

## Deaths

### Louanna (Nelson) Meadows

Louanna (Nelson) Meadows, 79, Crestview, Fla., great-aunt of Brian (Debbie) Quagliano of Colby, formerly of Page City and Oakley, died suddenly in Gainesville, Fla., on Monday, June 24, 2013.

She was born March 21, 1934, in Page City, the daughter of Oscar and Severina (Johnson) Nelson. She attended Page City Schools and graduated in 1952.

On Jan. 8, 1959, she married Eugene Meadows in Salina. She was a housewife and traveled extensively with her husband during his career in the Air Force. Upon retirement, they settled in Crest-

view.

Preceding her in death were her parents; seven brothers, Everett Leroy Nelson, Wayne Albert Nelson, Claude Clayton Nelson, Leo William Nelson, Virgil Carl Nelson, Charles Alva Nelson and Donald Lee Nelson; and 1 sister, Laverna Mae (Nelson) Schertz.

Survivors include husband, of the home; a daughter, Threasia L. Meadows, Nolansville, Tenn.; two sisters, Nelda (Nelson) Dinning, Northglenn, Colo., and Darlene (Nelson) Agan, Oberlin; and three grandchildren.

Memorial services are pending in Page City.

## Tomato growers, here're some answers

As I mentioned in an earlier column, tomatoes are the number one choice for home gardeners, both experienced and novice. With this in mind I have put together some information from Ward Upham,



**Diann Gerstner**

- Knowledge for Life

Horticulture Specialist at K-State on common tomato problems.

**Tomato cracking.** Tomatoes often have problems with cracking caused by pressure inside the fruit greater than the skin can handle. Cracks are usually on the top of the fruit and can be concentric (in circles around the stem) or radial (radiating from the stem).

We don't know everything about cracking but here is what we do know.

Tomatoes have a root system that is dense and fibrous and quite efficient in picking up water. Unfortunately, the roots can become unbalanced with the top of the plant. Early in the season few roots in relation to the top growth, may result in blossom-end rot during hot dry weather. Later efficient roots may provide too much water when we irrigate heavily after a dry spell. This quick influx of water can cause the fruit to crack.

Therefore, even, consistent watering can help with cracking. Mulching will also help – it moderates moisture levels in the soil. However, you can do everything right and still have problems with cracking in some years.

K-State has evaluated many varieties for cracking and they have found some real differences.

Some varieties crack under about any condition and others are much more resistant. The difference seems to be pliability of skin rather than thickness – the more pliable the skin the more resistance to cracking. The old variety Jet Star has been the most crack resistant of any tested, including the newer types. Unfortunately, Jet Star is an indeterminate variety that puts out rampant growth. Newer varieties with more controlled growth are often more attractive to gardeners. Mountain Spring, Mountain Pride, Mountain Fresh, Floralina and Sun Leaper are smaller-vined types with good resistance to cracking.

**Tomatoes with thick, tough skin.** Hot weather can lead to tomatoes with a thicker, tougher skin than normal. However, variety also plays a role here, with some varieties more likely to produce a thick skin than others. There isn't anything that can be done about this except to hope and pray for lower temperatures.

**Tomato sunscald.** Extreme

heat and bright sunlight can sunscald tomatoes, leaving a light yellow to white sunken spot like a blister. This most often happens to fruit exposed to sun after losing foliage to disease or tomato hornworms. Remove damaged fruit to encourage more fruit set. Sunburned tomatoes are rarely usable.

**Stinkbug damage.** Look for tomatoes with golden-yellow, pink or white spots on the fruit. Stinkbugs are shield-shaped insects that emit a foul odor when disturbed. The stinkbug injures the fruit by using its mouthparts to probe. Color is affected where probing occurs, which results in the spots. Heavy feeding causes spots to spread, so tomatoes may develop a golden color.

If you look closely, you can see the pinprick-sized puncture wounds in the middle of the spots. Hard, whitish, callous tissue develops beneath the skin at the area of wounding. By the time you notice the spots, stinkbugs are often gone, so control is impossible. Affected tomatoes are safe to eat.

