

# Good, thick mulch nicest gift for garden

I'm sitting here trying to reach a decision of utmost gardening importance, and after a show of hands, I finally have an answer.

I have determined that the absolutely, without question, nicest thing you can do for your backyard vegetable garden right now is to mulch it. No other decision you make concerning the summer-long care of your garden is as important as mulching it. Nothing. Not watering, not weeding, not fertilizing — nothing.

The thing is that if you mulch your garden crops now, you will not have to water it, weed it, or fertilize it as often as you normally would. That is a proven fact. Think about it.

A substantial layer of mulch alongside your growing plants will suppress the growth of weeds, and very few will show up the rest of the summer. It will also shade the sun from completely drying out the soil and you will save untold dollars on your water bill. And finally, the heavy layer of mulch will also slowly release a few nutrients to your garden soil.

The big payoff comes next fall when you plow the mulch deeply into the soil where it will biodegrade as it provides a winter supply of food for the earthworms that will surely be attracted to your garden due to your generosity in providing it for them.

Do I have your attention yet? If I do, you may be asking questions like "All right, smart guy. Where do I find this mulch stuff, what is it made out of and how much does it cost?" Actually, most of us have it available right there in the yard, and it doesn't cost a dime.

In many cases, I may be preaching to the choir here. Many of you, particularly the veteran gardeners among you, know all about the good things that can happen when you add great gobs of biodegradable material (read mulch) to your growing garden.

If you don't mulch, it doesn't mean your garden is doomed. It's



**Kay Melia**

• **The Gardener**

just that mulching makes your job so much easier, and the garden is going to be so much more productive, this year and next.

Choosing the right mulch is a snap. The best one is that which is most available to you, and that would be dry grass clippings. Don't use them when they are freshly cut, as they will form an airless barrier at the soil surface and will tend to rot, causing an unacceptable odor. Dry them out completely before using them.

My favorite mulch, by far, is leaves. Like those that fall from trees. I store dozens of big trash bags full every fall, and use them the following summer. Most of the ones I use have been run through a lawn mower and as such are mixed with a few grass clippings which makes them even more useful. (Thanks Ron!) In the summer, as soon as soil temperatures approach 65 to 70 degrees, I force many, many handfuls of these delicious leaves alongside just about everything I have growing, and then sit back and watch the plants thrive.

Other materials that make great mulch include straw, rotted hay, dry horse, cow or chicken manure, shredded newspaper and shredded wood chips. Just about anything that is biodegradable after being plowed under next fall is fair game.

Indeed, mulch is a protective cover placed over the soil near your vegetable plants that helps retain soil moisture, reduce erosion, provide nutrients and suppress weed growth and seed germination. Mulching the garden mimics the leaf cover that is formed on forest floors. Now, today or tomorrow, is the time to apply it.

# 'Earhart' to be at fly-in

The search for Amelia Earhart can finally be called off.

The famed aviator will be talking about her thrilling flights in two performances at 9 a.m. and noon Saturday at Hays Regional Airport's Third Annual Great Planes on the Great Plains Fly-In.

Scholar/performer Ann Birney of Ride into History will take the audience back to 1937, just before Earhart's disappearance over the Pacific Ocean. Birney's performance is being sponsored by Midwest Energy, EnerSys and the Fly-In Committee.

Most people do not know that Earhart set out twice to fly around the world at the equator before she disappeared. The first time, heading west from California, she wrecked her twin-engine Lockheed Electra taking off from Hawaii. Birney, as Earhart, will take the audience to April 14, 1937. Earhart is waiting for her airplane, her silver "flying laboratory" to be repaired so that she can try again. This time, she tells the audience, she will go east instead of west, hoping to reverse her luck with the reversal in direction.

Earhart came into the public eye when she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean by air in 1928. The young social worker presumed that after the flight she would resume working with children at a Boston settlement house, but one book and innumerable speaking engagements later, she was instead planning more record-setting flights, and yet more speaking tours, books and articles. Among her other records, she became the first woman and second

person to solo across the Atlantic, the first person to solo over the Pacific, the first person to fly from Hawaii to California and the fastest woman to fly non-stop across the U.S.

