



COLBY FREE PRESS

Voters turn to new faces in some races

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press
The elections are over and turnout was light, according to the Thomas County clerk's office. About 27 percent of the registered voters showed up at the polls Tuesday to select city council, school board and college board members.

County Clerk/Election Officer Tracey Perkins said it was an average

turnout for an election of this kind. The Colby Community College board election saw incumbents Kenton Krehbiel and Cleona Flipse win, with 1,051 and 837 votes, respectively. Flipse, however, trailed newcomer Curt Stephens who collected 1,023 votes in the at-large race to pick three candidates. Daryl Strecker finished fourth with 532 votes and Thomas Hill got 409. Chuck Moore, long-time

board member did not seek re-election. The Colby School Board will also see some changes. Newcomer Tracey Rogers, incumbent Gerry Fulwider and newcomer John Cranston were the top three vote-getters with 803, 561 and 523 votes, respectively. The other incumbent board member, Gary Walker, was fourth with 501 votes, while Gary Seeman got 391 and Dale Herschberger 350.

Wilburn Holloway, whose term was also up this year, ran unopposed for the unexpired term of Cindy Kriss and he received 780 votes.

The Colby City Council was destined to see a change, as Hal Kistler, Ward 2 decided not to run and John Bremenkamp and Mike Shirley ran for that seat. Bremenkamp won the election, 150-86.

Herb Sunderman of Ward 1, Eugene

Wieland of Ward 3 and Mark Beringer of Ward 4 were all re-elected in unopposed races.

Brewster also had some races, with Ed Hutton defeating Dwayne Randolph 68-64 for city council.

Three Brewster School Board positions were open. Leisha Carpenter defeated incumbent Neal Rush, 112-59, Shane Benham beat Tony Horinek, 88-83 and Carrie Starns beat Roy Dixon,

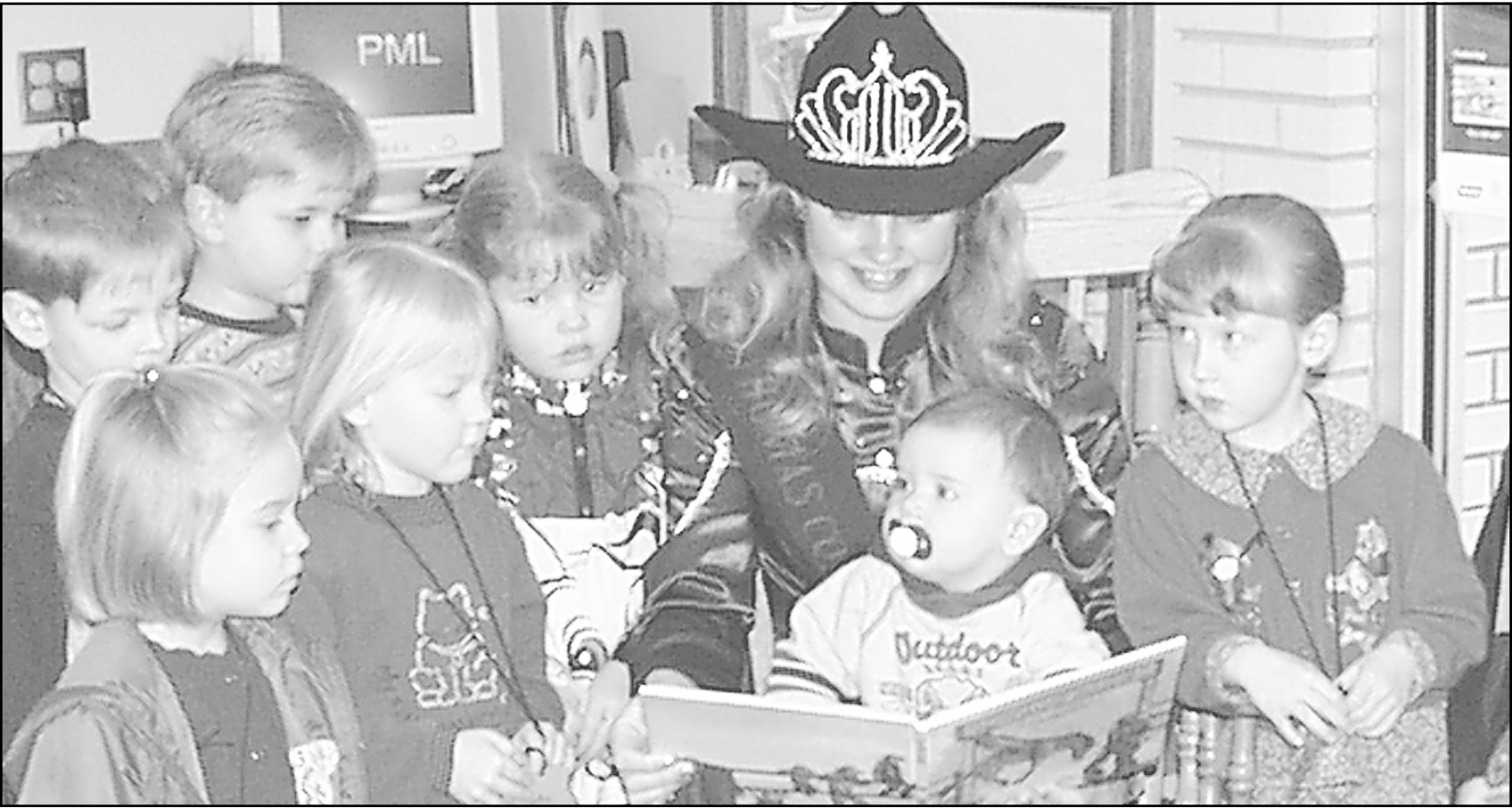
143-26.

In Rexford, nine people were running for five at-large city council seats. The winners were Mark Basgall, 53 votes, David Williams, 49, Michael Johnson, 48, Travis Vaughn, 39 and Gidget Mosier, 37.

Others running were Vernon Vance, 23 votes, Mary Carroll 19, John Gould,

See "ELECTION," Page 7

The princess and the kids



MAXINE NELSON/Colby Free Press

Amy Wilson, the Miss Thomas County Rodeo Princess, read to the children Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, and will read Thursday afternoon for National Library Week at Pioneer Memorial Library. Shown with Amy Wednesday morning were: from left, front,

Phoebe Pfeifer, Megan Johnson; back, Andrew Bailey, Kevin Kappenman, Dana Wilson. Amy is holding Jadan Reeh. On her right is Haleigh Westaat Not pictured: Hailey Schindler, Kaylie Reeh, Brenly Terrell and Sally Wilson. Amy is reading the book *Cowboy Rodeo*.

To sell or not to sell

School board at odds on property

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

The Colby School Board couldn't come to an agreement on the sale of property near the elementary and middle school campus on Monday night.

The board had been discussing the sale of partial lots to adjacent landowners for several meetings and had decided to take offers for discussion.

Although superintendent Kirk Nielsen and some board members had initially been against selling a lot north of the Colby Medical and Surgical Center at 175 S. Range, Dr. Victor Hildyard had offered to give the district a permanent easement.

The easement would allay concerns about the ability to get buses out of the loading area in case of heavy traffic. Hildyard offered \$2,500 for the lot and two additional partial lots south of the bus route.

Other offers were \$500 by Steve and Marvena Chance and Mary Molstad for the property adjacent to theirs and \$1,000 by Jim Robison. Bill

Kersenbrock also offered \$500 for a section of the lot Hildyard wanted to buy.

Jake Haines offered \$2,500 for the entire lot north of his property, used for excess parking by the school.

Board member Bill Miller said the sale didn't make economic sense. "We need to look at the value of what's left," he said. Board president Stan Molstad said he didn't like the idea of selling the lot adjacent to Haines because it was used for parking, but was for selling the rest of the property.

Board member Gerry Fulwider said he was also against selling the entire lot, but "we created an expectation when we started this thing."

Miller was against a motion by board member Wilburn Holloway to accept Hildyard and Kersenbrock's offers, provided they could come to an agreement on the property line.

"Who's going to police it?" he asked, referring to the need to move cars if buses had to go through.

See "PROPERTY," Page 7

County commissioners turn their attention to courthouse repairs

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Fee Press

The Thomas County Courthouse will be dryer from top to bottom if plans made by the county commissioners Monday work out.

The commissioners commissioned Rod Rodenbeck to install an enclosure

to the steps on the back of the courthouse that provide access to the basement. Conversation revealed that the steps lead down into a 'well' into the basement that has no drainage, consequently, water from the roof and surrounding pavement pours into the 'well' and then runs into the basement.

The enclosure is expected prevent water from entering, and help preserve the limestone foundation blocks and interior flooring.

The commissioners arranged for Roofmasters Roofing, Inc. to replace the shingles which had blown off the roof, in order to prevent leaks from the

spring rains. Roofmasters had estimated \$4,700 worth of wind damage which will be paid by insurance after the deductible. Wind damage is an ongoing problem at the courthouse because of the height of the roof, the steepness of the roof, and the angles and slopes where the wind "circles

around," according to Glen Strait, architect. The shingles on the roof have a limited warrantee for 80 mile-per-hour wind, but the warrantee is void above 30 feet. Strait suggested putting 'shingle stick,' (extra glue) on each shingle which might prevent so many problems in the future. The commis-

sioners called the insurance company, and the representative said to give him a price and he would look into it and get back to them.

Fred Haines of Roofmasters Roofing said he could not get to replacing the shingles this week, but could do it in "a couple of weeks."

China continues to push for apology

HAIKOU, China (AP)—President Jiang Zemin today demanded an American apology for a collision between a U.S. Navy spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet.

