



COLBY FREE PRESS

Voter turnout 29 percent Evans beats back challenge, keeps position

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Clerk Tracey Perkins said today that 29 percent of the registered voters took time out of their schedules to mark ballots in Tuesday's primary election. She termed the turnout "good" but said she had hoped for a better showing. The percentage translates into 1,460 ballots cast out of the 5,121 registered to vote.

In the only contested local race, incumbent Republican county commissioner Ron Evans of District #1 beat challenger Lonnie D. Wilson, 207-156. The Democrats did not field a candidate in the primary, so barring a write-in at the general election in November, Evans should be back at the table for another four-year term.

The county did follow state trends in the well-watched gubernatorial race. In Thomas County, Tim Shallenburger and his running mate David Lindstrom, took nearly 41 percent (464 votes), while Dave Kerr and Mary Birch tallied almost 38 percent (431 votes). Bob Knight, after visiting Colby businesses on Monday, only received 21 percent (239 votes) and Dan and Eric Bloom, had only 10. Bloom dropped out of the race last Friday. The unopposed Democratic candidate, Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius will face Shallenburger at the polls in November. Sebelius collected 275 votes.

Another high profile race was for Republican Attorney General. Phill Kline ended on top both in Thomas County and the state against David Atkins. Kline pulled in 53 percent (586

votes) here to Atkins' 35 percent (392 votes). Charles McAtee received 12 percent (129 votes). Kline will now face the unopposed Democrat, Chris Biggs, in November. In other election races, Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts tallied 1,037 Thomas County votes to 82 votes for challenger Tom Oyler.

Jim Garner, Democrat, will face off with Sandy Praeger for the vacated position of Commissioner of Insurance in the November election. Praeger conquered Republican opponents Bryan Riley and David Powell in Thomas County as well as statewide. Praeger received 53 percent of the county votes (538) to 24 percent (249) and 23 percent (235) for Riley and Powell, respectively.

For the Republican bid for state treasurer, Lynn Jenkins was on top in the county with 639

votes, over opponent Dennis Wilson, who received only 378. She will now face off with Democrat Sally Finney in the Nov. 5 election..

The State Board of Education for District 5 found. Republican Connie Morris in a surprising win over incumbent Sonny Rundell, 809-265. in Thomas County.

Both unopposed, Democrat David Haley will face incumbent Republican Secretary of State Republican Ron Thornburgh in November. Other Republican winners were: Kansas House of Representatives, Jim Morrison; Township Clerks: West Hale - Ken Kammer; East Hale - Daniel McKiski; Menlo - Loren Guill; Barrett - Wilburn Holloway; North Randall - Byron Sowers; Rovohl - Arnold Wehkamp; and Smith - Vernon Vance.

Party Officers and Precinct

Committeeperson: Ward I - William (Bill) Adams; Ward II - Judy Kistler; Ward III - Alvin Koenig and Karen Koenig; Ward IV - Sharon Walker, Paul Steele; West Hale - Mike Baughn; East Hale - David Tole, Peg Tole; and South Randall - Stan Clark, Ruth Clark; North Randall - Lonnie Wilson, Lori Wilson; West Morgan - Lon Frahm, Lisa Schroeder; and East Morgan - Kay Weston.

Other Democratic winners were: Lacey Township Clerk - Pete Ziegelmeier; Party Officers and Precinct Committee: Ward I - Max Embree, Pat Embree; Ward II - Maurice Sloan, Vera Sloan; Ward III - Diane Williams; Ward IV - Tracey Perkins; East Hale - Ernst Seemann, Rosalie Seemann; and East Morgan - John Sears, Judith Sears.

Voters favor Faber

By TOM A. DREILING

Free Press Publisher

One of the closest watched Republican legislative races in Tuesday's primary took place in our own backyard. Rep. John Faber, Brewster, of the 120th District, turned back a challenge from Doug Sebelius of Norton, 52 percent to 48 percent. That translates into 2,161 Faber votes vs. 2,002 Sebelius votes.

Sebelius is the son of the late Keith Sebelius, who represented Kansas' 1st District in the U.S. House of Representatives for many years. He is also the brother-in-law of the Democratic candidate for governor, Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius, who was not contested in Tuesday's Democratic primary.

Faber carried 3 of the 5 counties in his district, those being Cheyenne, Rawlins and Decatur, losing in

Sebelius' home county of Norton, but not by much — 159 out of 979 votes cast — and also losing in Phillips County.

Here are the totals from each of the county seats:

- Cheyenne — Faber 484, Sebelius 134
- Rawlins — Faber 688, Sebelius 309
- Decatur — Faber 318, Sebelius 302
- Norton — Faber 410, Sebelius 569
- Phillips — Faber 261, Sebelius 688

Rep. Jim Morrison, Colby, of the 121st District, had a good day at all voting locations in his 4 counties, despite not facing a primary challenge. The Republican's total vote was 2,504. Here is the breakdown:

- Thomas County — 1,040
- Sherman County — 674
- Sheridan County — 366
- Graham County — 424

Meth lab operation in day-care

SALINA (AP) — A woman who ran a day-care center in her home was arrested on drug charges after police found a methamphetamine lab in her house.

