

Family

Frost-free date not set in stone

For several years, I have lobbied those who would listen that this weekend should be declared an annual holiday. Obviously, not too many people listened to my plea, but I continue to believe that it should be a time of celebration.

According to the calendar, it is Friday, May 7, and in nearly all areas of the High Plains, we have reached the date of the last average hard freeze. Wouldn't you agree that that is reason to throw a party, to celebrate the end of ice forming on the bird bath or frost carpeting everything beginning to emerge in the vegetable garden?

It is indeed a heady time of the year for all gardeners around here. But we should keep one important factor in mind. Mother Nature does not pay much attention to the calendar, so the dates of May 6 or May 7 are only average last frost dates in this area.

Freezing temperatures can happen just about anytime in the next couple of weeks. Just ask a long-time wheat farmer in this area if he remembers the date May 26, 1992. The temperature dropped to 27 that morning and caused widespread damage to the wheat crop, not to mention newly emerged corn and just about everything in the garden.

Actually, the thermometer on the morning before registered just 29 degrees for the low and the daytime highs for May 27 and 28 set record low maximums of 41 and 48. There may be a few old-timers around who will remember the date June 2, 1951. The low that morning was 31 degrees, the latest that a freezing temperature has ever been recorded in Goodland.

Colby Rotary Club

Christine Gugelman, Sheila Frahm and Clarissa Unger were guests at the Tuesday meeting of the Colby Rotary Club, joining 28 members.

In giving highlights from the district conference in Hays on April 30 and May 1, President Jerry Arnsdorf reported that the Colby club received a membership award.

Marilyn Unger presented her



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

Actually, this area averages about 155 days per year of frost-free weather, roughly the same as Binghamton, N.Y.; Burlington, Vt.; Green Bay, Wis.; or Pendleton, Ore. There are places in this country that never see a freezing temperature, including San Francisco, San Diego, Miami and Los Angeles.

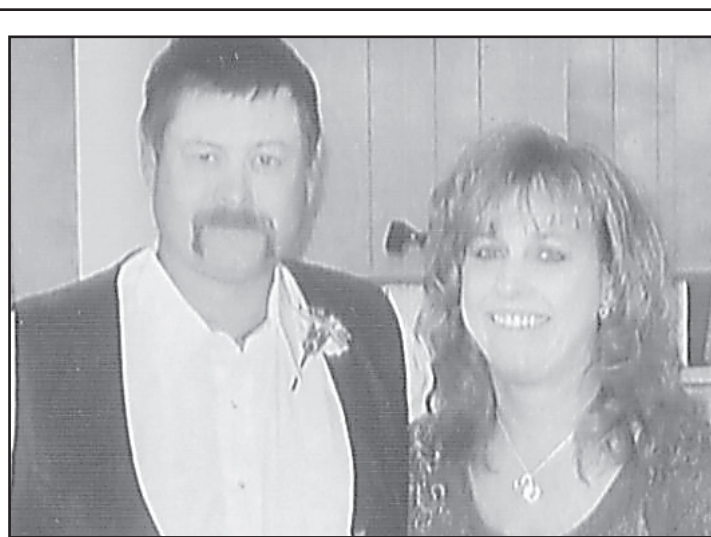
Then there are location where the growing season is practically nil. The folks in Bend, Ore., enjoy just 62 days of frost-free weather on average each year. In Elko, Nev., you have just 89 days in which to enjoy a garden. The folks in Nome, Alaska, can count on just 73 days to plant and harvest. And in Point Barrow, the growing season amounts to a measly eight days. Up there, the last frost in the spring come about June 27 and the first frost of the fall is July 4. How's that for gardening options?

Again, all the dates mentioned in this little synopsis are merely averages. Surprises in both winter and summer seem to be prevalent, no matter where we call home.

As we all prepare to set out those precious tomato plants over the weekend, always keep in mind that some means of protection should be available on a few hours notice. And we should always ... wait a minute! What did that guy on the radio just say about expected low temperatures tonight?

daughter Clarissa, who gave the program. She won a Rotary district scholarship. In September, she will attend Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where she will study for a Master of Science in comparative European politics. Unger gave an overview of Ireland.

A monthly collection was taken for the food bank. Marilyn Unger won Roto-Lotto.



Mr. and Mrs. Schwarz

Couple married in Country Chapel

Wendy Sander and Jerome Schwarz were married Jan. 14, 2010, at the Country Chapel south of Oakley.

The bride's parents are Charlie and Joyce Homm of Oakley.

