

Long spell of high temperatures means fewer tomatoes set on plants

Those of us who have been gardening for any length of time are hard pressed to remember a summer like the one we have experienced so far. Those of you who may be playing in the dirt for the first time are probably rethinking the idea of planting and nurturing a few of those wonderful fresh garden vegetables.

Not to worry. I hereby predict that the worst of this searing summer is over. Yeah, right – what do I know. But surely we’ve seen the most severe heat that Mother Nature can provide in late June. My garden, along with most of yours, has experienced 100 degrees or more on 12 of the last 13 days, as of Friday, and counting. That little statistic alone makes you want to head for the mountains – except a lot of the mountains are on fire, which makes our garden problems pale by comparison.

Last week in this space I men-



Kay Melia

• **The Gardener**

tioned that for the most part, my garden still looked pretty good. After almost two weeks of triple digits, it is still hanging in there. With almost constant care, several of the goodies are producing well. But not the tomatoes.

Tomatoes – the one garden crop we all have great expectations for through the winter months and into spring and early summer, are just kinda sitting out there in the garden thumbing their noses at us. They simply refuse to set fruit. And while tomatoes are heat-loving plants, their reproductive procedures just don’t work when the daytime temperatures rise above 90 to 95 degrees for a couple of

days. They shut it down. Sure, there are tons of blooms, but no little fruit showing up. Tomatoes are pollinated by the wind, not by bees, and the hot wind just can’t seem to get the job done.

That is a very simple explanation from a layman. Surely, a horticulturist can offer a much more educated summary of the pollination of tomatoes in the heat. Cucumbers don’t seem to be affected by the heat, and there are pickles galore. The onions have never looked better, the potatoes are large, the green beans are flourishing, and the zucchini – is doing its thing.

I was surprised this morning, while looking down inside the tomato cages, to see there were dozens of medium-sized tomatoes that had set on before the heat hit. I must remember to keep my eye on those little jewels. If we don’t get a lot of cooler weather soon,

those may be about the only bright red morsels of goodness that some of us will see this summer.

Newcomers to the gardening mystique should not be dismayed. If you’ve worked hard out there, you are almost sure to harvest a lot of nice things. For all of us who are still waiting on the tomato crop, it would appear we are going to have to wait a little longer than usual for the crop we all crave most.

Last year I picked my first tomato on July 30. It may be a little later this year.

What’s really scary is that I overheard a conversation at the supermarket check-out counter the other day that we are likely to have snow in late August this year. Sure. And it’s probably going to rain tonight.

Women in Denim conference to cover personal, family and professional topics

An alliance for conservation and the environment is holding the Third Annual Women in Denim on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at the Shepherd’s Staff Christian Conference and Retreat Center in Rexford.

Registration and \$30 is due by Friday, Aug. 17, to District Manager Debbie Potter at the Thomas County Conservation District, 915 E. Walnut, Colby, Kan., 67701. For questions, call Potter at (785) 462-7671. Potter said space is limited, so she suggests registering early.

The event, sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance, is about finding your true colors and is for women only.

Sessions include learning to identify your

personality by way of color, effectively communicating with your spouse and children while helping to manage a farm, estate planning, hearing stories behind styles of aprons and getting hands-on while learning how to make homemade salsa.

“By learning more about your personality and the personalities of others, it will help give you insight into the differences of others,” said Potter.

The True Colors session will be given by Libby Curry, Extension Specialist at Kansas State University, a trained facilitator.

Stacey Seibel, a Hays attorney, comes from a long line of farmers and ranchers. She plans to share the importance of estate planning and

the impact proper planning can have as assets are being passed from one generation to the next. She will share her mission to help others preserve their hard-earned assets, said Potter.

Potter said to bring your apron and share your own favorite memory of a time you helped your mother bake bread or the time you shared that secret family recipe with your daughter or granddaughter. The apron will come in handy when making salsa, too.

The alliance is a group of conservation district managers from Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties who work together to provide educational programs.

Residents in bid to stop Olympic missiles on roof

By **Jill Lawless**

Associated Press

LONDON – Residents of a London apartment tower went to court today in a bid to stop their rooftop from being used as a missile base during the Olympic Games, saying the deployment in a densely-populated area could make the building a terrorist target.

