



COLBY FREE PRESS

Cast your Vote Tuesday

County clerk reports 5,222 are registered

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Thomas County's general election polling places will be busy on Tuesday if all those registered show up to vote. Tracey Perkins, county clerk/election officer, said today there are 5,222 voters registered — up 100 from the August primary.

Perkins said that of that number, 1,100 are Democrats; 2,985 are Republicans; 26 are Libertarians; 5 are Reform; and 1,106 undeclared.

Advance voters who have either requested a ballot by mail or walked-in to receive one, she said, totaled 366.

People who are using the advanced ballot method and are not sick or disabled, had until noon today to return the form to the county clerk's office. For those who are sick or disabled, Perkins said, they have the same time to return the ballot as those going to polling locations with the exception that advanced ballots must go directly to the clerk's office. The polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Tuesday

As for predicting voter turnout, Perkins said there are enough ballots for 80 percent of those registered, which should be more than enough.

There are seven polling locations for the 18 precincts in Thomas County, said Perkins.

For people in Barrett and East Hale Township, voters will go to the East Hale Township Hall with those from West Hale and Kingery Township in Brewster City Hall.

The Mingo Co-Op Office is designated for South Randall and Summers Township and voters in Lacy and North Randall will go to the Gem Community Building.

The National Guard Armory will serve as the polling location for East Morgan, West Morgan, and Rovohl Townships, along with Wards III and IV.

Menlo, Smith and Wendell Township residents will be voting at Rexford City Hall and the Colby Community Building's north lobby will be open for Ward I with Ward II voters also casting their ballot in that building.

Democrat House hopes said fading

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats, out of power since 1994, need to gain seven seats on Tuesday to win back control.

The road to that goal has been looking steeper as Election Day nears, analysts say.

Indeed, some are even saying President Bush's Republicans may gain seats.

Since Abraham Lincoln was president, the party holding the White House has lost seats at every midterm election except three — 1902, 1934



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Middle School art students were busy working on their 'Peace Posters' this morning. Pictured are Mrs. Lamoreaux Fulwider's seventh grade art students (clockwise from top left): Paige Pfeifer, Brady Rundel, Brent Luedke, Duke Turner, Misty Mather, Bradley Dible, Curtis Fulwider, Aubrette Stephens, and Aaron Morton.

For these kids, it's all about peace

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

The Colby High Plains Lions Club is sponsoring the Colby Middle School for the Lions International Peace Poster contest. chairman "The contest encourages young people ages 11, 12, and 13 to think about peace, creatively express what

it means to them, and to share their own unique visions with the world" said Mary Hurtt, contest chairman.

Posters will be evaluated on three criteria at each level of judging. The criteria are originality, artistic merit, and expression of the theme, 'Dream of Peace'.

The deadline for the project is Nov.

15. Friday, Nov. 8, the judges will pick three finalists from the 62 Colby Middle School entries, one of which will be selected to advance to the Lions Club Mid-Winter Rally in January of 2003.

The judging will take place at Colby Middle School on Friday at 4 p.m.

No contested races on local ballots

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

With a tight gubernatorial race in the final stretch, Thomas County voters will not have many choices on the local front when entering the polls Tuesday, since there are no county offices being contested.

On the national level, those running for the U.S. Senate are: Pat Roberts, Dodge City, Republican; George Cook, Mission, Reform; and Steven Rosile, Wichita, Libertarian. For U.S. Representative of the First District, those on the ballot are: Jack Warner, Wright, Libertarian; and Jerry Moran, Hays, Republican.

In the gubernatorial race, voters will choose between: Tim Shallenburger, Baxter Springs and David Lindstrom, Overland Park, Republicans; Kathleen Sebelius, Topeka and John Moore, Wichita, Democrats; Dennis Hawver,

Ozawkie and Joel Heller, Kansas City, Libertarians; and Ted Pettibone, Saints Marys and Mike Wilson, Salina, Reform Party.

