



MacKayla and Kellen Brittingham

## Colby grad wed in spring ceremony

Kellen Brittingham of Overland Park and MacKayla Dougherty, a Colby High School graduate living in Overland Park, were married March 9, 2013, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby, with Father Dana Clark officiating. The bride's sister, Christi Schertz, was matron of honor. The groom's brother, Kyle Brittingham, was best man. Bridesmaids were Ashley Haskell, Courtney McCarty, Kelly Flowers, Kristin Wark, Molly Lickteig and Rachel Doyle. Groomsmen were Patrick Thorendahl, Tyler Passmore, Steven Fee, Dylan Briggs, Trey Kunz and John Andlicitz.

Katie Herrera and Jill Peterland were candle lighters, and Kailey Dougherty and Lauren Wichman were flower girls. They walked down the aisle with ring bearer Ryan Wichman. Bryce Dougherty, Scott Schertz and Jeff Chabot were ushers. Fred and Jess Schertz presented the gifts. A reception, dinner and dance at City Limits followed the wedding. After a honeymoon in the Dominican Republic, the couple lives in Overland Park where MacKayla teaches computers and Kellen works as a trainer for the Deluxe Corporation.

## Listening session here Aug. 1

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is holding a series of regional listening sessions with service providers to discuss the joint role of public health and primary care in improving health outcomes. The series is titled "Impacting Population Health: A Statewide Conversation." There will be a session from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 1, at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. Robert Moser, state health officer, will deliver remarks, highlight successful partnerships and initiate discussion around the opportunities for public health and primary care. "The objective of these meetings is to start or advance a conversation that helps identify barriers and opportunities for collaboration among provider groups in

our public health and primary care sectors. Already, many Kansas communities have identified innovative strategies for collaboration, and these efforts are improving the quality of life for Kansans," said Moser. "These conversations are essential in the work to improve population health." Examples of public health and primary care integration include facility-use agreements and sharing responsibility of community wellness programs. "Just as it's critical to have community-level resources to help care for our sick and injured Kansans, it's important that we bring together hospital administrators, local public health officials, mental health providers, private doctor's offices and safety net clinics to look at ways we can prevent illness and injury," said Dr. Moser.

## Pit-spitter a new champion

EAU CLAIRE, Mich. (AP) — Matt "BB Gun" Krause won his first-ever International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship on July 6, returning the crown to a family that has dominated the annual competition in southwestern Michigan for four decades. Krause was crowned the most "spit-tacular" competitor at the championship event held at Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm, just north of the Indiana border. But to be the champ, the 30-year-old Krause first had to beat out a competitive field that included fellow family members, who also were former champions. Krause's father, Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause, and older brother, Brian "Young Gun" Krause, had won 24 of the previous 39 championships. But Matt's 41 foot-six-and-a-half-inch launch was enough to

claim the crown for the Dimondale resident. Matt's win made it 25 of 40 for the Krauses since owner Herb Teichman launched the tournament in 1974 as a lark.

## 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)	\$6.94
Corn (bushel)	\$7.10
Milo (hundredweight)	\$11.52
Soybeans (bushel)	\$15.04

# Big patch of extra-big watermelons now planted mostly in memories

Most gardeners opt out of planting watermelon these days. Most gardeners will tell you that their garden is too small to handle those rambling vines.

Watermelons have been a very notable part of my gardening life, but not lately. I have the space but lack the interest. But when I was a second grader back in the depression year of 1937, watermelons were big ... literally.

My family installed an irrigation system on the south bank of the Arkansas River just north of Bucklin in southwest Kansas, where they owned a small plot of river-bottom land. They did that to assure that they would be able to raise a feed crop for the cattle to eat in the winter, and during the '30s, there was very little rain and no feed crop to speak of. But the



Kay Melia

### The Gardener

water poured out of the river onto that 40-acre field of Atlas Sorgo, a rather coarse but sweet sorghum with huge heads of white grain.

But Atlas Sorgo was far from the mind of this 7 year old, because my Dad would plant a few rows of watermelon from end to end of the field. There would also be a row of cantaloupe there, and my brother and I would utilize our sharp hoes to keep everything weed free.

My Dad chose three varieties of watermelon to plant each year. There was the big striped Crimson

Sweet, the dark green Black Diamond and the light green Charleston Gray. All of these are still available in seed form today. Unfortunately, at least in my opinion, those who plant watermelon today seem to favor the small seedless varieties, for the good reason that the small ones fit in small gardens.

We raised hundreds of melons (and tons of Atlas Sorgo) in those days. We would haul them to the sale barn in town on Saturdays and sell them in the parking lot there. They would appear at church socials and club meetings and most everyone's picnic. Kids would eventually locate the field down by the river and help themselves. But nobody cared, because there were plenty to go around.

But the fun was short lived. In the spring of 1942, the old Ar-

kansas flooded, and the irrigation system washed away. Floods were seemingly regular events in those days, until the John Martin Dam and Reservoir was built near La Junta, in eastern Colorado.

Almost unbelievably, the Arkansas River has been bone dry for many years all the way from somewhere in eastern Colorado to somewhere southwest of Great Bend.

Today, the small watermelon is king. They seem to be available at the supermarket year around. Shell out about \$3.50 or more and take home a watermelon that fits easily in the fridge. They must be pretty good. They seem to fly off the grocery shelves!

