being involved in the community and attend as many functions as possible."

Dr. Plumeri is an Army veteran. He will begin seeing patients on Tuesday, May 1. He joins three midlevel practitioners at the clinic: Kelly Rezac, a physician assistant, and Kaylee Watkins and Heather Mauck, nurse practitioners. The clinic contracts with Bluestem Medical group out of Quinter and Dr. Brewster Kellogg of Colby for some services.

## Hamburglar snatches sack

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A real-life Hamburglar has struck at a Maine McDonald's.

Police say a young man, seemingly inspired by the patty-purloining character once featured in McDonald's advertising campaigns, ran between a car and the takeout window at the Augusta restaurant March 25 as an employee handed a bag of food to a driver.

A witness flagged down an officer leaving a nearby convenience store. Lt. Christopher Massey, acting on a description of the hungry thief, found him in the parking lot of a rival fast-food restaurant div-

ing into a McDonald's bag.

Massey told the *Kennebec Journal* ([bit.ly/GQzgak](http://bit.ly/GQzgak)) the suspect swore and ran into the woods.

Massey says the three young men whose food was stolen said they didn't know the burger thief.

McDonald's replaced the stolen food, worth about \$20.

## 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.

## Draft horses on deck for Horseman's Day

Mark your calendar. It's time for the fifth annual High Plains Horseman's Day on Saturday, April 14, at the Logan County Fairgrounds in Oakley.

This year's sessions include: Trends in Equine Health, Equine Issues and Legislative Update, and Introduction to Draft Horses and Driving with Darin Henry of Mountain Shadow Carriages of Windsor, Colo.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Henry is the featured clinician for horseman's day. He is a Colorado native who has had a fascination with horses all his life.

He began working with horses as a child and has worked in

the hay and forage business for over 20 years, as well as driving and riding. He has handled horses, large breeds being his specialty, in both farm and ranch and commercial, competitive settings.

Henry owns a carriage company, driving and riding school, and hay and forage company specializing in the unique needs of horses, all operating under the name Mountain Shadow Ranch along the Front Range. He loves to share his knowledge of the gentle giants of the draft horse class and hopes to help others appreciate and enjoy them as well.

A free lunch will be provided. For information, contact the Thomas County Extension Office at (785) 460-4582 or go to [www.thomas.ksu.edu](http://www.thomas.ksu.edu).

## Weekend class to offer basics of photography

Colby Community College is offering a short beginning photography seminar for anyone who's interested starting Sunday, April 15.

The class will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Sundays April 15, 22, 29 and May 6 in Ferguson Hall, room 502. Cost is \$20. Enrollment fees for those 65 and older will be paid by a Thomas County Senior

Grant.

The seminar is for beginners who may have recently purchased a camera or those who want to learn more about digital photography. Art instructor Rebel Jay will be the teacher.

For information or to register, contact Penny Cline at 460-5404 or [penny.cline@colbycc.edu](mailto:penny.cline@colbycc.edu).

## Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday at Colby Community College with 25 members and guest Joe Hickert.

Patrick Toth had the program. His guest was Hickert, Thomas County emergency medical services director.

The director since January, Hickert is originally from Hill City and has experience with emergency medical service programs in Denver and in Ellis, Russell and Sherman counties.

He reviewed changes that have been made in the Thomas County program since his arrival, noting that 400 to 500 calls were anticipated for the year; there have been

100 calls to date.

Plans to increase services and generate additional revenue for the county are underway, he said, but those plans won't be put into place until personnel numbers are adequate. Volunteers are needed and he encouraged anyone interested to contact him.

Hickert said there are several emergency medical technicians and drivers in Rexford. Brewster has three technicians with additional volunteers taking training.

Paul Steele won Roto-Lotto.

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

—Relda Galli

## Shoes not optional in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Visitors to the Ohio Statehouse must now wear shoes.

The *Columbus Dispatch* reports that ([bit.ly/zSrQfJ](http://bit.ly/zSrQfJ)) a legislative panel cleared the rules Thursday. Statehouse spokesman Gregg Dodd has said the requirement was prompted by concerns about public safety.

The policy follows attempts to visit the Statehouse by a barefoot activist who says going shoeless is a healthy lifestyle.

Bob Neinst of the Columbus suburb of Pickerington says his feet hurt when he wears shoes.

so he goes barefoot nearly everywhere, even in winter.

The new rule approved by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review says all visitors must be wearing "shoes or comparable footwear."

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.48
Corn (bushel)	\$6.19
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.57
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.64

### Harlan Dayle "Dutch" Frame Jr.

Harlan Dayle "Dutch" Frame, Jr., second child of Harlan D. Frame, Sr. and Alice (Petersen) Frame, was born January 1, 1933 in Muscatine, Iowa. He passed away on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at the Burcham Hills Retirement Center in East Lansing, MI at the age of 79.



Dutch was raised in various towns in Iowa and Kansas, graduating from Wichita East High School in 1951. In 1955, he received his Bachelor's of Science degree with honors from the University of Wichita and in 1959 received his doctoral degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. Immediately following his degree, Dutch worked for ten years at Argonne National Laboratories in Lemont, Illinois. In the fall of 1969, Dutch became a professor of Chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK, a position he excelled in and cherished.

In 1960, Dutch married Margaret Allison Schoff and together had two sons, Harlan Dayle Frame, III, and Stephen Hewitt (Bear) Frame.

On May 22, 1976, he married Shirley Margaret Oard and together had a son, Fredrick Andrew (Andy) Frame.

Dutch enjoyed being with his family, traveling across the country to visit friends and family, camping and riding mountain bikes in the Rocky Mountains, driving vintage racecars and relaxing with good friends over a glass of wine or single malt scotch. He was an active member of both the American Chemical Society and the Sports Car Club of America, each for over 50 years.

Survivors include son Harlan Dayle Frame, III, and his wife Melinda of DeWitt, Michigan; son Stephen Frame of Durham, North Carolina; son Andy Frame of Beaverton, Oregon; brother William (Bill) Frame and his wife Jeanette of Cincinnati, Ohio; brother Dwight Allen (Al) Frame and his wife Sally of Kinsley, Kansas; mother-in-law Mary Oard; brother-in-law Dan Oard and his wife Teri; sister-in-law Lila Amos and her husband Bob; brother-in-law Dale Oard and his wife Vickie all of Colby Kansas; numerous nieces and nephews, other relatives and many, many good friends. He will be missed as a father, brother, teacher and good friend.

Preceding him in death were his wife Shirley Margaret Frame and his parents Harlan and Alice Frame.

The family is being served by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing, Michigan. On line condolences may be made at [www.greastlansing.com](http://www.greastlansing.com).

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WHEN: **April 4th** - Demonstration only - CCC Stockman's Day and Sale  
**April 5th** - Clinic (9am - 4pm) Lunch will be served

WHERE: **Colby Community College Farm - Colby, KS**  
3 miles East of Colby on Highway 24, 1 mile North

For More Information call Marcy Ward at 785-462-5060

Event Sponsored By  
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Days: Monday - Friday  
Phone: 785-460-2901  
(8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)  
785-443-9208  
(12:30 - 4 p.m.)

If possible call for Reservations by 11 am the previous business day. Provided to Colby, Brewster, Gem, Menlo, Rexford and a Portion of Oakley as needed.

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