

## Welcoming new agency



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Shirley Skolout had an open house for the Mountain Plains Agency for Nationwide Insurance, a new business in town. Several guests at the grand opening Friday visited together shortly after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

## Time to review garden's good, bad

Let me see now. It's the third week of October, and time for me to sit down for a couple of hours and review what happened out in my garden last summer.

I mean, really concentrate on the good things and the bad things that took place out there before the holidays and snow and other distractions cause me to forget about what I need to remember. I make notes about what I should have done as well as the good things that happened, and it helps me to get on the right road come next spring.

So, let me share with you some of my successes and failures of the past summer.

For the second straight year, my green beans quit on me. Can you imagine anybody having problems with green beans, normally one of the most prolific crops in the garden? For now, I will blame it on my choice of variety. I planted a European favorite of filet bean, when I should have stayed with the tried-and-true varieties such as Derby or Blue Lake 274. No more filet beans for me.

The peas weren't much better. I planted my usual favorite variety called Maestro, but failed to get a decent stand. Peas are like that sometimes, and convincing them to germinate can be difficult, depending on soil temperature and early growing conditions. I probably won't plant any next year and use their space for something else.

The cantaloupes failed to live up to expectations this summer. We had many to enjoy, but they never attained the size expected from an Ambrosia melon.

Yes, there were a number of "gardener pleasers" out there this year, so please allow me talk about about five of the most pleasant successes.

1. My star performer this year was cabbage, the Megaton variety. I set out 16 home-grown plants on April 18, and harvested enough cabbage for son Marty and I to



**Kay Melia**

• The Gardener

make eight gallons of that wonderful crunchy homemade goodness. (I actually find a few folks who do not care for sauerkraut, homemade or otherwise. Can you imagine?)

A couple of heads weighed over 12 pounds, and there were several heads utilized for slaw and cooked cabbage.

2. I plant both slicing and pickling varieties of cucumbers, but it was the picklers that performed so well this summer. I plant the Burpee Pickler variety and production every year has been sensational. There are 62 pints of three or four different kinds of pickles on the shelf to prove it.

3. While not the best crop of tomatoes I've ever had, my tomatoes performed exceptionally well, particularly early in the season. The Super Tasty variety stole the show, with Northern Exposure and Shady Lady not far behind. I credit any tomato success I have to starting my own plants from seed, which gives me the choice of some of the superior varieties. Early planting in the garden also greatly improves overall yield.

4 and 5. I was blessed with another outstanding onion crop this year with good size and early maturity. The Candy variety (yellow) and the Sierra Blanca variety (white) stole the show. And finally, my early season spinach crop was excellent. I plant the Melody variety each year, and it has never failed me yet.

And now I must work hard to prepare next year's seed bed by adding gobs of leaves and other organic materials and plowing them deeply into the soil before winter comes calling.

## Deaths

### Helen V. Amos

Helen V. Amos, 99, Colby, died Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013, at the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby.

Services are pending with the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel, 462-7979.

### Wesley D. Herdt

Wesley D. Herdt, 64, an Oakley area farmer and rancher, died Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, at his home in rural Logan County.

He was born May 5, 1949, in Colby to Lester and June (Gunter) Herdt.

On Sept. 29, 1969, he married Rajean Mullender in Russell.

On July 29, 1990, he married Cindy (Cunningham) Westbrook in Bird City.

Preceding him in death were his father, his wife Cindy and an infant son, Raydean Herdt.

Survivors include his mother, Oakley; a daughter, Gina Yost, Eloy, Ariz.; a stepson, Chris Westbrook, Oakley; two sisters, Anita

Swenson, Oakley, and Gloria Gillespie, Roscoe, Texas; and three grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Oakley, with burial in the Oakley Cemetery.

Visitation was to be from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home in Oakley.

The family suggests memorials to the church in care of the funeral home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at [www.kennedykosterfh.com](http://www.kennedykosterfh.com).

### Warren Park

Warren Park, 65, Oakley business owner, died Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, at the Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree, Colo.

He was born May 4, 1948 in Oakley to Aubrey "Cub" and Jessie (Swart) Park. He was owner of Swart-Park Motors in Oakley.