In the contest for Secretary of State, the candidates are: Ron Thornburgh of Topeka, Republican; David Haley of Kansas City, Democrat; and Charles St. George of Wheaton, Reform.

For Attorney General: Phill Kline of Shawnee, Republican; and Chris Biggs of Junction City, Democrat.

For State Treasurer: Sally Finney of Olathe, Democrat; and Lynn Jenkins of Topeka, Republican.

For Commissioner of Insurance: Jim Garner of Coffeyville, Democrat; and Sandy Praeger of Lawrence, Republican. State Representative 121st District, Jim Morrison, Colby Republican, will be on the ballot unopposed.

State Board of Education District Five, Connie Morris of St. Francis,

Republican, is unopposed.

Local unopposed races include the following: County Commissioner District #1 - Ron Evans, Colby, Republican; Barrett Township Clerk - Wilburn Holloway, Colby, Republican; East Hale Township Clerk - Daniel McKiski, Levant, Republican; West Hale Township Clerk - Ken Kammer, Brewster, Republican; Lacey Township Clerk - Pete Ziegelmeier, Gem, Democrat; Menlo Township Clerk - Loren Guill, Menlo, Republican; North Randall Township Clerk - Byron Sowers, Colby, Republican; Rovohl Township Clerk - Arnold Wehkamp, Colby, Republican; and Smith Township Clerk - Vernon Vance, Colby, Republican.

There will also be questions on the ballot concerning the retention of Kansas Supreme Court and Appellate Court Judges.

Road issues on the ballot

By **DARREL PATTILLO**

Colby Free Press

Voters in two Thomas County townships will decide Tuesday if road maintenance will be turned over to Thomas County for the next five years, pursuant to Kansas Statute 68-560.

Petitions signed by 10 percent of the

electors in Kingery township, which is south of Brewster, and Rovohl township, which is north of Colby near the Rawlins County line, were submitted to the Thomas County Commissioners within the 60 days prior to the Nov. 5 general election, which is a requirement of the statute.

Commissioners are confronted about hospital

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

There wasn't an empty seat in the house during Thursday's meeting of the Thomas County Commissioners, as concerned citizens approached the commissioners about the current hospital issue.

Dale Deaver was on the agenda to address the commissioners and eight others were present to hear the position of the commissioners on that issue.

Commissioner Ron Evans said, "This community is getting pretty divided, Glen (Kersenbrock), Duane (Dawes) and I have talked about this at good length."

He continued by telling the audience the commissioners have no control over the hospital board, just like they have no control over the Colby School Board or the Colby Community College board of trustees.

Those in attendance agreed with the position of the commissioners, but said the commissioners were in a position to put "pressure" on the hospital board by asking for a resolution.

John Kern, president for the Area Citizens for Healthcare, told the commissioners that he felt that the hospital needs to be put on the county tax rolls again and wondered if it was possible or how it would be handled.

Evans told him that it isn't even something that can be discussed at this point, and would be something that would only be a possibility if the hospital would go bankrupt.

He said if that were to happen, the board would be appointed by the commissioners just as the fair board is currently.

"If you appointed people (for the board) that the people didn't like, you

(Evans) wouldn't be sitting up here," Kern said in response, which would be a change from the way the hospital board is set up now.

The other issue that the citizens in attendance were concerned over would be the ambulance.

Kern asked if the county would make the ambulance available to those wanting to go to Goodland if their family doctor was practicing there instead of at Citizens Medical Center, or if the public transportation van could take those unable to drive to Sherman County to visit the doctor or hospitalized family members.

Evans and Dawes (Kersenbrock was not present) said the matter would have to be looked into, but it wasn't an issue that is facing the community at this point.

"We already know how they (the hospital board) feel about it. Dr. Hildyard won't retain his privileges," said Kern.

"I'm fairly certain (Dr. LaDonna) Regier will send her patients to Goodland, too," he said.

The commissioners agreed to look into how the ambulance and public transportation could be handled.

In Evans' statements, he told the group that the commissioners felt the legal process has not yet run its course.

