

Getting lights working



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

City workers brought out the ladders last Monday to fix the "Walk/Don't Walk" lights in a traffic sign at Range and Fourth Street. Public Works Director Omar Weber said a truck probably side-swiped the sign several weeks ago.

Grandma's garden one for the books

When I was a kid, my Grandma Skeen grew a 5 1/2-pound beet in her garden, and before she and her kids ate it, she took it down to the local newspaper office and ask if they would like to take a picture of it.

They did. Grandma Skeen was very careful not to get in the picture.

That event would have occurred in 1939 when I was 9. I had never before seen such a large beet, but Grandma Skeen allowed as to how it had been a common occurrence in her garden over the years. "You should see my watermelons!" she added.

Grandma Skeen was Indiana born in 1869. She migrated to the Nebraska Panhandle, where she married Grandpa Skeen. To this union were born nine kids, the first four of which died in infancy. My mother was No. 8.

The family moved to southwest Kansas, where Grandpa bought a nice farm, but promptly lost it after a few years of hard times. Grandpa Skeen was a noted horse trader, trained mules and traveled all over the Midwest doing his thing. He didn't seem to cotton too much to the family life, so Grandma Skeen divorced him and proceeded to raise those five kids on her own.

Grandma Skeen was a gardener. Man, was she ever a gardener! With five kids and income only from a little nursing (she was not a nurse) and a little midwifing, she was able to make ends meet. But her income from gardening was far greater than anything she was able to make from some of those extracurricular activities.

Her garden was huge. Two or three of the kids were still at home



Kay Melia

The Gardener

to help with the heavy lifting. Grandma Skeen had a half acre of potatoes every year, a large patch of watermelon and cantaloupe, dozens of tomato vines and lots of cabbage and green beans.

Most of Grandma Skeen's produce was sold right there near the garden, where she set up a roadside stand just off U.S. 54. In addition to the sales, she canned and stored lots of stuff for family use in the winter.

In my mind, I can still see Grandma Skeen in her garden in the later years where she tended a small plot in town. She always wore a long dress, with a long apron down to her knees. And always, always Grandma Skeen wore a big sun bonnet. The front part was heavily starched and protruded far out from her face to protect her from the sun.

I knew Grandma Skeen for only a little over 20 years, but since I was old enough to notice, I never have seen anyone since who raised more vegetables and flowers. She passed away in 1956, and gardened right up to the time she died.

I credit Grandma Skeen with passing down her gardening prowess to me, through my mother, who was also a special gardener. Of course, you don't see many backyard gardeners anymore who actually make a living from what they grow. Roadside garden stands just don't seem to exist anymore. But then, neither do horse traders.

Deaths

Stephen C. Kruse

Stephen C. Kruse, 50, a Selden electrician, died Monday, May 27, 2013, at the Hays Medical Center.

He was born March 24, 1963, in Hoxie, the son of Marlin and Irene Kruse.

Preceding him in death were his parents, special friend Wanda Hanson, and two nephews, Christopher Kruse and Nicholas McGee.

Survivors include four brothers, Bernard Kruse, Hoisington; John (Cindy) Kruse, Arvada, Colo.; Mike Kruse, Selden; and Dan (Penny) Kruse, Joplin, Mo.; and six sisters, Marlene Tignor and Donna McGee, both of Olathe;

Patty (Mike) Brown, Joplin, Mo.; Mary (Gary) Deyle, Imperial, Neb.; Susanne (Steve) Johnson, New Braunfels, Texas; and Christina (Allan) Immelman, Lisle, Ill.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 22, 2013, at the Selden Community Center, with inurnment in the Selden Cemetery.

The family suggests memorials to the Community Center or to the Selden Sacred Heart Parish Hall, in care of Pauls Funeral Home, 121, N. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Condolences for the family may be left at www.paulsfh.com.

Kenneth Raymond Baalman

Kenneth Raymond Baalman, 66, Larned, died Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at the Life Care Center in Andover, of esophageal cancer.

He was born July 22, 1946, at the Thomas County Hospital in Colby, the second son of Edward G. and Eleanor (Schlageck) Baalman, who lived on a farm north of Grinnell in Sheridan County. He attended Angelus Grade School and St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays.

An excellent welder, he built a winch truck and enjoyed spending time in the shop on the farm tinkering with things. He did terracing work for area farmers, along with working on the Victor Schwarz feed lot near Menlo, and at Ace Services in Colby. He also worked on the construction of Interstate 70 between Grainfield and

Oakley. His parents preceded him in death.

Survivors include four brothers, Jerry Baalman, Mark (Gerry) Baalman and Joe Baalman, all of Grinnell; and Ron (Maria) Baalman of Colby; and a sister, Audrey (Dennis) Bosley of Topeka.

He was a member of the St. Paul Catholic Church, Angelus, where the family held a private memorial graveside service with Father Michael Elan officiating.

The family suggests memorials to the St. Paul Cemetery Fund in care of the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences may be left at www.kennedykosterfh.com.

Exhibit opens in Russell

The Deines Cultural Center in Russell opened its newest exhibit, "The Art of Z" featuring the work of Gordon and Rae Zahradnik, Wilson, with a reception Sunday, July 7.

Gordon Zahradnik, from Lyons, taught for 42 years, both at Sterling College and at the Northeast Magnet High School in Wichita. He has been an artist for over 60 years. This exhibit will feature his work in watercolor and raku pot-

tery. "Discovering art is a life long journey and the journey continues," Gordon said.

