



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## It all adds up to heat

*Thursday's high for Colby was either 101, 103*

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

No matter the number — it was hot!

Whether the number tied or broke a record is of little significance.

It was still hot!

Thursday's high temperature in Colby was either 101 or 103.

The Northwest Research-Extension Center in town recorded a high of 103.

The National Weather Service at the Goodland airport, which gets its daily reports off the installation at Colby High School, reported a figure of 101.

The record high for May 29 in Colby was 101 set in 2000. So, the 101 at the high school tied the record, and the 103 at the research-extension center broke the record.

Regardless, it was hot!

The month's temperature extremes ranged from a low of 30 on the 8th to Thursday's 103.

The *Free Press* uses the Northwest Research-Extension Center as its official recorder, thus the 103 and the notation of breaking the old mark appears in today's weather box (below this story).

In the area of precipitation, nothing measurable has occurred since the 0.03 of an inch that fell on the 19th, with just a couple of traces since then.

The month's total remains at 2.30 and the year's total at 6.32.

More heat on the way? Thunderstorms? Check the weather box.



## Thunderstorms dot forecast

**Thomas, Logan Counties**

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the 50s. East wind around 15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 70s. Southeast wind around 15 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the 50s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Sunday...Partly sunny with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the 80s. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the 50s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms during the night. Highs in the 80s.

**By the numbers**

Thursday's high, 103 (broke record 101 set on May 29, 2000)

Low this morning, 61  
Year ago today, 94 and 55  
Records for the date, 101 in 2000, 32 in 1947  
Soil temperature, 73  
24-hour precipitation up to 8 a.m. today, 0.00

Month's precipitation to date, 2.30  
Year's precipitation to date, 6.32

**Water Usage/Colby**  
May 29 = 3.223 million gallons

## The guiding hand



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Darrin McCurdy and his grandfather, Dale Mitchem of McCook, Neb. were having a good time this morning at Fike Park in Colby. Also joining them for some fun before it got too warm were older sister Charlotte, their mother Serena and grandmother Jane.

## Delinquency loan rate is falling

WICHITA (AP) — Fewer Kansas farmers were delinquent on loan payments to a federal agency in the past month, but the number remains at levels not seen in the last six years.

About 15.4 percent of Kansas farm borrowers remained behind on payments to the Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in May, said Arlyn Stiebe, the program's Manhattan-based farm loan chief in Kansas.

The agency, known as the lender of last resort, is the largest single source of farm money in the state with 3,304 borrowers.

May's rate was an improvement

from February, when 22.2 percent of Kansas farmers were delinquent in their payments to FSA.

But while loan delinquencies are falling — as they historically do this time of the year — they remain high, Stiebe said Thursday.

"It is encouraging it is going down," he said. "If it was bucking that trend I really would be scared of what is coming. It is following its normal pattern — it is just doing it from a higher level this year. ... I guess it could be worse."

Given back-to-back drought years, the delinquency rate is not surprising, said Duane Hund, a Kansas State University farm ana-

lyst who works with struggling farm families.

"It is not anything I see as being overly worrisome," Hund said. "I am not extremely concerned about that, but at the same time I think it is something that bears watching."

Typically, delinquencies peak in February, when most farm loans come due, Stiebe said.

In the ensuing months, more farmers catch up as they receive government farm program payments or sell off grain or livestock they had been retaining for tax reasons until the new calendar year, Stiebe said. Delinquencies are expected to drop further next month.

## Academy selects Colby graduate

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A 1977 Colby High School graduate was recently named to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which is an international learned society to include the world's leading scientists, scholars, artists, business people, and public leaders.

John Mark Hansen, University of Chicago professor, is the son of John and Joyce Hansen, Mingo, and was welcomed into the society earlier this month for many reasons.

The current membership of the academy totals 3,700 American Fellows and 600 Foreign Honorary members with Hansen named as a Fellow in the Class of 2003.

In addition to Hansen, said Patricia Meyer Spacks, academy president, this year's class included 187 Fellows and 29 foreign honorary members with four college presidents, three Nobel prize winners and four Pulitzer prize winners.

"The American Academy," she said, "is unique among academies for its breadth and scope. Throughout its history, the academy has gathered individuals with diverse perspectives to participate in studies and projects focusing on advancing intellectual thought and constructive action."

The academy was founded in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin and John Hancock, along with other scholar-patriots to "cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest,

honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people."

Hansen, along with other members, have joined an academy with other influential leaders from each generation beginning in the eighteenth century until now. Those include names such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Webster, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill.

Officials at the academy, which is headquartered in Cambridge, Mass., said there are four major goals required in order to be considered.

