



Colton's cabbage a humongous winner

Life's Little Moments

By Clara Kilbourn - The Hutchinson News - ckilbourn@hutchnews.com

His sunflower was named a winner at the Kansas State Fair, and he took home a blue ribbon for his African marigolds, but Colton Potts' most recent gardening prize, this time for a 20.8-pound cabbage, tops them all.

A telephone call to Claflin Grade School notified Colton, 10, that in a random drawing his humongous cabbage was chosen for a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The cabbage will be shredded into sauerkraut.

"Colton is actually interested in plants and growing things," his grandmother, Connie Potts, said.

Her grandson was excited about having the largest sunflower at the fair, but "he jumped straight up and was walking on cloud nine" when his teacher told him his cabbage was a winner.

"I finished my Harry Potter book, took a test and got 100 and now this," Potts said her grandson responded when he heard the news.

Claflin third-grade teacher Susan Weber introduced the Bonnie Plants Third Grade Cabbage Program to her students last spring. The company provided two plants for each student to plant. Colton planted his in his grandparents' backyard.

It seemed to Colton that his cabbage grew a little every day. He watered it, sprayed it for bugs and built a fence around it to keep the rabbits away.

He might use the scholarship money to attend the U.S. Culinary School he recently saw advertised on TV because he "kind of likes" helping in the kitchen, Colton said.

Colton makes his home with his grandparents in Ellinwood; he and his grandmother commute to Claflin where she teaches.

A roofing match

Their meeting could be called the ultimate in rooftop experiences.

And it's probable the story will be told down through the generations.

As Corey Regehr's mother, Sharon Regehr, of Moundridge, tells the tale, her son volunteered in Greensburg after the May 2007 tornado, shingling the roof of a new home. On the other side of the roof was Abby Kline, of Schaefferstown, Pa., a Hesston College student and a Mennonite Disaster Service volunteer.

Without having officially met, Regehr and Kline set up a kind of competition to see which side of the roof would be finished first.

Then, he invited her to attend church with him.

They were just friends, Regehr told his mother. But within a few weeks they were spotted holding hands.

That was in October 2007. Two years later, on Oct. 10, 2009, the couple was married in the bride's hometown in Pennsylvania. After a honeymoon in Vermont, they are at home in Hesston.

"It just fell into place," Sharon Regehr said. "It couldn't be better."

A new horizon

With her Horizons Mental Health Center office and desk cleared of a 39-year accumulation, Pat Miles will greet the public at an open house at 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday in honor of her retirement.

She's made mental notes of what she'll do with the additional time.

"Everywhere I look there's something," she said. "House, yard, the community."

She'll also "celebrate life, absorb the precious present" as she moves on to de-cluttering, extra cleaning, socializing and spending time with family, including grandkids. Then there are the three dogs, two cats and backyard pond goldfish.

When Miles started as a child psychologist at Horizons, the staff numbered 10, with three clerical workers and seven professionals. That number has now expanded to 196. In the first year, the mental health center treated 173 clients. From July 2007 to June 2008, they counted 6,500 clients with 55,000 hours of professional service.

Miles attributes the expanded number to today's atmosphere of stress, instant media with an awareness of world conditions, drugs, divorce, people being more educated about mental health services and more. The Mental Health Reform in the early 1990s aided in the effort that keeps people out of institutions and has allowed families to bring support groups into their lives.

"It was hard to decide to quit," Miles said. "I've enjoyed my work all these years, had great people to work with, and a freedom to be ourselves in sharing thoughts, ideas and information."

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