

## Online class to be held for wedding planning

For those who want to become a professional event organizer or just plan their own wedding like a pro, Colby Community College is offering an online class on wedding planning that will teach students how to master the fundamentals of planning, orchestrating and delivering successful events.

The eight-week class, worth three credit hours, will begin Tuesday, Aug. 21. Students

will learn the art and business of wedding and event planning. Topics include creating business contracts, budget planning, vendor selection, wedding design elements, the six stages of an event experience and the responsibilities and duties of a wedding planner.

To enroll or for information, call the admissions office at (785) 460-4690.

## Energy credit scam spreads to more states

Midwest Energy is advising residents of central and western Kansas to be aware of a nationwide scam, where households are contacted and told they're eligible for an energy credit offered by President Obama, provided the resident divulges personal information.

The scam began in April targeting utility customers in South Carolina and Florida, but has spread, affecting customers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

"While we're not aware of any scams targeting any customers in Kansas, given the nationwide reach of this scam, it's prudent to make people aware this is happening," said Shana Read, director of communications for Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc.

The scam typically involves you receiving a recorded or in-person phone call, and the scammer saying you're eligible for an "Obama energy credit." Scam techniques vary, but residents are then milked for personal information, including bank account numbers and Social Security numbers. Once your information is passed, you're given a bogus routing number to provide to your utility to pay your bills, which your utility company rejects.

While most people would never pass personal information to strangers over the phone, the scammers win confidence by naming your utility company, information which is easily obtainable. Another version of the scam has the caller posing as a representative of your utility, threatening to shut off your electricity unless you provide your banking information.

"We would never call a customer and demand bank information," said Michael Sadeghi, director of customer service at Midwest Energy. "If anyone calls you or shows up at your door and claims to represent Midwest Energy and you have doubts, we encourage you to call us at (800) 222-3121 to verify that person's identity."

## Thrill rides can be exciting, but follow 'safety first' rules

Whether it's flying through the air or spinning in circles – there's something about a summer day at an amusement park that draws people of all ages. Safe Kids Kansas believes that staying safe and having fun can and should go hand in hand.

"Parents need to use their own judgment. Posted age and height requirements are minimal guidelines," says Cherie Sage, state director of Safe Kids. "Following the rules is also important. If a ride operator tells you to keep your hands and feet inside the car, hold the handrail or remain seated, there's a good reason for doing that, it helps make the ride safer."

Every year, an estimated 8,000 children suffer injuries from amusement park or carnival-type rides that require treatment in an emergency room in the U.S.

In Kansas, amusement parks are regulated by Department of Labor subject to state law. The amusement ride owner or operator is required to carry liability insurance, but there is otherwise no state government safety oversight. Parents and caregivers need to decide whether their children are capable of sitting properly on a ride and following the operator's instructions.

Parents can follow these tips to help keep amusement park and carnival rides safer for children of all ages:

- Role-model proper safety behavior. Children are more likely to follow safety rules when they see their parents doing so.
- Supervise your child getting on and off a ride. Make sure the child understands all announcements and posted rules. Don't allow older children to supervise younger children on rides.
- Always use the safety belts, lap bars, chains, handrails and other safety features provided.
- Be careful when getting off a moving ride. Wait until the ride comes to a complete stop. Also, if a ride stops due to a mechanical problem or safety concern, stay seated and wait for instructions.
- Don't let children ride if they're too tired or scared to comply with safety procedures. Don't pressure kids to go on a ride they're afraid of, as they're more likely to sit incorrectly or even try to get off.
- Note the limitations of safety devices. Lap bars and chains are not physical restraints – their main function is to remind the occupant to stay seated. If a small child sits next to a large adult, a lap bar might not offer the child much protection.
- Trust your instincts. If a ride looks like it is poorly maintained or an operator seems to be inattentive or unfit, don't let your children ride.

Visit us at [www.safekidskansas.org](http://www.safekidskansas.org) and on Facebook.

## Good cantaloupe not easy to cultivate

One of the crowning achievements of any High Plains gardener is the successful growing of a good cantaloupe.

There's just something about the aroma and flavor of a good ripe homegrown cantaloupe that assures a gardener that it has been a successful season. Realistically, the nurturing of a good crop of cantaloupe is not the easiest garden project, but is perhaps the most satisfying to one who has successfully completed the project.

You may call them cantaloupes, or you may refer to them as muskmelons. Both names are considered acceptable by those who work closely with them. Actually, "muskmelon" is the botanically correct reference. The name refers of course to the musky aroma and taste of the melon. The moniker of cantaloupe comes from the castle of Cantalupo, Italy, where they were first grown successfully several hundred years ago.

Of one thing we can be sure; both names describe the wonderful sweet, musky, earthy, floral, spicy, or berryish taste that is truly ambrosial, or the food of the gods.

Several good gardeners tell me they just don't grow cantaloupe, and usually offer a couple of reasons for not doing so.

Reason number one is that they just don't have room in the backyard for all those vines. Unlike newer developments in cucumbers, I don't believe I've ever seen bush-type cantaloupe.

Reason number two seems to be that many gardeners have difficulty getting good germination. Indeed, germination of melon seed can present a problem, and is usually caused by one of two things – either planting too early in soils that are too cool, or covering the seeds too deeply and literally smothering them.

Some of us have learned the hard way that planting cantaloupe before the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees just isn't a good idea. A reading of 65 degrees is even smarter, which means that cantaloupes should be one of the last crops you plant in the spring. Not only does the seed need a warm birthplace, but the plants must have warm daytime temperatures to grow to maturity.

