



COLBY
FREE PRESS

Morris records big win

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

St. Francis Republican Connie Morris collected 53,917 votes in Tuesday’s general election for the District 5 State Board of Education seat, and faced a write-in challenge from I.B. “Sonny” Rundell, who came up with 14,168 votes.

Rundell is the 14-year incumbent on the state board and lost out to Morris in the August primary in a head-to-head match, 17,047-11,598.

Morris, a former elementary teacher who taught in Idalia, Colo., surprised everyone with her victory in the August primary, Rundell, when defeated in the primary, was serving as chairman of the state board.

“I was confident that we would win,” Morris said this morning during a telephone interview. “But we were not taking anything for granted.”

Morris campaigned vigorously this summer, talking to anyone who would listen, while Rundell wasn’t quite as active. She campaigned on issues such as immigrant children draining school resources, and her opposition to a tax increase that took effect earlier this year.

“More money isn’t going to make things any better,” she said in an article published earlier this year in *The St. Francis Herald*. “It will just be a big expensive band aid. The state can get the job done. Schools just have to figure out with the help of the board how to do what is best with the money they have and are already drawing from the taxpayers.”

When asked if she worked harder after the primary, she said “No, we definitely worked harder this summer to win the primary.”

“I’m very excited and ready to get to work. We were prepared to win, and I look forward to working cooperatively with educators and to bring a positive spirit about education to Topeka.”

US Senate goes to Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exultant Republicans took control of the Senate and held onto the House, handing President Bush historic bragging rights and two years to push through an agenda starting with deeper tax cuts.

Bush made celebratory calls into the early morning hours today and already was talking of his own 2004 re-election campaign. White House advisers boasted about a new mandate, and said the president would be beckoning Democrats to fall in line.

Republican leaders, in a victory lap on the morning talk shows, credited Bush’s aggressive campaigning and a fired-up GOP base of supporters for pushing the party to heights few had thought possible in a midterm election, when the president’s party historically loses seats.

“I had a sense or a feel that maybe this would happen but I must say it did exceed our hopes and expectations,” said Mississippi Sen. Trent Lott, expected to return as majority leader with the GOP taking clear control of Congress.

WeatherWatch
Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Tuesday’s high, 52

Low this morning, 26

Year ago today, 74 and 33

Soil temperature, 39

Temperature at 11:00 today, 55

Records for Nov. 6, 83 in 1915, 9 in 1961

The forecast

Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 30s. Thursday, sunny, highs in the lower 70s. Thursday night, clear, lows 30-35. Friday, sunny, highs in the upper 60s. Friday night, clear, lows in the mid-30s. Saturday will find highs the lower 60s and Sunday in the 50-degree range.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Engineers were busy Tuesday afternoon at the new waste-water treatment plant being constructed on the site of the old Ace Services plant, which the EPA declared hazardous and ordered cleaned up. Curt McCoy, with Black and Veatch, the contracting firm charged with the cleanup, said that the work was going well, and the new building should have an outer shell by Thanksgiving. The plant will be operational by mid-March. It is located just east of Golden Hardware on East 4th.

Council deals with controversy; discusses superfund assistance

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**
Colby Free Press

The Colby City Council, at its Tuesday night meeting, weighed in on the controversy surrounding Citizens Medical Center and Dr. Victor Hildyard — in the form of a resolution, which passed on a 4-3 vote.

Mayor Warren Hixson said that although the council has no authority in the matter, the resolution would show their concern. The resolution was prompted at the request of one of the councilmen.

Several of the councilmen said they were concerned about the city taking a position in the matter.

“I would like the city council to not take a position and leave this alone,” said councilman Todd Barrows.

Councilman John Bremenkamp agreed by saying, “This is a case of one physician breaking the law. This is a personnel issue — that is not public.” He continued by saying how sorry he felt for the hospital board in the matter.

The three no votes were cast by Barrows, Bremenkamp, and Ken Bieber.

The resolution (number 874) states the following:

“The mayor and the governing body of Colby recognize the citizens of Colby are one people, have a common dream and want to create a better world for their children and countless generations to come.

“The dissension between the hospital board the local physicians has created a rift among the citizens of Colby. “The ongoing dissension is creating an economic, social, and moral strain on the viability of our local community. “The future of the hospital, medical care and the very future of our citizens, their children, and future generations is being damaged. “The mayor and the governing body of Colby acknowledge that the general public is not cognizant of the circumstances behind the dissension between the hospital board and the local physicians. “The hospital board and local physicians are *urged and encouraged* to find an immediate solution to the ongoing problem and be individually responsible for the working to heal the scars of the past, creating a better future for all.”

