



COLBY FREE PRESS

Senate vacancy filled *Sen. Clark's widow gets the nod*

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The 40th Senatorial District vacancy has been filled.

Ruth Clark, wife of the late Sen. Stan Clark, who lost his life in a dirt storm accident on Interstate-70 in late May, was chosen to fill the vacancy by unanimous vote during a special Republican convention at the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center on Saturday.



Ruth Clark

Her name was sent to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who will make the selection official. Mrs. Clark will finish the term which ends in January. At the time of his death Sen. Clark had filed for reelection.

The meeting was called to order by Thomas County Republican Chair Bill Adams, who was then selected as the chairman of the convention.

Mrs. Clark's name was the only one placed in nomination.

Darin Jamison of Gove County was one of several people who gave nominating speeches. He said he

had known the Clarks for more than a decade and believed Ruth Clark had the background and knowledge to fill the seat.

"She would do an outstanding job representing this district," he said.

Ruth Clark gave a brief talk after her nomination was made official.

"It will be an honor to serve you and the 40th District," she said, adding she will do her best to represent the people and the area of western Kansas, which she hopes she can do with integrity.

She also thanked everyone for their support, and was given a standing ovation.

Mrs. Clark said she spent time with her husband in Topeka during legislative sessions and became familiar with his work.

She told the crowd that she had helped in his office and also critiqued his writing.

Rep. Jim Morrison, Colby, who represents the 121st House District, was pleased with the action taken.

"It will be almost like working with Stan, working with Ruth," he said, adding he worked with Clark on many projects and working with his wife will allow the work to continue.

Morrison was also happy with the number of people who showed up.

"It was an excellent turnout," he said. "Interest was great."

Out of 255 eligible committeemen and women, 138 attended, along with more than 30 people who came just to watch the proceedings.

Morrison said there will be a lot of work for Mrs. Clark — caucus and committee meetings in Topeka and other activities.

He also commented on the decision of the candidates running for the seat to keep their names out of the running as temporary replacements.

Republicans Dan Rasure of Goodland and Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell didn't submit their names to fill the seat. The two are battling it out for the Aug 3 primary and that winner will face Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument in the Nov. 2 general election.

Morrison said by not submitting their names, it took the pressure off the candidates.

"This is the fairest thing to have done," he said, explaining that if one of them was elected in November after serving in a temporary capacity, they wouldn't know if they won the seat because of the temporary term or on their own.

"We need a fair race," he said.

New library director



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Jeff Friesen, new director of Pioneer Memorial Library, Colby, checked out the new book section this morning. Friesen is replacing long-time director JoAnne Sunderman who is retiring at the end of the month.

Busy guy



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Roger Hale, manager of the Colby wheat office, was busy at his new location at the Oasis Travel Center this morning. Hale operates the office each year, which helps match custom cutters with jobs. For information, call 460-0800.

Residents injured in wreck

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Two Colby residents were taken to Rawlins County Hospital Friday after a collision with a semi tractor-trailer Friday.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Leonard and Hazel Runge, both 85, were southbound on K-25 from Atwood when their 1989 Nissan was struck by the trailer being hauled by a 1993 Peterbilt truck driven by Jody Larson, 24, of North Dakota.

Larson was headed northbound on K-25 when the trailer struck the car, which came to rest in the west ditch facing south.

Larson wasn't injured and the Runges were taken to Rawlins County Hospital. The hospital today declined to say whether they were still hospitalized or what their conditions were.

Charitable giving is on the increase

By The Associated Press

Helped by an improving economy, charitable giving in the United States last year rose by the highest rate in three years, according to a national survey released Monday.

The Giving USA annual report said donations by individuals, estates, foundations and corporations totaled \$240.7 billion in the year 2003.

Scientists determine:

Third warmest spring ever Tornadoes numbered 500 for May

Special to the Free Press

All nine climate regions of the contiguous United States were warmer than average in spring (March-May) 2004, according to scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The global average temperature was also the fourth warmest on record for the same period.

Additionally, the Southeast and parts of the West were unusually dry during spring, but precipitation was above average in the Great Lakes region.