On Dec. 28, 2007, he married Cora Lee (Vavricka) Samuelson in Colby.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a sister, Nancy Windsor.

Survivors include his wife, of the home; two sons, Matt (Cristy) Park, Oakley, and Andrew (Megha) Park, Kansas City, Mo.; a daughter, Wendy (Pat) Parsons, Oakley; two stepsons, Mark Samuelson and Steven Samuelson, Oakley; a brother, Wade Park,

Iola; a sister, Karen (Jim) Gilpin, Iola; a brother-in-law, Tom Windsor; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013, at the Buffalo Bill Cultural Center in Oakley, with burial in the Oakley Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Cultural Center.

The family suggests memorials to the Wild West Historical Foundation, the Logan County Shrine Club or the Oakley Kids Wrestling Club in care of Kennedy-Koster Funeral Home, Box 221, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Condolences for the family may be left at [www.kennedykosterfh.com](http://www.kennedykosterfh.com).

## Reunion in Rexford celebrates 80th birthday

We had a reunion at Shepherd's Staff a week ago; Gary Baumfalk and Sherry McDonald held it for their mother Nanette Baumfalk's 80th birthday.

About 40 people attended, including her twin brother, and other siblings, grandchildren, and even one great-granddaughter. They came from Australia, Alaska the Bahamas, and several other states. Nanette Baumfalk and one of her sons arrived in a vintage Ford, surprising her with the gathering.

Cupcakes and punch were served for her birthday on Satur-



**Laura TerHarr**

• Rexford Correspondent

day evening, followed by dinner and breakfast in the ranch house on Sunday morning.

They filled the hotel and had a wonderful time. We were thrilled to get to know them all during their stay. It is so fun seeing families get together from all over the U.S. for special times such as this one.

## Sprinkler's going in at new park



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

City workers installed an electrical line on Tuesday morning to light up the sign marking Poolside Park. The line will also help light up flags that will be placed by the sign.

## Ag industry moves forward despite information shutdown

Uncertainty looms across the United States as to when the government shutdown will end, and this uncertainty has troubled the agricultural industry and those wanting to make trading decisions for their crops and livestock.

"I don't know how long this will last, but context is important," said Glynn Tonsor, associate professor and livestock economist for Kansas State University. "The sun still came up today. Feeder cattle are being sold. Corn is being harvested. Those kind of physical activities I don't think are changing.

What is changing, at least in the short term until the shutdown is resolved, is how we discover ag prices, how they're reported, and how people make buy-sell decisions."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's entities are among those currently not functioning due to the shutdown. Even the department's website is not available for use. The department's Agri-

cultural Marketing Service is the entity responsible for facilitating the fair marketing of U.S. agricultural products and reporting price averages.

Ag commodity traders rely on those unbiased numbers from the service, Tonsor said. Some private companies develop cash numbers as well and might issue them for a fee, but many of those companies use the marketing service's

data to figure their numbers. Tonsor points out that even AMS data isn't free, as it is a tax-paid service. But, due to the shutdown, the most recent cash numbers available for cattle, for example, are from Sept. 27.

Tonsor said people should educate themselves about the origin

of the data and the potential targeted audiences, if any, of private data companies. The AMS is viewed as an unbiased source, much like universities, he said. A private provider might show a rosier example of prices to cow-calf producers, for instance, if that's its targeted audience.

## 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.

We want your local news: e-mail to [colby.editor@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.editor@nwkansas.com)

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.45
Corn (bushel)	\$4.28
Milo (hundredweight)	\$7.20
Soybeans (bushel)	\$11.66



## KIWANIS PANCAKE FEED

"Batter made from scratch"

Saturday, October 19th

7 a.m. - 2 p.m. • VFW

220 N. Lake, Colby

\$4.00 per person donation

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!

Proceeds go towards Christmas Projects, Youth Projects and Other Community Service  
Tickets available from any Kiwanis member.



## This little guy (John Schroeder) is turning 80!

Come help him celebrate at a Come-and-Go Reception.

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Brewster Community Church  
511 Third, Brewster, KS