Fly-In activities begin with a 7 a.m. pancake breakfast and include military aircraft and displays; rocket club display; seatbelt convincer demonstration; dunk tank; motorcycle, classic car and hot rod show and judging; remote controlled aircraft show (weather permitting); airport fire truck water demonstrations; Ident-a-Kid; a paper airplane building workshop; and more. The fly-in concludes with a hot dog lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free parking and shuttle services from the parking lot are provided.

Drawings will be held for free Great Lakes Airlines tickets and other prizes.

All events are free and open to the public. A donation is accepted for the meals. Helicopter rides over Hays are available for \$35 per person from 7 a.m. to dark.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day <b>Hi-Plains Co-op</b>	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.31
Corn (bushel)	\$5.54
Milo (hundredweight)	\$9.45
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.43

# Help couple celebrate 65 years with cards

Friday, June 1, 2012, is the 65th wedding anniversary of James L. and Wilma Jean (Burkhead) Baughn of Colby, and their children are inviting family and friends to send them cards in honor of the occasion.

They have three children, Michael Baughn of Brewster; Janice (Martin) Volk of Colorado Springs; and Karla (Chris) Stupka of Concordia. They have six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to the



**James and Wilma Baughn**

couple at 1801 Harvey Court, Colby, Kan., 67701.

# Cowboy poetry contest next weekend in Alma

The second statewide Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, June 8, at St. John's Lutheran Memorial Hall in Alma in conjunction with the Symphony in the Flint Hills.

The contest will have two divisions, serious and humorous poetry. The event is open to the public, everyone is encouraged to attend and participate.

As honorary chair of the Symphony in the Flint Hills, Gov. Sam Brownback will sign the winning certificates. The grand prize will be the Governor's Buckle, given for the Saddlejack Bradrick Kansas Cowboy Poetry Award.

A champion will be named in each division, receiving a buckle

and two tickets to the symphony, where they will receive recognition from Brownback and will recite their work in the patrons' tent.

Guidelines for contestants and judges will be set by two-time national champion cowboy poet Geff Dawson from Alma. Contestants will be evaluated on quality, theme and presentation. Poems and lyrics must be original works.

For information, go to [www.cowboypoetrycontest.com](http://www.cowboypoetrycontest.com) or contact Ron Wilson, poet lariat, at [ron@ronscowboypoetry.com](mailto:ron@ronscowboypoetry.com) or Abby Amick, Wabaunsee County Economic Development, (785) 765-4655 or [abby@wabaunsee.com](mailto:abby@wabaunsee.com).

# Authors to meet in June

The seventh district of the Kansas State Author's Club will have their spring get-together at noon on Saturday, June 16, at the City Limits in Colby.

The program will be presented by Millie Horlacher and Nancy Larsen Sanders. Horlacher will talk about the writing and publishing of her book of meditations, "Seasons of Salt." Her book was selected as part of the reading program for the United Methodist

Church's reading groups. Sanders will discuss her book, "All Stubborned Up." She is presently in the process of publishing a series of five books. Following the presentations, the floor will be opened for discussion and questions.

All writers are welcome. Make reservations by contacting Marj Brown, district president, at [marj-jimbrown@st-tel.net](mailto:marj-jimbrown@st-tel.net), 285 W. Cedar St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or at (785) 462-3515.

# Lucas to have 'Big Flush'

LUCAS (AP)—The wacky folks in Lucas have always been known for their keen sense of humor.

The town of 407 residents is home to the "Garden of Eden," which features the peculiar work of S.P. Dinsmoor. A retired schoolteacher and Civil War veteran, he sculpted 113 tons of concrete into various religious and political figures in his backyard.

In recent years, it has become known as the grassroots art capital of Kansas, in large part because it is home to the Grassroots Art Center dedicated to 20th-century Kansas grassroots folk art.

But now, Lucas can add one more notch in its quirky belt: The town has turned to bathroom humor and created a monument making Lucas home of the largest, most blingy toilet in Kansas.

The town has been working on its \$100,000 public restroom project for the past four years, and it is almost complete.

Bidding ended Friday on e-Bay for the honor of a first flush, which is scheduled for 3:21 p.m. Saturday in Lucas. As of late last week, 19 bids had been received; the highest was \$110.

The town has scheduled activi-

ties throughout the day Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m., to celebrate.