In other business:

- The council discussed the application for federal assistance for the Ace Services Superfund site. The application requests a total of \$3,566,886 in State and Federal funding for the city to operate the water treatment plant for the next five years.
- City Manager, Carolyn Armstrong said the drafted suggestions for the

EPA have been sent, and it looks favorable for the city to operate the treatment plant.

She said she would rather the city be involved in the operation rather than an outside contractor, because the water will be reused in our drinking water system.

Action will be taken at a future meeting.

- A resolution was approved designating Country Club Drive a no parking zone from Fourth Street north to Kyle Railroad, starting 30 days prior to the construction.
- The area will be used as a detour when the Kansas Department of Transportation closes traffic on K-25 for the demolition of the viaduct.
- A decision was made to allow office space at the airport to be rented in the amount of \$370 per month for a business that is aviation related.
- Armstrong told the council about a Standard Operation Procedure that is in the works with the police department on the shooting of animals. She said animal restraint poles have been ordered for each police unit and that pepper ball guns are going to be used.
- Shooting an animal would be a last resort if either the officer or another citizen was in immediate danger.
- When the final draft is completed, it will be presented to the council.

Democrat Sebelius races to victory in reliably Republican state

TOPEKA (AP) — In a reliably Republican state, Democrat Kathleen Sebelius won the governor’s race after painting GOP nominee Tim Shallenburger as too conservative for voters concerned about education.

Sebelius actively courted Republicans who worried that the state would reduce aid to public schools, helped by a “Republicans for Sebelius” group and a separate “Save Our Schools” effort, both involving former GOP legislative leaders.

She successfully overcame Shallenburger’s efforts to portray her as too liberal, particularly on crime issues. She raised a record \$4 million, almost twice as much as Shallenburger, running television advertisements from late July through Election Day.

With 99 percent of the precincts reporting, Sebelius had 53 percent to Shallenburger’s 45 percent. Reform Party nominee Ted Pettibone and Libertarian Dennis Hawver split the remaining 2 percent.

The victory gave Sebelius the job of tackling a projected \$255 million deficit in the state’s current budget and a shortfall that could grow to \$1 billion during the next fiscal year.

She said during her campaign that she wouldn’t increase taxes or cut education funding.

Sebelius made much of an August statement from Shallenburger that schools could withstand up to a 3 percent cut in state aid if the alternative were raising taxes, which he wouldn’t do. Shallenburger later said Sebelius took his comment out of context.

Sebelius pledged a top-to-bottom review of state agencies, while

Thomas County goes Shallenburger

By **TOM DREILING**
Colby Free Press

Thomas County didn’t go with the flow, so to say, in the race for Kansas governor in Tuesday’s general election.

According to the final tabulation released today by Tracey Perkins, county clerk/election officer, Thomas County gave Republican Tim Shallenburger 1,537 votes and Democrat Kathleen Sebelius 1,264.

Sebelius won the election statewide by nearly 50,000 votes.

Reform Party candidate Ted Pettibone collected 41 votes and Libertarian Dennis Hawver got 24.

Other results in Thomas County in contested races were:

U.S. Senate — Republican Pat Roberts 2,559, George Cook, Reform, 81 and Steven A. Rosile, Libertarian 127.

U.S. Representatives, 1st District — Republican Jerry Moran, 2,636 and Libertarian Jack Warner, 171.

Secretary of State — Republican Ron Thornburgh, 2,186; Democrat David Haley, 536; and Charles St. George, Reform, 66.

Attorney General — Republican Phill Kline, 1,721 and Democrat Chris Biggs, 1,095.

State Treasurer — Republican Lynn Jenkins, 1,867 and Democrat Sally Finney, 942.

Commissioner of Insurance — Republican Sandy Praeger, 1,810 and Democrat Jim Garner, 958.

In the uncontested races, the following results were tabulated:

State Representative District 121 — Republican Jim Morrison, 2,651.

State Board of Education District 5

— Republican Connie Morris, 1,977.

County Commissioner District 1 — Republican Ron Evans, 722.

Barrett Township Clerk — Republican Wilburn Holloway, 53.

East Hale Township Clerk — Republican Daniel J. McKiski, 54.

West Hale Township Clerk — Republican Ken Kammer, 146.

Menlo Township Clerk — Republican Loren E. Guill, 31.

North Randall Township Clerk — Republican Byron Sower, 32.

Rovohl Township Clerk — Republican Arnold R. Wehkamp, 57.

Smith Township Clerk — Republican Vernon R. Vance, 65.

Lacey Township Clerk — Democrat Pete Ziegelmeier, 43.

The questions concerning the retention of Supreme Court and Appellate Court Judges all were majority yes votes in Thomas County.

The following is the result of all nine judges:

Supreme Court Justice McFarland — 1,655 yes, 561 no.

Appeals Court Judge Knudson — 1,643 yes, 462 no.

Appeals Court Judge Johnson — 1,507 yes, 527 no.

Appeals Court Judge Beier — 1,477 yes, 569 no.

Appeals Court Judge Lewis, Jr. — 1,779 yes, 434 no.

Appeals Court Judge Green Jr. — 1,550 yes, 495 no.

Appeals Court Judge Elliott — 1,538 yes, 511 no.

Appeals Court Judge Rulon — 1,514 yes, 505 no.

Appeals Court Judge Gernon — 1,524 yes, 494 no.

Turnout: 56 percent

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

In Thomas County some 56 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots for the candidates and issues of their choice on Tuesday, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk and election officer today.

Of the 5,222 registered to vote, Perkins said, the actual number of people voting at the polls or by advanced ballot totaled 2,904.

“I think this is about average,” she said with respect to the turnout and the fact that it was a mid-term general election. “We did have enough ballots available for an 80 percent turnout, though.”

In nearly all the races, Republicans in Thomas County easily dominated with the exception of one township race where Democrat Pete Ziegelmeier ran unopposed for the Lacey Township Clerk.

As for the two questions on the ballot concerning whether or not to turn over road maintenance to the county,

Perkins said, one township voted to do so while the other did not.

In the question posed to Rovohl Township voters, 44 agreed to the change and 28 said, “no.” Rovohl Township is located straight north of Colby and near the Rawlins County line.

In the Kingery Township question, voters were nearly split with 22 saying “no,” and 13 voters wanting the county to maintain the roads. Kingery Township is southwest of Colby and near the Sherman County line.

Following the decision, Rovohl Township will now be giving any unused money collected by the township for road purposes to the county, which will have a separate fund. All taxes and other funds received by the township will also be placed in that fund for use on those township roads by the county.

According to Perkins, the county is not obligated to spend any more money than what it has in the fund until the new budget is approved for the next year.

Briefly

Veterans’ Day parade announced

Colby’s first annual Veterans’ Day Parade will take place on Monday, Nov. 11, at 5 p.m. The parade is set to start at Fike Park and travel south on Franklin to third street, and will end at the Thomas County Courthouse with a small ceremony. A dinner will be served for all veterans and auxiliary members at the American Legion following the parade. To RSVP, contact the Colby Chamber of Commerce at 462-3401 or Jim Vap at 462-3493.

Parnell to address luncheon

Dick Parnell, of the Thomas County Amusement Association, will be guest speaker at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce noon luncheon on Friday at the Quality Inn (formerly Ramada Inn). The public, members and their guests are encouraged to attend.

Ident-A-Kid project Saturday

Keyna Baalman, of the Colby Police Department, will be at the

Housing Authority office, 600 S. Mission Ridge, starting at 3 p.m., Saturday to fingerprint children of all ages using Ident-A-Kid. This is a public service and is open children of all ages in the community, said Lori Wilson, resident activities participation coordinator at the housing authority. Everyone is encouraged to stop by for this free service.

Scout fund raising underway

Colby Girl Scouts in Cadette Troop 110 (seventh graders) are currently selling cookie dough, pizzas and other products with proceeds going to support council-wide activities, said Brette Pfeifer, scout leader. The products are from “Red Wheel” and the scouts will be selling until Nov. 29. For questions or to place orders, call 462-6998.

Landfill to close for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed in observance of Veterans’ Day on Monday, Nov. 11. Regular weekend hours will be observed on Saturday and Sunday before the holiday. The land-

fill will open again at on Tuesday morning for regular hours. For information, contact Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

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.

Breakfast to benefit students

All hunters are invited on Saturday to a biscuit and gravy breakfast 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.

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.

Shallenburger said he could cut 7 percent or 8 percent of all spending outside aid to public schools.

Sebelius acknowledged the state’s financial problems won’t be solved quickly.

“It’s going to take discipline and resolve and patience,” she said.

Shallenburger won Johnson County, a Kansas City Republican stronghold, but Sebelius scored elsewhere.