Scientists report that the average temperature for the contiguous United States for March-May (based on preliminary data) was 54.7 degrees F (12.6 degrees C), which was 2.9 degrees F (1.6 degrees C) above the 1895-2003 mean, making it the third warmest spring on record. Florida was the only state in the contiguous United States with a near-normal temperature.

The mean temperature in 30 states was much above average, in-

cluding Oklahoma and Kansas, which had their warmest spring on record. An additional 17 states were warmer than average. Alaska was also warmer than average for spring, with a statewide temperature of 2.7 degrees F (1.5 degrees C) above the 1971-2000 mean. However, May was the warmest on record for Alaska, with a temperature of 4.7 degrees F (2.6 degrees C) above the mean.

Precipitation across the contiguous United States was near average for spring, with much of the West and Southeast drier than normal. Wetter than average conditions occurred in parts of the Deep South and Northeast, as well as much of the Great Lakes region, with Michigan having its wettest spring on record. The East North Central region (consisting of states from Minnesota and Iowa, east to Michigan) had its second wettest spring on record. Dryness re-emerged in parts of the Southeast, in marked contrast to a much wetter than average year for much of the region in 2003.

Severe storm outbreaks in May led to several deaths from tornadoes

and significant storm damage in parts of the Midwest and South. A preliminary estimate of tornado numbers from NOAA's Storm Prediction Center suggests approximately 500 occurred during the month. (The record of 543 was recorded in May 2003.)

Dry conditions in the Southeast during spring allowed moderate drought to re-emerge in parts of the region with some modest agricultural impacts beginning to be felt. Below average spring precipitation also occurred in many areas of the West, where drought has persisted for much of the past four to five years. The drier than average conditions, along with warmer than normal temperatures that contributed to rapid snowmelt, left mountain snowpack levels below average in most parts of the West.

Reservoir levels also remained below average in many areas. Sixty-seven percent of the western United States was in moderate to extreme drought at the end of spring, based on the Palmer Drought Index, a widely used measure of drought.

Colby Oakley Hoxie



Partly cloudy and warmer

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. 40 percent chance for thunders torms. Lows near 50. Northwest winds 5-15 mph. **Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 5-10 mph. **Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid-50s. Southwest winds 5-15 mph. **Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the 80s. Westerly winds 5-10 mph, shifting to the east late.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 78
Low this morning, 52
Records for June 21, 106 in 1988 and 35 in 1902
Year ago today, 85 and 59
Weekend precipitation to 8 a.m. today, 0.51
June's total, 3.05
Soil temperature, 66

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. Recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Water use

• June 18-19-20 = (not available)

Water advisories

• Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
• Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
• Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

Briefly

Post office announces seminar

A free "on-line services" seminar is being sponsored by the Colby Post Office, Tuesday, from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Colby Community College Bedker Building, Room 711.

The seminar is entitled, "How to click on your mouse to ship from your house," seating is limited.

To make a reservation to attend, call Colby Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel, 462-7904.

City to begin street work

Colby city crews will begin chip sealing streets on Tuesday starting at 9 a.m., said Gerry Bieker, director of public utilities today. Motorists are also being asked to remove all vehicles from the following streets before 9 a.m.

Those include Smith Drive; Fifth Street (from Smith Drive to Walker Avenue); Avenue (from Webster Street to College Drive); Pine Street (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive); College Drive (from Range Avenue to Country Club Drive).

For questions, call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

Class reunion scheduled

The Colby High School Class of 1984 has scheduled its 20th reunion for July 2, 3, and 4, coordinators of the event said. In an effort to communicate with others in that class, a website has been set up for registration and other information. The address is: www.colbyhigh-1984.com

Colby promoters to meet

The Colby Promotion group issued a reminder today of their next meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in the basement of Sunflower Bank. The meeting is open to the public and anyone with ideas or suggestions is encouraged to attend and share.

Colby pool notes changes

Officials at the Colby Community College swimming pool are reminding everyone of summer hours and recent changes, said Debbie Schwanke. They are: lap swimming Monday through Friday from 5:30 to 7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; open swimming: Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