# Sternberg slithers through summer

With summer halfway over, the Sternberg Museum of Natural History is presenting multiple activities and exhibits to rekindle the excitement while entertaining and educating.

A newer semi-permanent exhibit is "Rattlerssss," which includes many different species of rattlesnakes. Children and adults alike can learn an enormous amount about these species. With the tagline "From Fear to Fascination," one might think this exhibit would be limited to children. Actually, the contrary applies.

"The 'fear to fascination' is more geared toward adults," said Marcella McCluskey, summer marketing and public relations intern. "Most kids are not afraid of this exhibit and have a built-in fascination."

The cost of viewing this exhibit, as with all

the exhibits, is covered by museum admission: \$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$5 for children, and \$4 for Fort Hays State University students with valid student ID.

Another exhibit is "Mammal Invasion," a display of creatures from the Ice Age in realistic settings. People can learn about some of the large mammals that existed after the dinosaurs' extinction. A giant bird from the same era is also on display.

This display features interactive aspects, too. Patrons can smell the scent emitted by mammoths and feel how much one of their teeth weighed. This experience is further enhanced by the sounds these animals made.

"Mammal Invasion" closes Sept. 8.

The "ABCs of the Sternberg Museum" scavenger hunt will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday, July 26.

This event is for ages 9 to 12. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded, and admission to the museum covers participation costs.

Sternberg Museum also has additional one-day activities available. "Family Slithery Evening," 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 27, will provide an in-depth look at the "Rattlerssss" display along with snacks, crafts, lore and snake tricks. This event is designed for patrons ages 5 and up with a one-parent minimum per family. The cost is \$15 per participant with a \$75 maximum for families or \$12 per participant with a \$60 maximum for museum members. The deadline for registration is Friday. For information or to register, contact the museum at (785) 628-4286.

## Officers go to meeting

Regent Sharon Maurath and Vice Regent Gayle Breckenkamp, representatives of Northwest Kansas' John Athey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, recently attended the 122nd annual Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.

More than 3,800 society members honored high-ranking military members, actors, an ambassador, teachers, essay contest winners and exceptional high school scholars with awards and other society recognition.

The week-long convention consists of business sessions, committee meetings, social functions and four formal evening ceremonies to honor society award winners.

"Attendees show great enthusiasm to participate in seminars and workshops during the conference to enhance their work of

## Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners for Tuesday were: first, Margaret Denneler; second, Cookie Koenig; third, Gail Vacca; fourth, Gladys Fischer; and fifth, Alvin Koenig.

promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism back in their local communities," said President General Merry Ann T. Wright.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its more than 175,000 worldwide members are descended from those who fought in the Revolutionary War.

## Market changes plans

Due to the demand for their products, Duane and Jo Cheney, owners of Sharing the Bounty LLC, have decided to close their Colby storefront.

Previously, they had planned a garden market at 195 N. Franklin Ave. on Wednesdays and Saturdays through the summer.

"Due to the demand for our

produce, we will no longer be doing our markets," said Jo. "Most of our produce is already sold to pre-paid orders, Community Supported Agriculture, and the High Plains Food Co-op. We will have limited availability of produce available for orders and delivery."

## Sappa Strings



Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 noon @ Fike Park

SPONSORED BY COLBY/THOMAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COLBY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU & YOUR COLBY FREE PRESS.



**Vera Belle Lunsway**

Vera Belle Lunsway, age 86, of Corona del Mar, passed away Saturday June 29, 2013 at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach California. She was born October 7, 1926 to James Herbert McCorkle and Iva Lou (Mallory) McCorkle in Gem, Kansas. She had one older brother, Charles Lee McCorkle.

Vera married her high school sweetheart and WWII veteran, Samuel August Lunsway, on March 17, 1944 in Seattle, Washington, while waiting for Sam's ship, the USS Steamer Bay (CVE-87), to take Sam into action in the South Pacific. After Sam's discharge from the U.S. Navy, Sam and Vera settled in Colby, Kansas. Sam and Vera started the Thomas County Title Company, an abstract and real estate company which introduced title insurance to western Kansas, developed new subdivisions in the town of Colby and lots of other activities. Sam then became a developer building houses, commercial buildings and motels. Vera continued working full time in the real estate business, most recently as a real estate consultant for the city of Banning, California. Both Sam and Vera were involved with Masonic organizations, Sam with the Scottish Rite and Vera with the Order of the Eastern Star. Vera retired from the city of Banning in 1995 and she and Sam moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. In 2001, Sam and Vera moved to Corona del Mar to be closer to their family and grandchildren. Vera enjoyed sewing, reading, crossword puzzles and surfing the internet.

Vera is survived by her husband of 69 years, Sam; daughter Nancy Lee French; son-in-law John French and grandsons Sam and Max French. Vera was predeceased by her daughter, Lynda Lou.

Funeral services at graveside will be held on Friday, July 12, 2013 at Pacific View Memorial Park and Mortuary in Corona del Mar, California at 3:00 pm. A memorial for family and friends to honor Vera will be scheduled at a later date. Donations in memory of Vera Lunsway can be made to: OES Grand Chapter of Kansas, Scholarship Fund 320 SW 8th Avenue, Floor 2 Topeka, Kansas 66603.