**Spider mites on tomatoes.** Hot, dry weather often means spider mites on tomatoes. Look for stippling on the upper surface of the leaves as well as some fine webbing on the underside of the leaves. These tiny arthropods (not insects) are often difficult to see due to their size and habit of feeding on the underside of leaves.

If mites are suspected, hold a sheet of white paper beneath a leaf and tap the leaf. Mites will be dislodged and can be seen as tiny specks moving on the paper.

Spider mite control can be challenging. A strong jet of water can be used to remove the mites but may not be as easy as it sounds. A high-pressure directed spray is needed and most effective if it comes from below. This can be difficult to accomplish with a thumb over the end of the hose. Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps (Safer's, for example) can be helpful. Spray early in the morning when temperatures are cooler and plants have rehydrated. Re-sprays will likely be needed.

I hope you don't have to deal with any of these problems and enjoy a bountiful harvest of nutritious and delicious tomatoes!

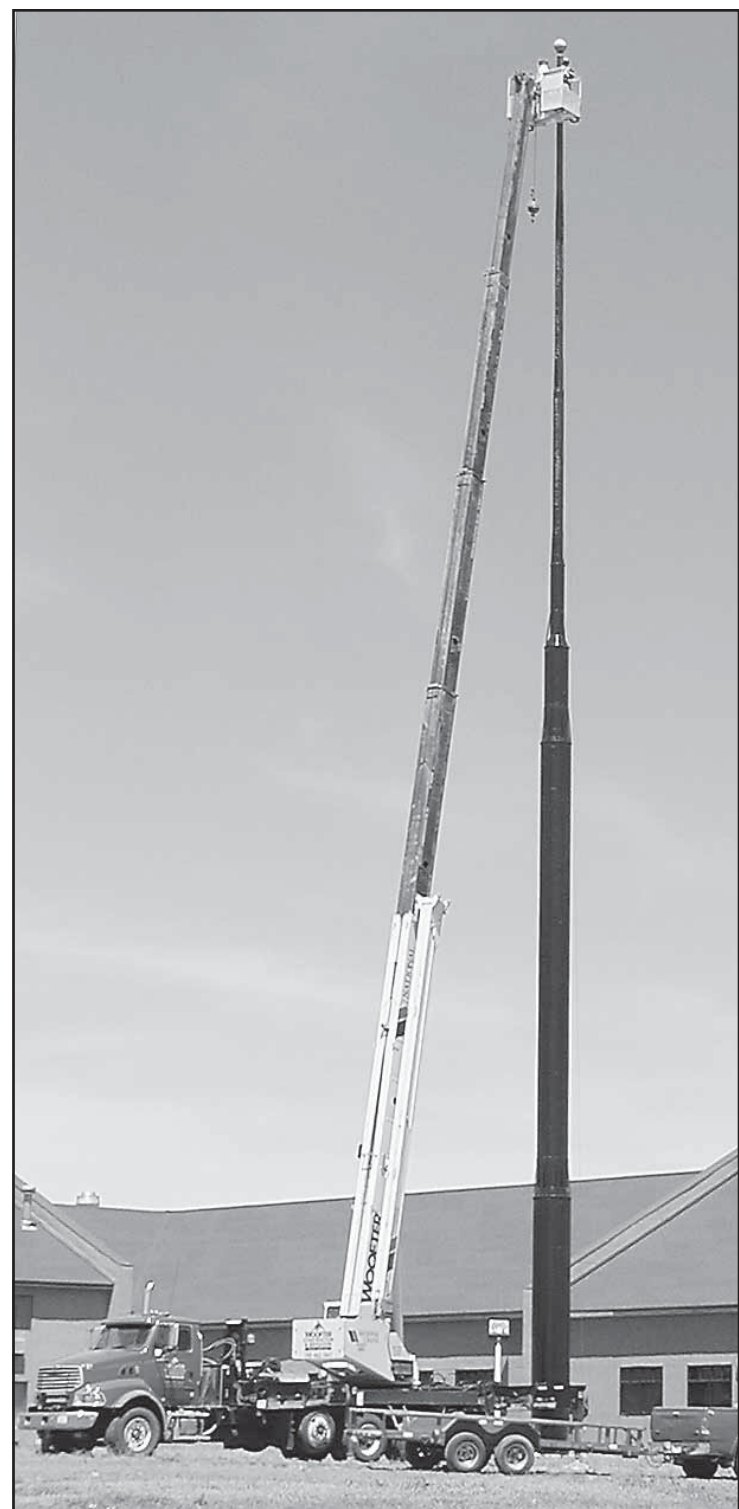
*Diann Gerstner is the family and consumer sciences agent for Thomas County Extension.*