Rae Zahradnik's vivid watercolors are inspired by the juxtaposition of the natural beauty of flowers and geometric forms in architecture.

The center is at 820 N. Main Street in Russell and is open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

Precautions urged to prevent West Nile virus

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Division of Public Health reports "a substantial increase" in the number of mosquitoes within the past week, adding that these mosquitoes can potentially spread West Nile virus.

In 2012, 57 cases of West Nile virus were reported in the state, the most since the virus first made its way into Kansas in 2002. So far, there have been no cases this year, however.

In addition to tracking cases of human illnesses caused by West Nile virus, the department assesses the potential for this virus by conducting mosquito surveil-

lance, including laboratory testing.

Symptoms of West Nile virus infection range from a slight headache and low-grade fever to swelling of the brain or brain tissue and, in rare cases, death. People who have had West Nile virus before are considered immune.

The department recommends some precautions to protect against West Nile:

- When you are outdoors, use insect repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient on skin and clothing, including DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535. Follow the directions on the package.

- Many mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. Be sure to use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants at these times or consider staying indoors during these hours.

- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.

- Get rid of mosquito-breeding sites by emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets and barrels. Change the water in outdoor pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths weekly. Drill holes in tire swings so water drains out. Keep children's wading pools

empty and on their sides when they aren't being used.

For more, go to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web page www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/.

Golden Plains names honor roll

Here is the Golden Plains High School and Middle School honor roll for the spring semester. Superintendent's honor roll is for those with a 4.0 average, while the principal's honor roll is for those with at least a 3.0 average.

Superintendent's, second semester

Seniors: Angela Ritter, Morgan Walz.

Juniors: Jordan Christensen, Macayla Easton, Kylie Jones, Lea Juenemann, Kain Priess,

Hailee Spreser.

Sophomores: Rebecca Bange, Shania Finlay, Rachael Ritter.

Freshmen: Kami Miller, Kynndra Rush, Madison Walz, Cole Ziegelmeier.

Eighth Grade: Morgan Ritter

Seventh Grade: Devin Carter, Maggi Nieman

Sixth Grade: Jacob Ritter

Principal's, second semester

Seniors: Jose Bermudez, Haydyn Best, Jesus Garcia, Andrew Luna, Camron Spreser.

Juniors: Jacob Antholz, Josh Barnhart, Lena Janke, Paulita Ramirez, Shane Ryburn, Tristan Schwarz, Grant Spreser, Zach Spreser.

Sophomores: Ana Bermudez, Joseph Koerperich, Taylor Todd, Kaycie Clapp.

Freshmen: Tayler Petersen, Brianna Stoll, Kade Wessel, Koi Wessel.

Eighth Grade: Jesus Aragon, Nick Brown, Arianna Camacho, Brittany Fringer, Jessica Koerperich, Gabrielle Schiltz, Kellee Snyder, Dawson Spreser.

Seventh Grade: Clayton Bange, Jennifer Esparza, Sierra Finlay, Tayler Lobato, Charlotte McCurdy, Kaylie Schaben, Jeron Schutte.

Sixth Grade: Paris Bailey, A.J. Camacho, Amanda Cheney, Haley Miller, KayCee Miller, Noel Ritter, Nolan Ritter, Dylan Spreser.

Parking spots sell at premium

BOSTON (AP) - Parking is such a precious commodity in Boston that one woman was willing to pay \$560,000 for two off-street spaces near her home.

Lisa Blumenthal won the spots in the city's Back Bay neighborhood during an on-site auction held in a steady rain by the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS had seized the spots from a man who owed back taxes.

Blumenthal, who lives in a multimillion-dollar home near the parking spaces, tells *The Boston Globe* (b.globe.com/13Kqntl) she

didn't expect the bidding to go quite so high.

The record for a single spot in Boston is \$300,000.

The median price of a single-family home in Massachusetts is \$313,000.

MOONLIGHT GARDENS Greenhouse

End-of-the-season CLOSEOUT!
 Wed, Thurs, Fri, June 12-14
25% OFF
 Sat through Sat, June 15-22
50% OFF

Last day to be open: Saturday, June 22

Includes all flowers, veg, roses, tree & shrubs, grasses

Hours:
 Mon - Sat 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Sunday - 12 - 4 p.m.
 Tue & Thur open until 8 p.m.

Located:
 From Colby Hwy 24/25 stop light:
 3 miles North on Hwy 25, 1/2 mile West

785-462-6355

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)	\$6.86
Corn (bushel)	\$7.01
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.91
Soybeans (bushel)	\$14.66

Dear Customers:

Western State Bank was organized on June 13, 1973 in Garden City. In 1977, Frank and Jan Whitham, owners of First State Bank of Leoti, purchased a controlling interest in Western State Bank. The Whithams chose to merge both institutions into Western State Bank in 1999. The Whitham Family continues to maintain control of Western State Bank to this day.

June 17, 2013 marks our 40th year of doing business as Western State Bank. Our Ownership, Management and Staff would like to thank every customer for your loyal patronage because it has been the driver of our success over that time.

Your dedication to our bank has led to Western State Bank's growth throughout the western third of the state. Currently, we operate banking centers in Garden City, Dodge City, Scott City, Leoti, Ulysses, Goodland, Colby and St. Francis. This growth and success would have been impossible without our loyal customers as well as our strong ownership, management and staff. Thank all of you for investing in our success.

Sincerely,
 Ownership,
 Management & Staff

WESTERN STATE BANK
 "Quality Tradition You Can Trust"

FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER