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Post-election Local party bosses offer comments

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

Tuesday's election results will have a local impact, especially with the change in the Kansas governor's chair. Kathleen Sebelius, the new Democratic governor, will have a lot of people in the agriculture industry watching to see how she interacts with the Republican leadership in Kansas.

These were thoughts offered by chairpersons of the respective political parties in Thomas County.

Republican Party chairman Bill Adams of Colby said that he was "disappointed with the result of the governor's race," but "really pleased with the GOP victories nationally."

Adams said that it was also important that U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts and Congressman Jerry Moran retained their positions, because of the farm programs that are so important to Kansans.

"They've done a lot of work on farm programs," Adams said. "It's good that they'll be able to continue those efforts."

As far as the change in governors, Adams hopes that Sebelius will be able to get along with the Republicans in Topeka. "We'll just have to wait and see how well they can work together," he said.

On the Democratic side, party chairwoman Rosalie Seemann was pleased that the state had elected a Democrat as governor. "I'm really happy about that," she said. "Hopefully, some of the other races that aren't decided yet will go our way."

On the national scale, referring to the Democrats being trounced by the Republicans, all Seemann had to say was "Kaput. It just went kaput."

Oakley school district bond issue defeated

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

OAKLEY — Voters in Oakley Unified School District #274 were faced with a decision at Tuesday's election involving a \$1.75 million bond issue. The outcome was a resounding "no" vote with 68 percent of the ballots against the project. That translated into 768 voters opposed and 361 in favor.

Pat Schippers, Logan County clerk, said on Thursday that the school district proposed using the funds to add on to the current high school. She said the money was to be used for a practice gymnasium, six classrooms, and if funds were left over, to build on further to the existing building.

The expansion project would assist the school district in closing down the existing school in Monument, and allowing for more classroom space for more students, said Schippers. Currently the school in Monument is used only for grades three, four and five and approximately 60 students attend classes at that location.

Schippers said that four years ago, a similar bond issue was on the ballot, although it was for more money. That bond was voted down as well.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers
Thursday's high, 74
Low this morning, 30
Year ago today, 47 and 33
Soil temperature, 43
Temperature at 10:45 today, 60
Records for Nov. 8, 82 in 1931, 9 in 1896
The forecast
Tonight, clear, lows near 40, west winds up to 15 mph. Saturday, partly sunny, high 70-75, southwest winds up to 20 mph, turning to the northwest in the afternoon. Saturday night and Sunday, clear to partly cloudy, lows mid 30s and highs mid 50s. Sunday night and Monday, partly cloudy, lows 30-35 and highs 50-55.

I t's all coming together



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Tourism director Lelani Thomas looked up at the grain bin which will be part of the new Colby Travel Information Center. "It's really the talk of the town," Thomas said. "What people don't know is that it's really just part of the whole building." The information center is scheduled to open by next spring, Thomas said. The new center is located directly across the street from Arby's.

Voters say 'yes,' but state says 'no'

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — Voters in this border city have said "yes" to allowing Sunday sales at liquor stores, even though state law technically still says "no."

Officials of the local government think they can make a strong argument that technically, the state law has long been construed incorrectly.

For years, Kansas legislators have rejected measures that would repeal the state's ban on sales of packaged beer, wine and liquor on Sundays. And for just as long, many retailers have

chafed at the ban, especially in communities bordering states that allow Sunday sales.

Commissioners of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., decided in August to ask voters whether Sunday sales should be allowed at liquor stores. By a 60 percent to 40 percent margin, voters on Tuesday approved the measure.

In Edwardsville, also located in Wyandotte County, the City Council in August unanimously approved a charter ordinance allowing its one liquor

store to open on Sunday.

Those actions put the two cities on a collision course with the state Department of Revenue's Alcoholic Beverage Control Division. Officials of the division have said they did not believe cities could exempt themselves from the statewide ban.

The ban is a provision of the state Liquor Control Act, adopted in 1949 after Kansas abandoned prohibition.

Now, in light of Tuesday's vote, the division is consulting with the attorney general's office on the issue.

Large wind farm step closer to reality

EL DORADO (AP) — Butler County is one step closer to bringing electricity-generating windmills to southeast Kansas.

This week the county's planning commission approved a proposal by Kansas Wind Power LLC for a 6,000-acre wind farm it wants to build about 3 1/2 miles south of Leon.

About 75 people waited late into the night Tuesday for the commission to discuss and vote on the proposal. Then,

for more than two hours, county officials heard from residents who support and oppose the project, as well as from representatives of Kansas Wind Power LLC.

The farm would include between 50 and 80 turbines, 262 feet tall, to be built on privately owned land. They would generate enough energy to power between 50,000 and 75,000 homes a year, said Kansas Wind Power chief executive Troy Helming.

Tension increased as the meeting continued. At 11:30 p.m., Helming told commissioners, "This site needs to be approved, and it needs to be approved tonight."

Commissioners debated whether they had enough information to vote.

Two motions to table the discussion for at least a month failed. The planning commissioners then voted 4-3 to approve the proposal, which goes to the county commission on Nov. 26.

Corn harvest nearly done, yields down

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

Corn harvest in Thomas and Logan Counties is about 75 to 80 percent complete and local elevators and state officials are saying that this year's crop will be ranging anywhere from 20 to 50 percent less in yields when gauged against the bumper crops in 1998-99.

"There are some good fields out there with 200 to 210 bushels per acre of corn," said Roger Stockton, Kansas State agronomist in Colby, "but overall the yields are down."

In offering a comparison, Stockton said that what was considered a bumper crop in 1998 and 1999 with averages of 230 bushels per acre for irrigated corn and 110 for dryland corn, just isn't the case this year.