Police Chief Jim Hill said Aleisha H. Gremmel, 24, and her common-law husband, Ronald W. Holcom, 38, were arrested on numerous drug and child endangerment charges Monday after authorities found evidence of a recent methamphetamine operation in the house.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued an emergency order Tuesday suspending Gremmel's license to provide child care, said Mike Heideman, spokesman for the state agency.

Lt. Joe Garman, commander of the I-135/I-70 Drug Task Force, said officers were sent to the house Monday after a neighbor called about suspicious activity at the home.

Garman said police removed seven children, ages 1 through 8, who were inside the house. Three of the children were Gremmel's and were taken by her family members.

Hill said police officers have no way of knowing if or how long the children had been exposed to the toxic chemical fumes, or how it might have affected them. Further details were not available.



John E. Bosserman of Oakley was among the 571 people in Logan County who cast their ballots in the election primary on Tuesday at either the courthouse or 4-H Building in Oakley. Assisting Bosserman was Dorothy Davis (foreground) and Mona Close was seated nearby.

CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

"We didn't have any local races," said Pat Schippers, Logan County clerk today, "and with 1,783 registered voters, the turnout for yesterday's primary was 32 percent, which was considered a low turnout."

Dingell fends off fellow Democrat in Michigan

By NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press Writer

Michigan Rep. John Dingell survived the toughest political challenge of his long House career to win a primary that pitted the old-school, union-backed Democrat against a colleague who represented the issues-oriented liberal wing of the party.

Dingell, the longest-serving member in the House, on Tuesday defeated Rep. Lynn Rivers, a four-term incumbent who challenged Dingell on gun control, abortion and the environment.

Voters in Michigan and Kansas also chose candidates to fill governor's seats opened up by term limits. Michi-

gan Democrats chose the first woman ever nominated for governor by a major party. Dingell, 76, and Rivers, 45, were pitted against each other as the result of a Republican-led redistricting plan that was one of the most successful for the GOP in the nation. States are required to draw new political maps each decade because of shifts in population.

Rivers, who was put into Dingell's district, became the sixth House incumbent to be ousted in a primary this year.

Dingell raised about twice Rivers' campaign funds, had the backing of the Detroit-area district's powerful unions

and campaigned on his long record of advocating for Social Security, health care and Medicaid.

"I congratulate Lynn on a fine campaign," Dingell told his supporters after declaring victory. "She did make us work, I want to say. The primary this year was extremely difficult."

With all precincts reporting, Dingell had 58,117 votes, or 59 percent, and Rivers had 40,781 votes, or 41 percent. Dingell is expected to win re-election this fall in the heavily Democratic district that stretches from suburban Detroit to the college town of Ann Arbor.

In the Michigan governor's race, Attorney General Jennifer Granholm

defeated two of the state's most influential Democrats — Rep. David Bonior and former Gov. James Blanchard — for the chance to replace GOP Gov. John Engler, who is barred from seeking a fourth term.

With 93 percent of precincts reporting, Granholm had 483,710 votes, or 48 percent. Bonior had 280,497 votes, or 28 percent, and Blanchard had 240,568 votes, or 24 percent.

Granholm, a 43-year-old lawyer who was a political unknown before becoming attorney general four years ago, is the first woman ever nominated for Michigan governor by a major party.

Briefly

Commissioners canvass Friday

The Thomas County Commissioners will be canvassing the election returns on Friday in the commissioners room at the courthouse.

Philanthropic workshop planned

The Thomas County Community Foundation is sponsoring a special workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 20, featuring Vaughn Henry, who is one of the nation's leading experts in the design and administration of charitable remainder trusts, lead trusts, gift annuities and other tools that integrate charitable giving and sensible financial planning, said Becky Donelan, director of the foundation. There will be three opportunities to hear Henry speaking, she said. The first two require interested people to register before Friday,

Aug. 9. Those times will be from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The third session will be more general and begins at 7 p.m. The evening session will not require registration. More details will appear in Thursday's edition. If interested in registering for the morning or afternoon workshop or questions, call Donelan at 465-9152.

Sidewalk sale begins Thursday

Colby's Downtown Merchants Committee is sponsoring 'Krazy Daze', from 4-8 p.m. Thursday. Downtown merchants will have sidewalk savings outside and free watermelon will be served.

Heartland enrollment underway

Heartland Christian School is accepting enrollment ap-

plications for the 2002-2003 school year for preschool through eighth grade. For information, call the school office at 462-6419 or come by the school's new location at 1995 W. Fourth St. in Colby.

Sacred Heart enrollment nears

Sacred Heart School enrollment and walk through will be Tuesday, Aug. 13, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For information or questions, call Dave Evert, principal, at 462-2813.

Leadership nominations wanted

Applications are now being accepted for the 2002-03 Leadership Thomas County program, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators. The purpose of the program is to

develop future leaders for the county and application requests can be made by businesses, civic clubs, organizations or by individuals, she said. Completed forms must be returned to the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce by Friday, Aug. 23. For questions, call 462-3401.

Volunteers needed for August event

Cheryl Schwarz and Chuck Dempewolf, co-chairperson's of the Relay for Life event are inviting people to take part in this unique fundraising event beginning Friday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. Kicking off the event, Schwarz said, will be the cancer survivors walking the first lap on Friday night.

The luminary lighting ceremony will be held at 9:30 p.m. For information or to organize a team, call either 462-3232 or 462-3481.

