



Byron and Linda Sowers in 1973 and in 2013.

Friends invited to send cards to couple celebrating 40 years

Byron Duane and Linda Marie (Thon) Sowers of Colby will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary Sunday, May 19, 2013. They were married May 19, 1973, at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Scott City.

The couple's seven children and 18 grandchildren would like help showering them with cards and flowers for their anniversary. Their address is 2925 County Road L, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Byron was born in Colby and grew up on a farm in Thomas County. He graduated from Colby

High School. Linda was born in California. She grew up on a farm in Scott County and graduated from Dighton High School. Their 40 years together have been spent farming, ranching, custom harvesting and raising their family. Byron currently serves as a Thomas County commissioner.

The family appreciates the thoughts and prayers of the community over the past year during Byron's medical-related absences and wishes to extend their thanks for good friends, family and co-workers.

Ag research centers name Colby man 'phenomenal'

For a second time, Marvin Farmer of Colby has been named the Classified Employee of the Year for western Kansas agricultural research centers, including facilities in Hays, Garden City, Tribune and Colby.



M. Farmer

Spencer Casey, operations manager of the Kansas State University Research and Extension centers, describes Farmer as a "phenomenal employee."

Farmer, a plant science technician on the Colby research center's farm crew, began working for K-State on April 18, 1985. While his duties include general maintenance at the center, Casey said, Farmer recently helped him install a wireless network.

Farmer's daughter, Chandra, describes her dad as "the strongest man I've ever known."

"He worked two jobs most of the time," she said, "made it to almost every event my brother or I were involved in, ran a household by himself, took care of his parents, supported his family members in their endeavors, supported my brother and I through failures and triumphs, helped me raise my daughter (and) is our best friend." "I wouldn't be surprised if he gets nominations every year," said Casey. "He is hard-working and dedicated. He could win it every year; he's just that type of guy."

Gifts help pet shelter

In celebration of National Pet Week this week, Swartz Veterinary Hospital is accepting donations of pet food and supplies for Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter in Goodland.

This is the first year the hospital is accepting donations for the shelter, though April Swartz operates a lemonade stand for donations to the shelter in the summers.

The hospital takes care of animals from this shelter, which is a no-kill shelter that serves the entire northwest Kansas area.

Donations of non-prescription foods and other supplies will be accepted until Friday, May 10. Contact the hospital at 460-1078 or take donations to 1775 W. Fourth St. in Colby.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.23
Corn (bushel)	\$6.60
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.16
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.32

Plant and prune trees for success

The master gardeners have had three successful learning sessions.

Thursday Jim Strine told us how to correctly plant a tree. Did you know we often plant trees too deep, which can impair growth or even kill the tree? The "spread" of the tree, where the trunk meets the roots, should be at ground level.

Also if you are planting a tree from a container, check to see if the roots are circling. If they are, cut through the roots, or they will keep circling and not live long.

Then we had a pruning demonstration that taught me a lot. If you missed this session and are interested, we have several K-State publications you can stop by and pick up, or go to www.ksre.ksu.edu and click on "bookstore."

Tuesday we had learning sessions on annual flowers and tomatoes. Again we have publications you can get at our office or online.

Speaking of tomatoes and gardens, it's May and gardeners are itching to get seeds and plants in the ground. Since tomatoes are a favorite, I'll focus on them.

Gardeners often try to get a jump on the season by planting tomatoes as early as possible. There are precautions that should be observed, especially this year with the abnormally cool spring.

Adequate soil temperature: Tomato roots do not do well until soil temperatures reach a fairly consistent 55 degrees F. Use a soil thermometer to check the temperature at two inches deep during the late morning to get a good average temperature for the day.

At the experiment station, the average soil temperature for May is 50 degrees to date, so the soil is still a little cool for tomatoes. Dark plastic mulch can be used to warm soil more quickly. Purple leaves are a sign of phosphorus deficiency due to cool soils.

Harden off plants: Plants moved directly from a warm, moist greenhouse to the more exposed and cooler conditions outside may undergo transplant shock, which causes plants to stop growing for a time.

Plants can be acclimated to out-



Diann Gerstner

• Knowledge for Life

side conditions by placing them outdoors in a location protected from wind and full sunlight for a few days before transplanting. Another technique is to transplant them and use a cardboard tent or wooden shingle to protect them from wind and sun for a few days. The best conditions for transplanting is an overcast, still day.

Protection from frost: Tomatoes cannot tolerate frost. On a K-State Research chart for a 95 percent chance of avoiding freezing, Colby's date is May 22. There is still a 5 percent chance of having a freeze after that date. If you go ahead and plant your tomatoes, watch the weather and cover them if frost threatens. A floating row cover or light sheets can be used for protection. Actually a row cover can be left on the plants for two to three weeks to increase the rate of growth and establishment.

Here are other tips for getting tomato plants off to a fast start.

1. Use small, stocky, dark green plants rather than tall, spindly ones. Smaller plants form roots rapidly and become established more quickly.

2. Though tomatoes can be planted slightly deeper than the cell-pack, do not bury the plant deeply or lay the stem sideways unless the plant is very leggy. Though roots will form on the stems, this requires energy better

used for growth.

3. Use a transplant solution when transplanting to make sure roots are moist and nutrients are readily available.

4. Do not mulch until the plant is growing well. Mulching too early prevents soil from warming up.

Diann Gerstner is the agent for the Thomas County Extension office.

Bernadine Maxwell

Bernadine Maxwell, 92, Holton, passed away on May 5, 2013, at The Pines in Holton, KS.

She was born on July 20, 1920, on the family farmstead in southern Jackson County, the daughter of Harry and Katie Flynn Argo. She graduated from Whiting High School in 1938.

Bernadine was a homemaker. She was a member of St. Dominic's Catholic Church and the Altar Society. She served on the Straight Creek Township Election Board for many years. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards and going to the casino.

She married Howard E. Maxwell on June 22, 1940, at Holton. They enjoyed a wonderful life together. They loved to dance and spend time with many friends. Howard died on Feb. 14, 1992. She was also preceded in death by her twin brother, Bernard Argo, two other brothers, Hap Argo and Bob Argo, and two sisters, Josephine Mann and Irene Ross.

Survivors include three sons, Gary (Linda) Maxwell, Mayetta, Larry (Mary) Maxwell, Colby, Greg (Linda) Maxwell, Whiting; a daughter, Sandra Copley (Howard Curtis), Lenexa; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Holton. Burial will be at Mt. Calvary Cemetery at Holton. A Rosary followed by a visitation will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, at Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Memorial contributions may be made to Jackson County Friends of Hospice or to Holton Community Hospital Hospice and sent in care of the funeral home, PO Box 270, Holton, KS 66436. To leave a special message, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.



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.

Retirement of Sister Loretta Podlena

Sacred Heart School Librarian
Been here since 1997

Reception after 5:30
Mass on May 11

Card Shower
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Colby, KS

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