Those include promoting service and study through analysis of critical social and intellectual issues and the development of practical policy alternatives; fostering public engagement and the exchange of ideas bringing diverse perspectives to the examination of issues of common concern; mentoring a new generation of scholars and thinkers; and honoring excellence by electing to membership men and women in a broad range of disciplines and professions.

Hansen was recognized as a Fellow in the Social Sciences category and more specifically in political science, international relations and public policy.

In addition to this recent honor, he has authored two books: "Gaining Access: Congress and the Farm Lobby, 1919-1981" and "Mobilization, Participation and Democracy in America," written with Steven J. Rosenstone.

After completing high school in Colby, Hansen received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Kansas and his Ph.D. from Yale University.

## Legislature adjourns after rendering tribute

TOPEKA (AP) — The Legislature adjourned its 2003 session Thursday with the biggest item of business an affectionate tribute to the Senate's eldest member.

In most years, the adjournment session is relatively brief, though nothing precludes lawmakers from passing bills or attempting to override gubernatorial vetoes. The ceremony is known as "sine die," Latin for "without another day."

The House convened for about 15 minutes, but the Senate remained in session nearly 45 minutes to consider congratulatory resolutions. The final one honored Sen. U.L. "Rip" Gooch, D-Wichita.

Gooch's 80th birthday is Sept. 13, and he plans to celebrate with an all-day party and golf tournament in his hometown. The Senate resolution, adopted unanimously, honored him for his political career, as well as his 55 years as a pilot, which included operating his own aviation company.

His seat-mate, Sen. David Haley, D-Kansas City, praised Gooch as a mentor and conscientious legislator. Gooch and Haley are the

Senate's only black members, and Haley recalled how Gooch and other blacks struggled for decades against prejudice.

"Thank you, sir, for your tenacity and your patience," Haley said. "I love you, sir, because you are symbolic of our very best."

Sen. Robert Tyson, R-Parker, a former TWA pilot, recalled that Gooch helped him buy his first plane as a young flier. Tyson said Gooch had helped many pilots and is well-regarded in the aviation industry. Gooch is a member of the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame.

"I honor him and salute him for that," Tyson said.

Gooch, a native of Brownsville, Tenn., served four years on the Kansas Commission on Civil Rights in 1971-74 and was a member of the Wichita City Council in 1989-92. He was elected to the Senate in 1992 and re-elected in 1996 and 2000.

"He is truly one of my heroes," said Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan.

Briefly overcome with emotion, Gooch invited his colleagues to his birthday party.

## Briefly

### Commodity distribution Monday

The United States Department of Agriculture commodity distribution is scheduled on Monday from 8-9 a.m. at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park, Colby. The distribution is based on incomes guidelines and is on a first come-first served basis. Questions to 462-6744.

### School board meets Monday

The Colby Board of Education will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, in the administration building board room. Along with reports from all the building principals, curriculum director and superintendent, the board is expected to take action on contracts for the new administration building. Other agenda items include discussion of the class schedule at the high school and how that will affect the band program; agreement with the Thomas County Learning Center; and approval of energy grant and contingency fund. The board will also take action on any resignations, employment recommendations, classified salary positions and administrative salaries at its

meeting. For questions or an agenda, call 465-5000.

### 'Harvest for Health' tourney planned

The Citizens Foundation is sponsoring its 13th annual "Harvest for Health" golf tournament on Friday, June 20 at the Colby Country Club.

Registration will be from 8-9 a.m. with tee time starting promptly at 9 a.m. The cost will include prizes, a light breakfast, lunch and hors d'oeuvres. Questions or to register, call 462-1214.

### Commissioners to meet Monday

The Thomas County Commissioners will on Monday at 9 a.m. in the commissioners' room in the Thomas County Courthouse. No agenda was available.

### Flea market planned Saturday

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council's annual flea market will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at 1125

Southwind Plaza. There will be miscellaneous items, clothing and just about everything for sale. All proceeds will go toward ADAC programs. The event is open to everyone.

### Food delivery Saturday

The "Share" delivery for this month will begin at 10:15 a.m. Saturday in the Colby Sacred Heart School gymnasium, said Gene Griffin, coordinator.

The menu consists of ground beef patties, cooked ham steak, sausage patties, chicken breast fillets, lettuce, green peppers, cucumbers, potatoes, apples, oranges, kiwis, lemons, and Velveta shells and cheese.

### Carnival 'work days' reminder

The Thomas County Amusement Association continues to hold "work days" each Saturday at the fairgrounds and everyone in the community is encouraged to lend a hand.

Contact the association's vice president, Chad L. Zimmerman at 460-1818 if you need additional information.



