



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

# Heat hurts corn

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The heat is not only tough on people and animals, but tough also on crops that are still growing..

“To say it’s (corn) not doing well is an understatement,” said Roger Stockton, Northwest Research Extension center soil and crop specialist. “The non-irrigated dryland corn, I’ve seen some swathers swathing it for hay.”

“Irrigated fields are showing some stress,” he said.

Also, the 100-plus temperatures are causing corn fields to attempt pollination. Pollinating in heat causes poor or non-pollination. Stockton said the irrigated corn was planted around the beginning of May and will be harvested in September. Dryland corn was planted toward the middle of the month and should be harvested sometime in October.

Most of it will be used as livestock feed, he said.

He said cooler weather and some rain would help things.

Stockton said the dryland plants have already used up what moisture was in the soil.

Other crops in the county include milo, soybean and sunflowers. Stockton said the irrigated soybeans are doing all right and the milo isn’t hurt as much as the corn because of the growth stage it is in.

“The sunflowers are holding up pretty good,” he said. “They’re probably the most drought-resistant route you can take.”

Thomas County Cooperative



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

This is some of the healthier corn in a field east of Colby. Hot, dry weather has burnt out parts of the field. Other fields in the county are also feeling the heat, with many producers suffering potential yield and quality losses. Cool, wet weather could help turn things around.

Extension Agent Doug Musick agreed a change in the weather would benefit the crops right now.

“A little more rain and cooler weather would make things a little better,” he said.

He said some corn is a “total failure at this point” and most fields have suffered significant yield loss.

Musick said there are better crops

that could be grown in the area.

“It’s not ideal,” he said. “We’re fortunate with our irrigation we can grow some of the best corn in Kansas.”

Without irrigation, Thomas County is marginal, on the western edge of the acceptable parameters for growing corn.

“Corn is one of the better adapted

crops for our environment here,” he said.

Dryland sorghum is better suited, but prices don’t match that of corn.

Musick said farmers are limited to growing eight to 10 crops that are economically viable. They include wheat, corn, sorghum, sunflowers, soybeans and alfalfa.

# Change is made in parade route

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Plans are now in place for this year’s Thomas County Fair parade, said Audrey Hines, secretary-treasurer of the fair board.

There is one change in the parade route, she said, in that participants will go west on 2nd Street down to Franklin instead of west on 3rd Street. The reason for the change was to accommodate parking for a large auction that will be taking place that morning at TNT Auction (formerly Boogaarts Grocery Store), said Colby Police Chief Randy Jones.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m. in front of McClure’s Plumbing and Heating, 720 N. Franklin, with registration from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Otherwise the route is the same, starting at that point south on Franklin to 5th St., east on 5th to Lake Ave. south on Lake to 2nd St.,

west on 2nd St. to Franklin, south on Franklin to Cedar and west on Cedar to the fairgrounds, Hines said.

There will be 11 categories this year with seven of those in the adult classification and 4 for children.

Entries for adult categories include antique vehicles, animal drawn vehicles, organizations and personal floats, horse and saddle clubs, business floats, 4-H clubs, and band, drill teams, and cheerleaders. The children’s categories include organizations and personal floats, best decorated wheeled vehicles, best dressed pet, and most unusual costume.

“We have no idea how many floats and participants there will be until the morning of the parade,” Hines said, “since there is no pre-registration required.”

For questions call Justin Alexander, parade chair, 460-7914.

# Carnival is gearing up for initial launch

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

If anyone wants to help out with the Thomas County Free Fair carnival, there are still a few slot open.

Kerry Wark, chairman of the Thomas County Amusement Association, said there are still a few game booths that need manning.

“My understanding is we still have some booths if people want to work a shift or two,” he said.

Jada Tubbs, Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce director, is handling scheduling for volunteers and Wark said people should contact her to find out what is available.

“We’re in pretty good shape,” he said. “The rides are ready to go.”

The game booths will be set up by the time the carnival kicks off Tuesday night. It will run from 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and from 7 to midnight Friday and Saturday.

Tickets will cost 50 cents. Wark said the children’s rides will cost one ticket, the Tilt-A-Whirl and Paratrooper will cost two tickets to ride and the Zipper three.

Thirteen game booths will give people a chance to try their luck or win a prize.

Wark said they include a dunk tank, plinko, basketball shoot, dime toss and for little kids, a duck pond.

For information on volunteering, contact Tubbs at the Chamber office at (785) 460-3401.

## Thomas County Fair SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Today, 7 p.m. - Dog Agility Competition in the Livestock Arena**

**Tuesday, 7:30 a.m. - 4-H Livestock Weigh-In**

11 a.m. *Deadline for entry of 4-H Exhibits*

8 a.m.- 2 p.m. - *Open Class Entries Taken*

11:30 a.m. - *Judging of all 4-H Exhibits*

2: p.m. - *Open Exhibits Judged*

2 p.m. - *Cat, Rabbit, Hand Pet & Poultry Show*

5 p.m. - *Model Train Club (USD Bldg.)*

8 p.m. - *PRCA Rodeo*

**Wednesday, 8 a.m. - 4-H Swine & Sheep Show**

3-9 p.m. - *Antique Tractor Show & Shine display*

4 p.m. - *Farm Bureau Assoc. Pedal Tractor Pull Regist.*

5 -6:45 p.m. - *Pedal Tractor Pull*

5:30 p.m. - *Free Barbecue - come and enjoy!*

8 p.m. - *PRCA Rodeo*

**Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4-H Dairy, Bucket Calf & Breeding Livestock Show**

8 p.m. - *Demolition Derby*

**Friday, 9 a.m. - 4-H Round Robin**

3:00 p.m. - *Buyers's Appreciation BBQ - 4-H Livestock Sale*

7 p.m. - *Thomas Co. Fair Races*

**Saturday, 10 a.m. - Parade.** *The parade will start south on Franklin to 5th St., east on 5th to Lake Ave., south on Lake to 2nd St., west on 2nd St. to Franklin Ave., south on Franklin to Cedar St., and west on Cedar to the fairgrounds.*

# Two rollovers reported on I-70

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Two rollover accidents in the Oakley/Colby area on I-70 were reported today by the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The first happened at 10:15 a.m. Friday on eastbound I-70 near Oakley.

A 1984 Ford F250 Club van, driven by William J. Capehart, 41, of Colorado Springs, Colo., was traveling eastbound when it entered the median. Capehart overcorrected

and entered the south ditch and overturned, according to the report. The van came to rest on its side.

Capehart, along with Kristin E. Capehart, 18, Rebecca J. Capehart, 12, and William R. Capehart, 5, all of Colorado Springs, were transported to Logan County Hospital in Oakley with possible injuries. Their condition was not made available.

The second accident was at 7:10 a.m. this morning on I-70 nine miles east of Colby.

Marjorie L. Munk, 69, of Fayette,

Mo., was driving her 1990 Toyota Corolla westbound on I-70 when the car gradually left the roadway into the north ditch. She overcorrected and slid across the westbound lane and overturned, coming to rest on its wheels in the median, the patrol report said.

Munk was transported to Citizens Medical Center in Colby, along with the other passengers in the car, Patricia Munk, 47, and Paige Munk, 15, both of Fayette, Mo. Their conditions were not available.

# Specialty car tags are turning into a drag

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansans can express a lot of opinions on their license plates.

They can support their favorite college sports teams, for example, or identify themselves as veterans or Shriners. They can even take a stand against child abuse.

So far, though, most Kansans aren’t wearing their allegiances on their cars.

Thousands of specialty plates gather dust in offices across the state — and in some cases, sales of the plates may not even cover the state’s cost of producing them.

“Groups think it’s quite a revenue generator but some of that is really marginal,” said Rep. Gary Hayzlett, a Lakin Republican and chairman of the House Transportation Committee. “We really don’t need to clutter up the offices. We need to draw the line right now.”

## Briefly

### Health Department to close

The Thomas County Health Department will be closed from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday for a staff meeting.

### Mud volleyball tourney planned

The Colby Jaycees are planning a co-ed mud volleyball tournament on Saturday, Aug. 9, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. There will be no pre-registration and the event is open to those 21 years and older. The tournament will be held behind the Jaycee Center located just southwest of the Colby Animal Clinic, 810 E. 4th St. For questions, call 462-7781.

### Railroad club open during fair

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club will be open again this year during fair time, said John Donelan, club member. Visitors are welcome to stop by their display beginning Tuesday, July 29 through Friday, Aug. 1, from 5 to 9

p.m. at the Colby School District’s administration building, 210 S. Range. Anyone planning to view the model trains are asked to enter through the fire exit on the west end of the building.

### Colby schools to enroll

Enrollment for students returning to Colby Public Schools is Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commons area of Colby High School. Information packets will be mailed next week and school officials ask that if someone doesn’t receive it to call 460-5000. Enrollment for new students is Wednesday, Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the respective buildings.

### Forms available for Nine-Run-Run

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Service is hosting its 8th annual Nine-Run-Run and the second annual Nine-Ride-Ride events on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Fike Park. This year’s event will help raise money for ambulance equipment,

organizers said, and registration will begin at 6 a.m. for bikers and 7 a.m. for the runners on the day of the run. For an entry form or other information, call the Thomas County EMS at (785) 462-4585 or stop by the office at 1275 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan. 67701.

### Extension office is closed

The Thomas County Extension Office is closed this week for the fair. Extension personnel will be involved at the fairgrounds, said D’Ette Scholtz, extension agent. For questions, call (785) 462-4582 or e-mail: dscholtz@oznet.ksu.edu

### Levant reunion plans told

The Levant annual reunion will be held next Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Quality Inn in Colby. Dinner will be served in the restaurant at noon. Contact Elva Livingston at (785) 462-6012 for additional information, ro answers to questions..



## Mostly in the 80s

**Tonight...**Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 50s. East wind 10 mph becoming west late. **Tuesday...**Mostly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms late. Highs in the mid 80s. Light and variable wind. Chance of rain 20 percent. **Tuesday night...**A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms until midnight...Otherwise partly cloudy. Lows near 60. Chance of rain 20 percent. **Wednesday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.

**By the numbers**  
Friday’s high, 105  
Saturday’s high, 104  
Sunday’s high, 88  
Low this morning, 65  
Year ago today, 91 and 66  
Records for the date, 109 in 1943 and 52 in 1969  
24-hour precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
Month’s precipitation, 0.17  
Year’s precipitation to date, 11.04  
2002’s precipitation to date, 5.64

**Water Usage/Colby**  
July 25-26-27 = 3.715 million gallons (3-day average)  
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other figures from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby.

