



COLBY FREE PRESS

Advanced ballots are now available

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Advanced ballots can be picked up at the Thomas County Clerk's office, 300N. Court in Colby for the Tuesday, April 1 election, said Tracey Perkins, county clerk.

Perkins said she isn't expecting a high voter turnout, which is typical when no questions or national candidates are on the ballots.

With 5,275 registered voters out of a little more than 8,000 potentials in the county, she said she hopes for about a 30 percent return.

For those wanting to use advanced ballots, Perkins encourages them to either stop by the office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or request an advance application up until Thursday to have one mailed.

Advance ballots must be returned to the clerk's office no later than noon on Monday before the election unless the voter is sick or disabled.

In those instances, the voter has until the polls close at 7 p.m., Tuesday.

Candidates in the Colby School District are Stan Molstad, incumbent, along with three newcomers, Kevan T. Taylor, Joel Powell and Dewey Augustine.

There is a contested race in Golden Plains School District with incumbent Mark Miller being challenged by David Gould and Jay Todd seeking position 2. In position 3, LeRoy Spesser, incumbent, and Position 7, Paul Bruggeman, are both looking for another term.

In the Brewster School District, Stephen Bear filed for another term in position 3. In position 1 of the

Brewster District there are no filings and in position 2, Don Allen is running unopposed, as is Bonnie Holm for the at-large position 6 seat.

The Colby Community College board of trustees has six people seeking three positions. Incumbents include Don Kready and Ken Poland with Lon Frahm, Mark Schwarz, Larry Arehart and Larry McDonald challenging.

The Colby City Council will see incumbents Ken Bieber and Todd Barrows running unopposed and Beverly Eicher and Tom Rundell are challenging one another as is Jim Brown and Monti Montgomery for the only two other council seats.

In Colby, Brewster, Rexford, and Menlo, Warren Hixson, Mike Baughn, William J. Dible and Brent Ginther, respectively, are running unopposed for mayor in their communities.

There were no filings for the position of mayor in Gem, nor did anyone file for open council positions in Menlo.

Gem has five council positions open with Carl Miller and Danny Carmen filing for two of the five positions open, leaving three slots still without a candidate. Other filings for council positions in Rexford included Michael L. Johnson, Gidget Mosier, Mark Basgall and David Williams, incumbents, along with Vernon Vance filling out the five positions open.

For voters in Menlo, there are five council seats up for grabs with no incumbents or newcomers seeking the positions.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Marilyn Schindler signed up for the drawing for \$50 worth of groceries at the grand opening celebration of the Brewster Grocery store. She and her husband Arnold, were the former owners of the business.

Come and get it! Brewster back in grocery business

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

Buying groceries in Brewster is back on track, although it looked a bit shaky for a while.

Brewster Grocery held its grand opening celebration on Saturday under new owners, Shane and Bonnie Holm. For the festivities, they served free hot dogs and soda and had a drawing for \$50 worth of groceries.

The Holms purchased the store from Arnold and Marilyn Schindler who had owned the store since 1991. The Schindlers had decided to retire and were going to close the doors last fall, since they could not find new owners. In December, however, Stuckey's convenience store along I-70 south of Brewster, caught fire and burned down, so the Schindlers remained open to continue to serve the community.

Both Shane and Bonnie Holm grew up in the area and had returned to be close to family last

August. Bonnie is a Brewster High School graduate and the daughter of Joyce and Willis Crabtree, both teachers at Brewster School. Joyce is retired and Willis is the technology advisor at Brewster High School and teaches at Golden Plains two days a week.

Shane Holm graduated from Colby High School and is the son of Elmer and Barbara Holm, former Colby residents who now live near Enid, Okla.

In a previous interview with *The Goodland Star-News*, Bonnie said after moving to Brewster, she and her husband were both looking for work. She was able to gain employment at the outset with S&T Communications, but Shane wasn't so fortunate. As people in the community were talking about the grocery store going out of business, the couple discussed buying it and decided to accept the adventure.

The Schindlers closed the doors at the end of January and after a four-day clean-up and a little rearranging, the Holms opened the doors again on Feb. 4, under the same name—Brewster Grocery.

The couple say they are excited about the new business and have been hearing great things from the community, happy with not having to drive out of town to buy groceries.

Bonnie is keeping her job during the day as the plant clerk for S&T, where she dispatches technicians. In the evenings she will help by keeping the books for the grocery store. Shane will work at the store during the day and has even been educated on how to cut fresh meat for the meat department.

They have four children: Shanda, Jeremy, Spencer and Tad. Shanda is married to Rodney Solze, and they have a 4 month-old daughter, Tia Jo. They recently purchased Bonnie and Shane's house in Utica; Jeremy is attending Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland;

Kansan captured by Iraqis

DERBY (AP) — The brother of a Kansas soldier held captive in Iraq said today he wants the United States to get the war over "as fast as possible" so his brother can come home.

Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, of the Wichita area is among the five soldiers captured Sunday, his family confirmed.