Even harvesting a melon can be

### Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners Tuesday were Sarah Barrett, first; Bob Renner, second; Mary Molstad, third; Dave Ulmer, fourth; Margaret Denneler, fifth; and Cookie Koenig and Elaine Ptacek, tied for sixth and seventh.

### 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)		\$8.39
Corn (bushel)		\$8.07
Milo (hundredweight)		\$13.59
Soybeans (bushel)		\$15.79



Kay Melia

### The Gardener

a little tricky. One indication of ripeness is the absolutely wonderful aroma it gives off. An even better test is called the "slip" method. When you believe the melon is ready for plucking, pick it up carefully and give it a slight tug. If it's ready, it will detach from the vine easily. If it doesn't, try it again tomorrow.

Just because the color of the melon indicates it is ready to harvest, be advised that different melon varieties show different color at maturity and some ripe melons still may have a streak or two of green color. Also be advised that when you pick a cantaloupe that is not yet ripe, it will not ripen while lying there on the kitchen cabinet, like tomatoes do. You get what you pick.

Years ago, I heard the story from a gardener that when cantaloupe are ripe and the aroma begins to drift over the neighborhood, the possibility of theft is extremely high. A famous plant breeder verified that assessment, but was sympathetic. "Finger blight," he said. "Very serious. No known cure!"

## Cards to honor 90th

The family of Verna Wiens is having a card shower to celebrate her 90th birthday, which is Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012.

She has two daughters, Berna and Larry Towns and Georgetta and Robert Schoenfeld, all of Colby, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



Verna Wiens

## Logan exhibit on health

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum will offer an interactive exhibit, "Eat Well, Play Well," from Friday, Aug. 31, through Sunday, Dec. 2.

The exhibit encourages healthy choices by helping kids and adults discover there are many fun and interesting ways to stay active. Visitors will discover what an appropriate serving size looks like, see what it takes to burn calories, test their flexibility and balance, review the latest clinical research and learn they can reduce their risk of disease with healthy choices.

At the "Sizing Up Servings" area, visitors are challenged to match recommended serving sizes

to everyday objects. "Eat a Rainbow" teaches that it's important to eat from each color group.

At "Be Flexible," visitors can take the classic sit-and-reach test to determine their flexibility and compare it to average scores. Information and examples show how to develop better flexibility and why.

"Balancing Act" lets visitors step onto a circular balance board and time how long they can stay balanced. In "Calories In, Calories Out," visitors pedal a hand cycle and choose from different foods. The visitor learns it takes a lot of exercise to burn off the calories from junk food.

### Public Notice

#### NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of  
**City of Brewster**  
will meet on August 14, 2012 at 7:15 P.M. at Brewster City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at Brewster City Hall and will be available at this hearing.

#### BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2013 Expenditures and Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2013 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget for 2013		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate *
General	133,777	27.311	171,750	29.638	212,750	54,377	24.800
Debt Service	22,890	9.231	22,290	7.925	27,690	25,145	11.468
Employee Benefits	28,201	7.720	33,600	10.160	35,625	19,796	9.028
Special Fire	7,014		5,025		42,775	3,186	1.453
West Hale Township		1.771		1.775			1.775
Special Highway	7,415		10,004		13,231		
Water	22,504		53,000		98,270		
Sewer	9,173		9,350		11,699		
Trash	20,515		33,800		40,714		
Totals	251,489	46.033	338,819	49.498	482,754	102,504	48.524
Less: Transfers	0		4,000		4,000		
Net Expenditure	251,489		334,819		478,754		
Total Tax Levied	98,105		107,112		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	2,216,487		2,244,487		2,192,636		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2010		2011		2012		
G.O. Bonds	195,000		185,000		170,000		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	195,000		185,000		170,000		
*Tax rates are expressed in mills							
/s/ Daryl Ann Jorgensen City Official Title: City Clerk							

(Published in the Colby Free Press on Monday, July 30, 2012)

## Dr. John Dygert Joins Family Center for Health Care

"Good health is an important part of having a great life. I love helping people achieve good health so they can move on and enjoy life to the fullest. I also really emphasize the importance of proper end-of-life care. I try to keep things laid back and fun. I view medical care as a partnership between me and my patients, where it works best when both of us are working towards the same goal. I'm excited to join a great group of excellent physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinic and office staff."

Schedule an appointment with  
**Dr. Dygert.**  
"Our Family Taking Care of Your Family"  
310 E. College Drive, Colby, KS  
**(785) 462-6184 or 1-800-453-6751**



- Family Practice
- Adult Medicine
- Diabetic Care
- Disease Management
- Preventative Medicine
- Obstetrics and C-sections
- Pediatrics
- Sports Medicine



Dr. Bruce Kellogg



Dr. Darren Matchell



Dr. Steven Bear



Brian Unruh, PA-C



Andy Rose, PA-C



Luetta Flanagan, ARNP



Jenny Niblock, ARNP



Tricia Carney, ARNP



Tina Jallow, ARNP

## Hepatitis-C Carrier at Hays Medical Center May Have Infected You

You may be at risk if you had a heart catheterization at Hays Medical Center from May 24, 2010 to Sept. 22, 2010, when a lab tech infected with Hepatitis-C worked in the catheterization lab.

Hepatitis-C is a blood-borne virus that damages the liver and can lead to death.

STAN BASGALL, a Hays attorney, along with HUTTON & HUTTON, a premiere medical malpractice, class action, and multi-district litigation law firm in Wichita, urge you to call to protect your rights.

You may not suffer yet from Fatigue, Weakness, Weight Loss, Loss of Appetite, Muscle Aches, or Yellowing of the Skin.

### But You Should Call To Protect Your Rights

**888.882.1166**  
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8100 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. N., Bldg. 1200  
Wichita, KS 67226

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