Why a toilet? Several years ago, some of the town's leaders gathered to discuss the one thing Lucas needed the most: a public restroom.

"The Garden of Eden has none and there were no accessible public restrooms on Main Street, except in the arts center," said Rosslyn Schultz, the Grassroots Art Center director. So, town residents constructed a massive building designed to look like a large toilet.

The exterior of the giant toilet bowl is sunken so people can sit outside and talk. A giant toilet paper roll sits outside as a conversation starter.

The giant toilet's 14-foot-tall mosaic lid is up.

"Our lid is always up," Schultz said. "This was done by volunteers and took thousands of hours to put together."

And every wall is decorated. A chandelier made from the bottom of wine bottles is only one of the highlights.

Donations for the project have come from across the nation. All but \$3,000 for the project has been raised.

# New books ready for summer reading

Now that school is out and summer reading sign up has begun, it officially feels like summer. A three-day weekend helped along with lovely weather so I could garden has also gotten me in the feeling of summer.

This year's summer reading is about things and ideas of the night and space: dreams, space, creatures of the night, stars, and so much more.

We have added numerous story books and easy reading junior fiction books. These new items will be available for children and youth to read when summer reading begins next week. I bet some titles will qualify for a square on the kids bingo cards.

The first book is going to be found in the junior nonfiction section of the library: "The Night the Moon Fell: A Maya Myth," retold by Pat Mora and illustrated by Domi. This book is colorful and the art work is fun. Luna rolls from the sky and falls into the sea. She finds herself lost. Others around rally to her and try to encourage Luna. Find out how the moon gets placed back in the sky.

Another great book added for you is "Sterling Biographies: Jacques Cousteau: A Life Under the Sea," by Kathleen Olmstead. This book tells of the life and adventures of Cousteau. Each page has an important photograph on the subject. This nonfiction book will be good for boys.

Two junior fiction items, graphic novels with learning for kids, are: "You Wouldn't Want to Be an Aztec Sacrifice! Gruesome Things You'd Rather Not Know" (*You Wouldn't Want To*), by Fiona MacDonald, David Salariya and David Antram, and "You Wouldn't Want to Be on Apollo 13! A Mission You'd Rather Not Go On" (*You Wouldn't Want to*) by Ian Graham, David Salariya and David Antram.

We are also adding book three of "Monsters of Men: Chaos Walking," by Patrick Ness; "You Are So Undead to Me," (*Megan Berry, Book 1*) by Stacey Jay; and "Undead Much?," (*Megan Berry, Book 2*) by Stacey Jay; "Starfields," by Carolyn Marsden; "The Camp-Out Mystery," (*The Boxcar Children, No. 27*) by Gertrude Chandler Warner; "A to Z Mysteries Super Edition No. 5: The New Year Dragon Dilemma," (*A Stepping Stone Book*) by Ron Roy and John Steven Gurney; "Camping Catastrophe! (*Ready, Freddy No. 14*) by Abby Klein; and "Ready, Freddy! Going Batt," (*No. 21*) by Abby Klein.

A story book being added, which will be found in the children's room of the library, is "You Think It's Easy Being the Tooth Fairy?" by Sheri Bell-Rehwooldt and David Slonim." This is a darling book that will allow the young reader to learn about a dynamic and daring tooth fairy. It will instruct children just how and where to place the

# Poets sought

Entries are being accepted in the 20th Annual National Senior Poets Laureate Poetry Competition for American poets age 50 and older. A laureate poet will be named for each state, and the writers of the two best poems will receive the National Senior Poet Laureate Award, \$500, and National Senior Poet Laureate Runner-up Award, \$100.

Deadline is June 30. See details on sponsor's website at [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org).



**Melany Wilks**

• **Library Links**

tooth that just came out of their mouth. Great fun.

A really cool story book of the type now called graphic novels or graphic type readers, is called "Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings," by Douglas Florian. This book explains all about the planets with lots of pictures. Boys especially will love this type of book.

A third book in the theme is "Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems," by Jane Yolen, Andrew Fusek Peters and G. Brian Karas. The pictures provided with each poem are vibrant. There are 91 pages of poems with whole pages illustrating the theme. In the back is an index of subjects for parents to explore.

