

Cantaloupe Picking Time

This week I turn over the writing credits to my Dad, Kay Melia... he writes:

“I shall not get into the ongoing discussion as to whether they should be called cantaloupe or musk melon. They will always be members of the melon family, as well as cucumbers and squash varieties, all members of the “cucurbit or gourd” family. All are related horticulturally, which is something else I will not get into.

To me cantaloupe pick-



the gardener

• Marty Melia

ing time heralds, the true arrival of the summer garden pleasure. Cantaloupe is a warm weather crop. It must have warmth, if not heat, to germinate and thrive. Therefore, cantaloupe seed should not be put in the ground until the soil is warm to the neighborhood 60 to 65°, preferably the latter.

I plant cantaloupe, seeds, in hills, or groupings, with five or six seeds in each hill, spacing the seed 2 to 3 inches apart. The plants will emerge in 7 to 10 days, depending on the weather, and we should never expect all the seeds to germinate. Likely only 3 to 4 will come up, maybe only two, but that’s all right because there probably should only be two plants per hill when they begin growing and vining. Sure, cantaloupes can be trellised in order to save garden space. But if

you have plenty of garden space forget the trellis particularly because of our windy environment.

Cantaloupe harvesting can be a bit tricky, but you must allow them to remain on the vine until they are fully ripe, but not much longer. A cantaloupes full flavor and sugar content is not reached until the last few days of growth.

There is much more to raising great tasting melons other than just raising cantaloupes. Many families would not begin a garden without a few hills of honeydew melons, the melon with the exotic lime green flesh.

Many of us older gardeners have been enjoying a melon known as the Crenshaw for many years. Only within the last few years as it found new popularity among some of the upscale restaurants.

By far the most planted cantaloupe variety because of its rich, sweet flavor and intoxicating aroma is the

Ambrosia. What a delight! When your ambrosia is ready to pick, your neighbors across the street will probably remind you, because the aroma has such as surely drifted across most of the area.”

Thanks Dad. Some other popular cantaloupe varieties would include Burpee Hybrid, Hales Best, Gurney’s Giant and Athena.

I always had pretty good success growing melons in the big country gardens...but not so much in the shady raised beds the last five years. A couple of years ago I managed to get some Crenshaw melons to grow in a big pot I had set up in the sun with a trellis. The plant set on some pretty nice melons getting close to harvest. But they were maliciously attacked and ruined by a couple of overzealous squirrels.

I guess I should call it the squirrely shady raised beds!

Hear The Gardener Tuesdays and Fridays on KYVZ FM 106.1

Briefly

Send your Briefly items to colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Deadline is noon two days before. For maximum impact, we recommend having them in 10 days or more in advance.

Picnic in the Park

Join us in Fike Park every Wednesday from June 4 through July 16 at noon for live, local entertainment! Check out the schedule for performers and sponsoring organizations on the Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau Facebook page and website or at select locations around town. Be sure to bring your lunch, drink, and lawn chair!

KSN3 Summer Road Trip

KSN3 and Good Day Kansas will broadcast live from Fike Park on Wednesday, June 18, at 11:15 a.m. as part of their Summer Road Trip across Kansas. The community is encouraged to attend and show support. Enjoy live music from Jan Barnum & Friends, giveaways from local partners, and sloppy joes served by Rotary and Hi-Plains Coop at Picnic in the Park following.

Firework sales and discharge allowed

June 27 through July 5, discharge allowed until 11 p.m. each day.

Senior Progress Center

Senior Progress Center has coffee everyday and coffee and donuts every Friday at 8:30 AM. 165 Fike Park, 785-460-2901

Prairie Museum Camp

Day at the Museum Camp this week features ‘Crafts From The Past’ on Thursday, June 12th, from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM. At this camp session, kids will enjoy learning how to make some old-fashioned crafts and flexing their creativity skills! We’re super excited to see everyone there!

Consumer Confidence Report

The 2024 City of Colby Consumer Confidence Report is now available at <https://cityofcolbyks.gov/>

Joyful Blessing Meal

Everyone is invited to a Free Joyful Blessings Dinner on Saturday, June 28 from 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m at the First Baptisit Church, 615 W. Webster. All are invited, and please bring a friend.

Thomas County Transportation Van

Mon-Fri: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Phone: 785-443-9208
First Come First Served Scheduling

The Thomas County transportation van is a service provided throughout Thomas County, Kansas on a call-by-call basis with availability of an approved operator. Services are available for riders of all ages! The van is handicap and wheelchair accessible.

"This Project Funded in Part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

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STORE CLOSING

Loker Retail Liquor of McDonald, KS will be closing June 30, 2025.

All spirits, cordials and wines are on sale!

Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-443-0894, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. every Wednesday. **Now Handicap Accessible.**

BEREAN BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Pastor Jim Meyers. High School Youth Group Sunday 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the church. AWANA (including Middle School) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Heartland Christian School.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, JW Glidewell, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2813, Sunday School (adults) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Tue. 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

BREWSTER METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1923 S. Range, Suite 2 (Old Beringer's Hardware Store). Kirby Benisch, Campus Pastor. Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin, President Ryan Willis, 971-678-1755. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 11:00 a.m.; Family History Center open by appointment.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), 785-465-7020, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rodgers Chishiba, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services 10:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:00 a.m., Sunday School, 9:00 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 10:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:30 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. 785-462-8234. collegedriveag@gmail.com.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, Pastor Dan Keel. 815 W. 3rd. Sundays at 2 p.m. 785-462-0512.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Pastor Matt Price, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718. Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 515 W. 4th, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Worship is available online. For access, please call Reverend Shelly Holle, 785-462-6342.

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor Kyle Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m.

GRACE ADVENTIST FELLOWSHIP meets in the Ascension-on-the-Prairie Episcopal Church on College Drive & Wheatridge Rd. on Saturday morning. 10 a.m. Bible study group & 10 a.m. worship service. Pastor Dale Rossette: For more information call 785-462-7963.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Levant. Ron Alexander, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main, Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church. Adult class and Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am. Worship Services: 10:45 a.m. First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 217 Main St., Brewster, 785-694-2751. 1st, 3rd, 4th Sunday of the month worship 9:00 a.m., and 2nd and 5th Sunday of the month worship 10:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, 785-694-2807, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

REDEEMING LOVE, RLM Regional Church, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. Romine II - Apostle. 785-657-1611. Saturday is Sabbath Worship: 9 a.m. Equipping class, 10 a.m. is Praise and Worship with 11 a.m. is Scripture Teachings. Wednesdays at 7 p.m. is Bible Study. Youtube. [com, search.rlmkansas.com](http://com.search.rlmkansas.com).

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH, 785-462-2179, Father Brian J. Lager, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:00 - 7:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and from Wednesday & Friday 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. Philip Hoppe. 855 E. 5th St., Colby, KS. Church number: 785-462-3497. Services, Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Visit us at trinitycolby.org and see us on Facebook.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, Pastor Jordan Grimms, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

CELEBRATE RECOVERY is a Christ-based ministry for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits or hang-ups! We welcome everyone! at First Baptist Church, 720 W. Walnut, Hill City, KS 67642 Join us for praise, worship, healing lessons and testimonies Starting May 31, 2025 at 7 p.m. and every Saturday after Contact (785) 821-8136 with questions