"The process is working as it should," said Evans. "The controversy is being tried where it should be — in the courts."

He concluded by saying, "This is a big issue and we're as concerned as anyone else."

The Area Citizens for Health Care will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 in the Little Theater at the Colby Community Buiding.

At tonight's meeting Health insurance among topics for school board

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

The Colby Board of Education will be talking about health insurance rates for its employees, along with considering out-of-district field trip requests, calendar committee and Charter School issues during its regular meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the administration building, 210 S. Range.

Currently, the district's employees are covered under Blue Cross/Blue Shield, according to agenda information, and the board will be looking at the costs with action possible on this matter.

In addition, all building level prin-

cipals will provide reports to the board for their review. Among other reports will be those from Diana Wieland, curriculum director and from Kirk Nielsen, superintendent.

A second reading of the new/revised board policies is also scheduled for action and, if necessary, the board will go into an executive session for employment recommendations, resignations or supplemental contracts.

At the start of each meeting, the board president, Stan Molstad, recognizes visitors or, if requested, the public can address the board if they have filled out a form prior to that day's meeting.

a separate fund for the township.

All taxes and other moneys received by the township will be placed in this fund, which will be used to maintain the roads in that township.

The county is not obligated to spend any more money than what is in the fund.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Sunday's high, 44
Low this morning, 21
Year ago today, 72 and 34
Soil temperature, 39
Records for Nov. 4, 80 in 1945, 11 in 1967
The forecast
Tonight, partly cloudy, lows in the mid 20s, strong southwest winds 15-25 mph, shifting to the northwest late. Election day, sunny, highs in the lower 50s, northwest winds 20-30 mph, decreasing late to around 10-20. Tuesday night, clear, lows in the mid 20s. Wednesday, sunny, highs in the upper 50s.

Briefly

Methodist youth schedule dinner

The Senior United Methodist Youth "Thanksgiving Dinner" will be held Sunday, Nov. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If anyone would like to donate cooked or uncooked turkey for the dinner, pies or a dessert, please call LaDonna at 462-7747 or Barb at 462-2489. All are invited to attend. Free-will donations accepted.

Turkey supper set at Brewster

The annual Brewster United Methodist Women "Turkey Supper" will be held at the church on Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. A free-will offering will be taken.

Dinner scheduled at Rexford

The Lions Club and Royal Neighbors will be holding their Annual Turkey and Ham Dinner on Saturday with serving to begin at 11 a.m. The dinner will be held at the Rexford Community Hall. The Harvesters 4-H Club will also have a cookie sale that same day.

Marines invited to coffee

All former Marines are invited to a coffee in celebration of the Marine Corps. birthday, said B.J. Melvin, a coordinator of the event. The coffee will be held at the Colby Country Club at 9 a.m., Friday. All former Marines are invited.

Sign-up near for women's luncheon

Registration deadline for the Heart of Women's Health luncheon to be held on Nov. 13, at the Quality Inn, is this coming Thursday. The luncheon will feature speaker Marcia McCoy, coordinator for the Women's Cardiac Center MidAmerica Heart Institute Saint Luke's-Shawnee Mission Health System. The cost is \$10 and will include a meal to be served at noon and the presentation from 12:30 to 1 p.m. For information or to register call Betty at 462-3939.

Breakfast to benefit students

All hunters are invited on Saturday to a biscuit and gravy break-

fast at the Sacred Heart Church. Serving will begin at 5 a.m. All proceeds will go to middle school students attending the Washington, D.C. trip next summer.

Child Birth Class begin this week

The Colby Child Birth Education Class Series will begin for the month of November on Thursday, Nov. 6. The four-week series will be each Thursday through Dec. 4, but will not meet on Thanksgiving. Classes will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. and will be in the Health Science Building at Colby Community College. For information or to register, call Jeanne Brown at 462-4850. The next class will begin on Jan. 9.

Area Health Care group to meet

The Area Citizens for Health Care open meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Colby Community Building in the Little Theater, said John Kern, president. The public is invited and urged to attend. The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 5.