A few other books we are adding are "We're All in the Same Boat," by Zachary R. Shapiro and Jack E. Davis (an ark story); "Princess Pigoria And The Pea," by Pamela Duncan Edwards and Henry Cole; "Fine As We Are," by Algy Craig Hall (a frog story); "Your Moon, My Moon: A Grandmother's Words to a Faraway Child," by Patricia MacLachlan and Bryan Collier; and many others.

Now, I have a special request. If you have been enjoying the use of e-books and tablets and are upgrading to newer versions, would you consider donating your e-readers, Kindles and first and second generation tablets to the library?

They are quite expensive and we believe there are many out in the community that wonder what to do with the devices once they have migrated to a newer version.

If they are in good working condition, we can either use the donated items for checkout or use in the library as appropriate. Thanks for considering this.

Remember we are on summer hours now: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, 8 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. Friday; 4 p.m. Saturday; and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you in the library!

## 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

### 2012 Preferred Health Systems Wichita Open

June 21-24, Wichita  
Crestview Country Club hosts the Nationwide Tour. Watch the PGA's up-and-coming stars.  
(316) 219-9046, [PHSWichitaOpen.com](http://PHSWichitaOpen.com)

### 30th Annual Great Lenexa BBQ Battle

June 22-23, Lenexa  
Kansas State Championship with 200 teams and over 200 judges. Includes children's activities and live music.  
[lenexabbq.org](http://lenexabbq.org)

### Roundup Ranch Experience

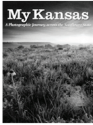
June 23, July 6-7, August 31, September 1-2 & 22, Dodge City  
Take in the most exciting ranch rodeos in Kansas, enjoy meals cooked over the campfire, and experience the real west! (620) 225-2244  
[www.dodgecityroundup.org](http://www.dodgecityroundup.org)

### Kansas Byways

Kansas has eleven byways, eight scenic, two of which are National Scenic Byways and three historic byways. In addition to being beautiful drives, the byways each have a fascinating history and an abundance of activities to enjoy. [ksbyways.org](http://ksbyways.org)

### My Kansas

You will want to own and share this photographic journey of Kansas. The 156 pages inside this hardbound book are as rich as the jacket image. Order yours at [www.TravelKS.com](http://www.TravelKS.com)



**THANK YOU** to the Thomas County Commissioners and the Landfill Employees for opening the landfill for several hours on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning after the wind storm. After all the damage that was left to clean up, we're sure that we speak for many, how much we appreciated having a place to haul all the trees and debris while family and friends were available to help over the long holiday weekend. Thanks again, for giving up 7 - 8 hours of your holiday to help everyone else. It was, and is greatly appreciated!

Rod & Terri Arnberger  
Penny Fryback  
Jeff Fryback & Family

## Join us in Celebrating the Grand Opening of the Logan County Rehabilitation and Wellness Center

1st Annual "Evil Twin Fun Run & Walk"  
10K, 5K, & Mile • Saturday, June 2, 2012

CONQUER THE EVIL TWINS OF DIET AND EXERCISE!!

For more information or to register:

Call Shawna at Lg Co Healthcare Foundation 785-672-3663

Email: [exedir@lchcf.org](mailto:exedir@lchcf.org) or Online: [www.lchcf.org](http://www.lchcf.org)

Entry Fees for 10K and 5K are \$25

Entry Fees for 1 Mile are \$10

All participants will receive a t-shirt and lunch.

Packet pick-up will be Friday, June 1, 2012

from 5-7 p.m. @ Oakley Country Club

Race Day Registration/packet pick-up begins

at 7 a.m. @ Wellness Center

Prizes awarded for overall winner and age division winners.

Prize for best dressed twin participants. Twin dress is optional.

All Proceeds go to the Logan County Healthcare Foundation.

**Jim and Shirley (Poage) Malcolm**  
will be celebrating their  
**50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**  
on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a reception  
from 2 - 4 p.m. at the  
**Colby United Methodist Church**

Their children and grandchildren,  
Angie and Nori Hughes, Torianna and Teagan,  
of Colorado Springs, and Jim, Jr. and Holly  
Malcolm, Maverick and Madelynn, of Denver,  
invite you to attend. The couple requests no gifts.  
Cards may be sent to 1015 East 9<sup>th</sup>, Colby, KS 67701.

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