### Up in the air

Mark Page (above left) and Devon Simon, employees of Woofter Construction and Irrigation, got a little closer to the hot sun last Wednesday afternoon as they inspected the Comfort Inn's flagpole before painting it.

HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press



## Open house Saturday to honor 90th birthday

Doris Brooks Vernon Voisin will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 6, 2013, at Fairview Estates in Colby.

She was born July 4, 1923, on a farm 27 miles northwest of Colby in Rawlins County and has lived in Colby most of her life.

She married Gail Vernon on Sept. 15, 1941. Soon after their marriage they moved to Oberlin to open their first restaurant. Two years later, they returned to Colby to operate another restaurant. They remained in the restaurant business for 31 years until Gail's death in 1972.

In 1975, Dorris married Floyd Voisin. After Doris' 1983 retirement from the position of head cook for Colby High and Middle School, the couple purchased a motor home and traveled, going to Arizona for the winters. Floyd died on August 4, 2000.

Her children are Gary Vernon, Gayle Huffman, Gayona McDonald and Gerry Vernon. She has 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Voisin was president of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary



Doris Voisin

for several years, baking cookies and making care packages for veterans in Kansas hospitals.

Voisin now spends a lot of time with her dog, Coco, and lives at Fairview Estates.

## 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)	\$6.70
Corn (bushel)	\$6.33
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.71
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.83

## Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Colby

### Colby Outreach Clinic Schedule

**Citizens Medical Center**  
100 E. College Drive - Colby

**Cardiology**  
**Dr. Christine Fisher**  
Monthly

**Oncology/Hematology**  
**Dr. January Fields**  
Twice Monthly

**Orthopedic**  
**Dr. Sukchan Lee**  
Monthly

**Orthopedic/Spine**  
**Dr. Vivek Sharma**  
Monthly

**Urology**  
**Dr. Wallace Curry**  
**Dr. Darrell Werth**  
Monthly

**NE CALL**  
1-855-HAYSMED

haysmed.com

**Brian Friesen**  
is in the hospital  
in Denver, Colorado

He and his family  
would appreciate  
well wishes and cards  
sent to:

Patient Brian Friesen  
Sky Ridge Medical Center  
10101 Ridge Gate Parkway  
Lone Tree, CO 80124

Celebrate  
America's  
Independence

**Vap Family  
Fireworks**

1655 E. 4th  
Air Conditioned  
Red Barn

**BEST VARIETY OF  
FIREWORKS,  
LOW PRICES,  
KNOWLEDGEABLE  
STAFF!**

Alex, Patti & Sharon Vap

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
HOT DOG & WATERMELON FEED**  
4-H Building • Thomas Co. Fairgrounds • 6:00 p.m.

Coin Toss Game  
Sponsored by Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Jewelry Raffle • Bingo • Music • Entertainment  
Sponsored by the Colby High Plains Lions Club & Rotary Club

**YOU**  
Can Make A Difference

**JULY  
FOURTH  
SALE**

**July 3, 4, 5, 6**  
**9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Interior Connection  
&  
Quilt Cabin**

1525 S. Range  
785-462-3375