The British military plans to deploy surface-to-air missiles at six sites around London as part of a vast security operation for the July 27 to Aug. 12 games. But residents of the 17-story Fred Wigg Tower in Leytonstone, east London, say they were not consulted about the move.

Judge Charles Haddon-Cave said he would rule Tuesday on whether residents can seek a judicial review of the plans to put the missiles on their roof.

The residents’ lawyer, Marc Willers, told the High Court that

his clients had “a fully justified fear that installation or deployment of the missile system on the roof of the Fred Wigg Tower gives rise to the additional risk that the tower itself may become the focus of a terrorist attack.”

They claim the missiles breach their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects an individual’s “right to private life and peaceful enjoyment of their home.”

Missiles also will be stationed at another apartment building, at a reservoir and farmland in east London and along hillsides in south London.

Defense Secretary Philip Hammond has said the missiles – capable of shooting down a hijacked aircraft menacing the Olympic Park – are a prudent part of security precautions intended to provide “both reassurance and a powerful deterrent.”

Hammond says objections to

the security plans, which also include 7,500 soldiers, RAF fighter jets on standby at nearby air bases and a helicopter carrier on the River Thames, are confined to “a small number of activists.”

Intelligence officials say there has been an expected increase in chatter among extremist groups ahead of the Olympics, but there are no specific or credible threats to the games. Britain’s terror threat level remains at substantial, the middle point on a five-point scale, meaning an attack is a strong possibility.

Over the past week, 14 people have been arrested on suspicion of terrorism activity. Police insist none of the cases are linked to plots against the Summer Games.

Home Secretary Theresa May on Monday insisted that London would enjoy a “safe and secure” Olympics, amid questions from opposition legislators about concerns that a private security firm

African dinosaurs on exhibit through July

Don’t miss the opportunity to experience Africa’s prehistoric rapacious reptiles. Sternberg Museum of Natural History’s “Giants of African Dinosaurs” exhibit features 70-foot-long herbivores, carnivores with foot-long thumb claws and flying creatures with 16-foot wingspans.

These fossils were discovered

by “world renowned paleontologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence” Dr. Paul Sereno. The exhibit provides visions of the ancient inhabitants of the Sahara when water was a common resource in the area.

“We have five full mounts of dinosaurs. Some of them are really huge, too,” said Greg Walters,

exhibits director at the museum. “Visitors are going to see dinosaurs that they haven’t seen anywhere else.”

The exhibit will be open to the public until Sunday, Aug. 5. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, \$6 for senior citizens and \$4 for Fort Hays State University students.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners Tuesday/July 3 were first, Cookie Koenig; second, Elaine Ptacek; third, Margaret Deneller; fourth, Larry Barrett; fifth, Jean Snyder; and sixth, Lyle Worthy. It was a three-table game.

The group always welcomes new players. The game begins at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday.

Thank You

Thank you to our family and friends for the card shower for our 65th Wedding Anniversary. It was greatly appreciated.

- **James & Jean Baughn**



Post office really cuts back

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) – Express service might be all you have time for at one New Hampshire post office.

The hours at the post office in Sugar Hill have recently been cut back to 30 minutes a day, down

from a few hours. The post office is open from 10:15 to 10:45 each morning.

New Hampshire’s U.S. senators have written a letter urging the Postal Service to hold a community meeting in the town.

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.