Parents of the groom are Irvin and Carol Schwarz of Colby.

Cards will reach the couple at their home at 2647 County Road C, Oakley, Kan., 67748.

Goodland: Nathan Robert Elliott, Juris Doctor; Craig Allen Mason, son of Jeff and Nona Mason, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance.

Hoxie: Heidi Patrice Arb, daughter of Harold and Bridget Koster, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Quinter: Michaela Dawn Bird, daughter of Scott and Sheryl Bird, Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

KU's Class of 2010 includes those who completed degree work in summer and fall 2009.

Commencement information and a schedule of events are available at commencement.ku.edu.

Web site helps with Clean Air Act

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has a new web site, www.KSsmokefree.org, to help businesses implement the Indoor Clean Air Act and provide information for the public.

"Passing the statewide smoking ban was an important step in improving the health and lives of thousands of Kansans. Now it's time to get information out," said Lt. Gov. Troy Findley.

House Bill 2221, the Kansas 2010 Indoor Clean Air Act, was signed into law on March 12 and will take effect July 1. This law prohibits smoking in most enclosed public places, workplaces,

taxis, limousines, restaurants, bars, and within 10 feet from entrances and air intakes.

The web site provides downloadable no-smoking signs for businesses, a business toolkit and free resources to help people quit tobacco use through the Kansas Tobacco Quitline, (800) QUIT-NOW.

"By working together to implement this law, we can make our

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.09
Corn (bushel)	\$3.13
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.12
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.45

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday were first, Mary Molstad; second, Larry Barrett; third, Jean Snyder; fourth, Sarah Jane Barrett; fifth, Joy Davis; sixth, Barb Ulmer; seventh, Margaret Denneler.

The club meets each Tuesday in room 106 of the student union at Colby Community College.

MOVIE PASSES

Watch for your name in the Wednesday movie listings for 2 free passes.

(Passes must be used within 7 days.)

Pick up your passes at your:



Three from Colby to graduate Sunday

LAWRENCE — The names of more than 4,500 candidates for degrees at the University of Kansas Sunday, including three from Colby, have been announced by the registrar.

Graduates from Colby include Collin L. Bielser, son of Shelli Bielser, Master of Urban Planning; Joshua John Houtz, son of Brett and Margaret Houtz, Doctor of Pharmacy; and Gary Eugene Mannebach, Master of Accounting.

Other area graduates include:

Oakley: Kristen Ann Loftus, daughter of Richard and Joyce Loftus, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering; Jonathan James Porter, son of James Porter and Annette Porter, Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting; Alisha Anne Schwarz, Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Goodland: Nathan Robert El-

liott, Juris Doctor; Craig Allen Mason, son of Jeff and Nona Mason, Bachelor of Science in Business/Finance.

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MOVIES

NOW SHOWING

Digital/3D Cinema
May 7th - May 13th

LETTERS TO GOD

Inspired by a true story
Producers of "Fireproof" &
"Facing the Giants"
Genre(s): Drama
PG 1 Hour, 55 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:15
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

IRON MAN 2

Starring: Robert Downey Jr. &
Gwyneth Paltrow
Genre(s): Adventure/Sci Fi/Sequel
PG-13 2 Hours, 5 Minutes
Friday & Saturday 7:00 & 9:15
Sunday - Thursday 7:00

COMING SOON

Nightmare on Elm Street
Shrek Forever After 3D (starts
May 21st)
Back Up Plan
Prince of Persia

Colby Cinema

1935 S. Range • 785-460-9600
www.colbycinema.com

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Thank You

The family of Florence Gilchrist wishes to extend our sincere thanks to all who expressed support and sympathy with cards, words of comfort, gifts of food, memorials, flowers and plaques at the time of her passing.

Karen and Vernon
Flanagin
and Family

We're Looking for EXECUTIVE MATERIAL!

Are you looking for a good job?

Recent college grads welcome!

The Colby Free Press is looking for a full-time advertising executive to sell advertising for Nor'West Newspapers. The work week would be 40 hours with occasional evening and weekend duties. Computer skills with Excel, Photoshop, InDesign, and Acrobat helpful but not necessary. Must have good communication skills, and excellent customer service skills with attention to detail. Send a letter and resume to Steve Haynes, publisher, at 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kansas., 67701 or s.haynes@nwkansas.com. This could be the job you've been looking for.

NEED EXTRA MONEY? BE A NEWSPAPER CARRIER!

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Contact Kathryn at the Colby Free Press for more information on available carrier and motor routes.



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