China didn't respond to President Bush's warning Tuesday that ties with Beijing could suffer unless it quickly releases the EP-3E plane and the 24 crew members. Instead, Jiang said Washington "should bear all responsibilities for the collision incident," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Despite the tensions over the plane standoff, Jiang left China today for a 12-day official tour of Latin America, the Foreign Ministry said.

"The U.S. side should apologize to the Chinese people," Jiang said before leaving. He demanded that the United States "do something favorable to the smooth development of China-U.S. relations, rather than make remarks that confuse right and wrong, and are harmful to the relations," Xinhua said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell on Tuesday dismissed suggestions that the United States owed China an apology.

"We did not do anything wrong," Powell told reporters in Florida. "Our airplane was in international airspace, an accident took place, and the pilot, in order to save 24 lives, including his own, under circumstances we now have determined must have been hair-raising, safely got that plane on the ground." U.S. diplomats were allowed to see the crew for the first time late Tuesday on Hainan island in the South China Sea, where they made an emergency landing after the collision Sunday. The diplomats said there was no indication when they could again see the 21 men and three women.

China's foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, summoned U.S. Ambassador Joseph Prueher to protest the collision and demand an apology. But Tang added, "The Chinese side pays attention to China-U.S. relations and hopes

to see the collision incident resolved appropriately as soon as possible," state TV and Xinhua reported.

The U.S. military says the EP-3E was flying in international airspace when it collided with one of two Chinese F-8 fighters sent up to track it. Each side has blamed the other's plane for the collision.

Jiang on Tuesday demanded the United States end its surveillance flights off China's coast.

A Pentagon spokesman, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said in Washington that the United States was unlikely to stop such flights. They are meant to gather information on China's military by recording radio, radar and other signals.

Bush said he wanted to give China time to respond in order to prevent the stalemate from escalating into a full-blown crisis. But he said a grace period was quickly running out.

China says the American plane rammed the Chinese jet about 60 miles south of Hainan, causing it to crash.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

A truck bringing the ew magenetic resonance imager MRI to the Citizens Medical Center Tuesday afternoon has a little trouble making the turn at the hospital. The machine is 60 feet long and 12 feet wide and is also capable of scanning the circulatory system, according to hospital administrator Michael Boyles. The machine will be operational on April 16, after hospital personnel are trained in operation.

Briefly

Weather: Still talking 75-80

Monday's forecast calling for temperatures near 75 for Tuesday's election missed the mark by nearly 26 degrees; the temperature here Tuesday was 49. The forecast for tonight through Friday talks of clouds, then partly cloudy conditions, fog, drizzle, and temperatures in the mid-70s, maybe even 80.

In detail: Tonight, cloudy, fog, drizzle, lows 40-45, southeast winds 10-20 mph, turning to the south; Thursday, cloudy, then becoming partly cloudy, a 20 percent chance for thunderstorms, highs 75-80 and southwest winds 10-20 mph, turning to the south; Thursday night, a 30 percent chance for thunderstorms, lows around 45; and Friday, thunderstorms, highs 70-75.

Tuesday's high in Colby was only 49 and the low this morning was 39. There was 0.01 inches of precipitation during the past 24 hours. The records for April 4: 89 in 1929

and 12 in 1977. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

State treasurer to visit here

Kansas State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger will be in Colby on Wednesday, April 11 at the Thomas County Courthouse as part of the state's continued efforts to match more than 300,000 people with unclaimed property funds owed to them. The mobile computer linked site will be here to assist area people from 10 a.m. to noon. "In the first year of operation," Shallenburger said, "the *Caravan for Cash* mobile unit was responsible for more than \$500,000 being returned to Kansas claimants." For people unable to stop by at the courthouse next week, Shallenburger suggested they might contact the unclaimed property division at 800-432-0386 or search the week site at <http://kansasstatetreasurer.com>

kansasstatetreasurer.com

Blood drive planned next week

The Thomas County Bloodmobile will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 11 at the American Legion, 1850 W. 4th, Colby. For information or to schedule an appointment, call toll free 1-888-719-8929.

Salina burial pit focus of event

The Prairie Museum of Art and History has planned a special program for Sunday, April 8, beginning at 2 p.m. recognizing Kansas Archeology Week. According to museum officials, Donna Roper will present the program entitled, "Salina-Area Archaeology in the 1930s: The Indian Burial Pit and Other Adventures of the Whiteford Family." Everyone is invited to this free event, which will be

held in the Garvey Educational Room at the museum, 1905 S. Franklin in Colby.

League art show continues

The Northwest Kansas League Art Show is scheduled for today, Thursday and Friday featuring many schools from around the area. The show started at noon today in the Colby High School gymnasium and will be open during the day and until 9 p.m., today and Thursday. The show highlights the talents of students in grades K-12, said Lamoreaux Fulwider, art teacher.

Preschool enrollment Thursday

PuddleDuck Preschool enrollment for children 3 to 5 years of age will continue on Thursday, April 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the facility, 520 W. 5th St. For information or questions, call Amy Jennings at 462-2603 or 462-8388.