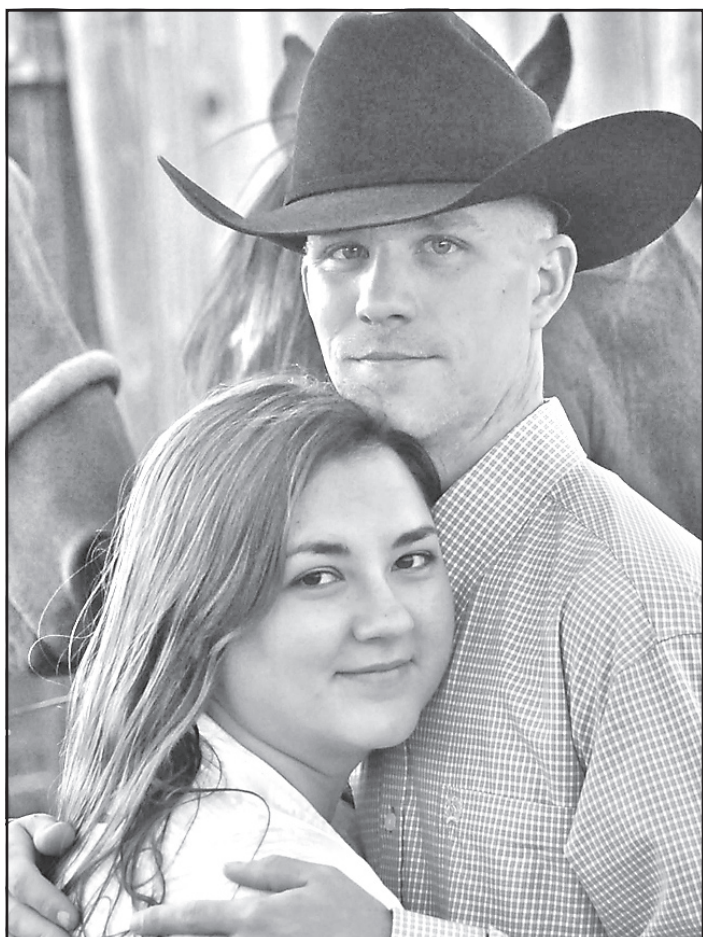
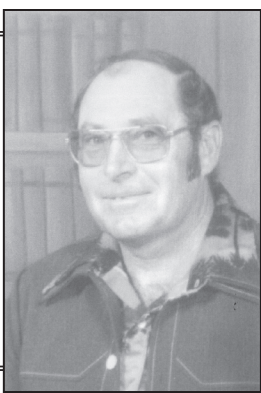
Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.41
Corn (bushel)	\$7.10
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.05
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.37

Happy Birthday

to this old-timer-rail-roader!

Love you, Pops-Grampy!
Linda & Cara
Brian, Kelli & Lucas



Jill RaNae Hidy and Garrett Scott Hurtt

Wedding planned in Culbertson, Neb.

Jill RaNae Hidy and Garrett Scott Hurtt of Wauneta, Neb., plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, at the Hitchcock County Fairgrounds in Culbertson, Neb.

The bride is the daughter of Ben and Judy Hidy of Trenton, Neb.

She is a data and instructional technology coordinator at Wau-

neta-Palisade Public Schools in Wauneta.

The groom is the son of Joady and Karen Hurtt of Colby and the grandson of Phyllis Hurtt of Colby and Nadine Kvasnicka of Oakley.

He is a corrections corporal at the Work Ethic Camp in McCook, Neb.

Contest puts on brakes

Kids ages 5 to 13 in Kansas are encouraged to enter artwork for a statewide poster contest focusing on Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day – a nationwide effort to increase roadway safety and reduce all traffic fatalities.

Three statewide winners will receive family packages from the Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure and the Courtyard by Marriott of Salina, and also \$50 gas cards from QuikTrip Corporation.

Eighteen regional winners in the six regions and age groups – ages 5 to 7, ages 8 to 10 and ages 11 to 13 – will receive a bicycle and a helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas.

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Sept. 14, and should be mailed to: AAA Kansas, Public Affairs, 3545 SW Sixth Street,

Topeka, Kan., 66606. On the back of the 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper entry must be the child’s full name; age at time of entry; mailing address; county; a parent’s name; and contact phone number.

For information, go to the Kansas Department of Transportation website, www.ksdot.org, and click on the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day logo.

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death in the U.S. for people from 3 to 34. It’s important to encourage everyone – drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists – to take extra caution every day and especially on Oct. 10, the day officially designated as Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day.

Aaron Moore of Oakley was a 2011 poster contest winner.

Friday the 13th YOUR LUCKY DAY!



Get \$13 off a 1 year subscription by paying on Friday, July 13th

(Your Subscription does not have to be due, we can add on to your current subscription)

Just stop in or call your order in with a credit or debit card between 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Friday, July 13th



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