Miller graduated from Valley Center High School. He and his family had been living in Texas but his wife, Jessa, and their two children moved back to Park City to live with her mother when Miller was deployed in December. Valley Center and Park City are near Wichita.

Miller and the other captured soldiers were thrust in front of an Iraqi TV microphone and peppered with questions Sunday. The footage also showed at least four bodies.

The soldier's half-brother, Thomas Hershberger, 27, of Derby, said his mother spoke to Miller's wife Sunday. She had received confirmation from the military that Miller was being held by the Iraqis.

"She is not doing the best right now," he said of his mother, who lives in New Mexico. "Haven't had a conversation with her without her crying."

Hershberger said Miller's wife did not want to talk to the media early today.

His brother has a 4-year-old son and 7-month-old daughter, Hershberger said. Miller was a welder before joining the military last summer to help pay student loans, he said.

The video footage aired on Iraqi TV showed Miller answering questions in a shaky voice, his eyes darting back and forth between the interviewer and another person who couldn't be seen on camera.

Hays man has eye on Iraqi fires

HAYS (AP) — Tom Bollig flashes back to memories of fighting oil well fires in Kuwait as he watches television coverage of the war with Iraq.

And the Hays resident said he hoped to return to the Middle East to help put out the blazes started in this newest armed conflict with Saddam Hussein.

"This is just going to be a mess," Bollig said.

After the Gulf War, Bollig spent seven months battling the fires. He said he's not certain whether he will end up being summoned to Iraq this time.

Bollig spent 21 years fighting oil well fires with the Halliburton Co. living in 11 different countries.



Maybe a shower

Tonight...cloudy. A chance of rain showers this evening. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southeast late. Chance of rain 30 percent. Tuesday...mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Tuesday night...partly cloudy. Lows near 30. Wednesday...mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Wednesday night...mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 76
Low this morning, 38
Year ago, 32 and 23
24-hour precipitation, 0.00
Month's precipitation, 1.38
Records, 85 in 1907 and -2 in 1974

Senators say woman needs to head Air Force Academy

DENVER (AP) — Sens. John Warner and Wayne Allard said putting a woman in the top position at the Air Force Academy would bring a much-needed change amid investigations of a sexual assault scandal.

The senators said in a letter to Air Force Secretary James Roche that

the school's current leadership has not dealt with sexual abuse at the school.

"Despite warnings and clear indications that remedial action was needed, these officers failed to take effective action to correct these problems," said the letter, dated

Friday and obtained Sunday by KMGH-TV.

The Air Force says there have been at least 56 reports of sexual assaults of female cadets over the last decade.

Allard earlier rejected calls for replacing the commanders, saying

it could be an excuse for resolving the real problems at the academy.

Lt. Gen. John Dallager has been academy superintendent since June 2000 and was scheduled to retire this summer, and Brig. Gen. Sylvanus Taco Gilbert has been commandant since 2001.

Messages left with the academy and Air Force officials were not returned Sunday.

The Air Force has said that the two would not lose their jobs because the problems predate their leadership at the academy north of Colorado Springs.

Briefly

Fund raiser planned for Colbyite

The First Christian Church at 385 W. 3rd in Colby is sponsoring a fund raiser on Sunday for John Lee of Colby, who will be traveling to the University of Kansas Medical Center in early April for consultation on his debilitating arthritis. The potato bar will be held at noon at the church.

Candidates to answer questions

Two candidates for the Colby Community College Board of Trustees, Larry Arehart and Larry McDonald, will be fielding questions from voters at 7 a.m., Wednesday, at the Deep Rock Cafe. The public is invited.

Regional music contest Saturday

Colby High School students will be participating in the regional music contest for solos and small ensembles in Oberlin on Saturday, March 29 (not Saturday, April 5 as ini-

tially planned). The event is for both vocal and instrumental high school music students.

Conservation District selling trees

The Thomas County Conservation District has bareroot trees and shrubs available for ordering. There are 17 varieties to choose from, said Laura Davis, of the district office. The trees range in size from 12" to 3 feet, depending on the variety. The deadline to order the trees is Monday, March 31 and the delivery date is Saturday, April 12. For questions or to place an order, call (785) 462-7482, ext. 3.

Basketball boys to be honored

The Colby High School boys' basketball team has set their awards night for Monday, March 31 beginning at 7 p.m. in the high school commons area. This is a potluck supper and each family is asked to bring a dish to share and their own plates and silverware, said Jeff Quenzer, activities director.

Drinks and cups will be provided. Awards night is for all players in grades 9 through 12. The general public is also welcome to attend and encouraged to bring a dish. For questions, call 465-5300.

Red Cross offers CPR class

The Thomas County Red Cross is offering an Adult CPR class at the Thomas County Office Complex from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday. For questions or to enroll, call the Red Cross office, (785) 462-7161.

Bluegrass pancake feed planned

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to defray costs of the annual Bluegrass Festival, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators of the event.