Substantiating that, a spokesperson for Hi-Plains Co-Op said today that the majority of irrigated corn has been running for the most part below 200 bushels per acre on irrigated corn and there are many reports of full circles being cut for silage.

Additionally, most elevators in the area are reporting that they have received anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of the crop.

Stan Stark, general manager at the Co-Ag in Oakley, agreed yields were down a lot and there was no dryland corn crop.

"We are about 75 to 80 percent done and what's not being harvested is also being cut for silage," Stark said today. "The majority of what we have taken here has for the most part went to feedyards."

Stockton also talked about some of the other fall crops, along with the corn crop to include sunflowers, milo and soybeans.

At the Northwest Research-Extension Center variety performance test plots for the dryland sunflower crop came in at yields of 1,200 lbs. per acre. The best yields on the performance trials for corn on irrigated and flood irrigation plots were at 302 bushels.

"I also saw a couple of entries for irrigated sunflowers with yields at 3,000 lbs. per acre and some with yields in the 4,000 to 4,600 lbs. per acre range," he said.

"At prices right now for sunflowers, that's around \$500 an acre gross income,"

Yet for the majority of producers, Stockton said, the reports have been showing not much dryland corn in this area and only a little bit of dryland milo and sunflowers were harvested.

The majority of the fall dryland crops, with only a few fortunate exceptions, were lost to the drought conditions this year, he said.

Among those few exceptions, Stockton said, some producers around the Colby area were able to salvage some of the dryland milo, but the majority of the crop didn't make it.

Part of the delays in this year's fall harvest, he said, were attributed to the small amounts of rain and snow in October, which was enough to slow the drying.

"Even though the crops can dry back quickly, many fields were still too muddy to back into," Stockton said.

Counterfeit suspect is shipped to Wichita

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

A Colorado woman caught last week for trying to pass counterfeit \$20 bills at the Conoco Travel Shoppe in Colby is now on her way to Wichita to face federal charges, said Tom Jones, Thomas County sheriff.

Kathy Jo Nelson, 48, was arrested last Wednesday after an employee of the travel shop called authorities to report the counterfeit incident.

Following a search of her vehicle, law enforcement officials said they discovered \$3,250 in counterfeit money hidden in the engine compartment. The bills were in denominations of \$20 and \$50.

In addition to the fake money, Colby Police officials also found marijuana, methamphetamines, drug paraphernalia and many documents containing

identities of other people.

"Nelson was charged here with one count of passing forged bills," Jones said today, "but the United States Secret Service issued a warrant on Nelson to face federal charges in Wichita."

During the initial investigation, Randy Jones, Colby chief of police, commended the employee for being alert to the situation and calling authorities immediately. Prior to federal officials arriving on Thursday, Nelson was being held in the Thomas County jail.

The next step for Nelson will be an appearance in front of a federal magistrate to face the more serious charges of counterfeiting.

As for the drugs and other paraphernalia discovered, the Quad County Task Force is continuing to investigate pending prosecution.

Bush wants Homeland passed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush summoned GOP congressional leaders today to press for swift passage of his proposed Department of Homeland Security, trying to erase doubts by incoming Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott that this month's "lame-duck" session can accomplish anything.

The Democratic-run Senate had refused to embrace the proposal because of concerns over union protections for the new agency's workers.

"They got a few days to get some big things done, and the most important thing to get done, I want to emphasize, is to get a Department of Homeland Security finished," Bush said at a news conference.

"It doesn't matter how long it takes, they need to get it done," he added.

Lott said Thursday he is "not an advocate of lame-duck sessions." He is eager to end the session within a few days.

Briefly

Bring flags to the parade

Residents of Colby and all of Thomas County are encouraged to bring flags to the Veterans Day parade on Monday in downtown Colby. The event will begin at 5 p.m. at Fike Park and move south on Franklin to Third Street and then onto the courthouse where a ceremony will be held. A bus will be available at 4:30 p.m. at the American Legion to take veterans to the parade and then to the meal following the ceremony. To RSVP for the meal, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 462-3401.

Methodist youth plan Sunday dinner

The Senior United Methodist Youth "Thanksgiving Dinner" will be held Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meals on Wheels will also be available for those unable to attend the event and organizers ask that if interested, call 462-2761 on Saturday or early Sunday to make arrangements.

Russian State Chorus to perform here

The Russian State Chorus will be performing at 7:30 p.m. (CST)

at the Colby High School auditorium, Saturday, Nov. 9. Admission at the door will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for students or by WPAA season passes. Funding for this performance has been contributed by the City of Colby Special Law Enforcement Fund at the Thomas County Community Foundation, and also by the Thomas County Community Foundation Kansas Health Foundation Fund. This program is also presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Korean war vets to speak at college

Two Colby Korean war veterans will be sharing their experiences in the "Forgotten War" on Monday — Veterans Day — at Colby Community College. Charles Davis will give a slide presentation at 10 a.m. and Phil Finley will give a presentation at 2:30 p.m.. Both will be held in the campus library. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Volleyball honors scheduled

Colby High School reminds all parents of students who partici-

pated in volleyball, including managers and trainers, that there will be a Fall Sports Awards Program on Monday at 7 p.m. in the high school commons. All are encouraged to attend, and the general public is also invited.

Senior Center to salute veterans

On Monday, Nov. 11, at 11:30 a.m., a Veterans Day program will be presented at the Senior Progress Center in Colby. Special patriotic music will be presented by Amy Kendrick and Pat Ziegelmeier, to honor the nation and our veterans. This presentation is open to the public and all 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.

