



Opal Linville, an employee of the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby, looked at an oil painting by Lillie Plummer, a member of the High Plains Art Club. The art club ladies are presently showing their paintings at the museum. The paintings will be on display until after labor day, and many of them are for sale. Twenty five percent of the profits from the sales will go to the museum.

Fifty-nine paintings on display at museum

Fifty-nine paintings by members of the High Plains Art Club are on display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby.

The "High Plains Arts," display started on July 21 and will continue through Labor Day, Sept. 6. There will be a public reception on Aug. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Garvey Educational Room at the Prairie Museum.

Eight local artists are exhibiting in the show and the subjects include old barns, windmills, butterflies, wildflowers and oceans scenes.

The High Plains Art Club re-organized in 2002 after the group helped Ken Mitchell with the mural at Bedker Hall at Colby Community College.

The (original) High Plains Amateur Art Club was formed in 1951, musuem officials said.

On Oct. 4, 1952, a letter was sent to the Amateur Artists Association of America, Inc in New York asking to form a chapter.

According to the letter, Blanche Miller of Brewster, Thelma Bald-

win Gift of Rexford, Shirley Snow Davis, Francis L. McKinney, and William Schroeder desired to transfer their membership to the new chapter.

The club meets at Southwind Plaza on the second Tuesday of the month.

The members paint in the morning, have lunch and then have a program.

Current members are Marlene Carpenter, President; Bev Kern, Treasurer; Marj Brown, Secretary; Margaret Denneler, Vice-President and other members Lily Plummer, Irma Lee Fleckenstein, Joe Bricker, Fritz Ostmeyer and Ruthie Hughes.

The exhibition, which is free and open to the public is available during regular Museum hours 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m., Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m., on Sunday.

For information call the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin, Colby, Kan. 67701. Interested persons can also call (785) 462-4590.

Johnson County will be good place to watch during Tuesday's primary

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — If you're looking around Kansas for a good political scrap, Johnson County is the best place to start.

Near constant-strife among Republicans here pits conservatives who oppose tax increases and abortion against moderates who want an influx of money for schools and support abortion rights. The conflict is fueling the state's most-closely watched congressional race and contests in 19 legislative districts.

The results from Johnson County in Tuesday's primary also will have consequences beyond its borders. The legislative races will help determine the ideological balance of power in both chambers, and lingering animosity among Republicans would help the only Democrat in the state's congressional delegation keep his seat.

Also, as long as GOP activists in Johnson County are feuding, Republicans statewide cannot really claim to be united.

"The centers of both sides are here," said Mary Kay Culp, executive director of Kansans for Life, the state's largest anti-abortion group.

The Kansas City-suburb naturally looms large in Kansas politics because of its sizable population. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated the county had more than 486,000 residents in 2003, making it the state's most populous and its fastest-growing.

More importantly politically, Johnson County has some 325,000 registered voters, about 118,000

more than Sedgwick County, its nearest rival. One in every five registered voters in the state lives in Johnson County.

Johnson County has the biggest bloc of votes in the 3rd Congressional District, where three of its residents are vying for the Republican nomination this year.

They are Adam Taff, the 2002 GOP nominee, widely perceived in GOP circles as the moderate standard-bearer; Kris Kobach, an unabashed conservative; and Patricia Lightner, who considers herself between the two but is seen by many Republicans as a longshot.

The winner Tuesday takes on Democrat incumbent Dennis Moore, who won re-election in both 2000 and 2002 with only 50 percent of the vote.

Meanwhile, there are contested Republican primaries in six of the county's seven Kansas Senate districts, five of them with an incumbent. There are GOP contests in 13 of the county's 21 Kansas House districts, with incumbents facing

challenges in 10 of them.

Moore holds onto his congressional seat because he can draw support from unaffiliated voters and disaffected Republicans after building on the loyalty of fellow Democrats, particularly in Wyandotte and Douglas counties.

However, Democratic legislative candidates whose districts are entirely within Johnson County don't have the same luxury. The county has almost 161,000 registered Republicans, and its 96,000 unaffiliated voters outnumber Democrats by nearly 30,000.

In most districts — all but one of 28 of the county's legislative seats are held by a Republican — the GOP nominee is all but guaranteed a place in the House or Senate.

"Everyone realizes that the Republican primary in Johnson County is the whole game," said Steve Cloud, a moderate GOP activist from Lenexa who serves on the Republican National Committee.

In years past, abortion has been one test for whether someone falls

into conservative or moderate camps. So, too, has the willingness to increase taxes to benefit schools. In 2000, one hot issue was a State Board of Education decision to de-emphasize evolution in science testing standards.

This year, gay marriage became part of the mix, after legislators refused to put a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution banning gay marriage on the ballot.

"When you look at the conservative-moderate split in Johnson County, they're pretty evenly divided," said Sue Gamble, a Shawnee Republican, who is part of a moderate bloc on the State Board of Education.

In fact, the county's delegation in the Kansas Senate has been split 3-3 for the past four years. On the moderate side were David Adkins, of Leawood; Barbara Allen, of Overland Park, and John Vratil, of Leawood. On the conservative side were Karin Brownlee, of Olathe; Nick Jordan, of Olathe; and Kay O'Connor, of Olathe.

BARBEQUE

Big Boys Barbeque

will be at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Tuesday, August 3 through Saturday, August 7 from lunchtime through suppertime.

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"Neighbors helping neighbors"

Junction City inventories troop housing

JUNCTION CITY (AP) — An announcement last week that the Army is adding a new brigade at Fort Riley has Junction City officials wondering whether the city has enough housing for 3,400 more soldiers.

City Manager Rod Barnes said he's not worried about a shortage, despite an estimated increase of about 8,000 people in the area — figuring that each soldier brings an average family of 1.5 people.

In 1992, he said, Fort Riley had more than 14,000 soldiers. Since then, Junction City's housing stock has increased while the population at the base fell to about 10,500.

"Will the housing that is here fill up? Yes," Barnes said. "Would the housing market get tighter? Probably. And would it entice people to build? Well, that is the \$64,000 question. I think that it will."

The Army announced on June 23 that it is creating a new infantry brigade in 2006 that will be stationed at Fort Riley.

Construction already is under way on new housing in the city. In the next 18 months, Barnes said, four to six new housing developments will open up, adding between 400 and 500 housing units in Junction City.

"It is not scary from the standpoint that we have been there," Barnes said. "We have had that population in the past. We are excited and glad that we will be able to get back to that."

Junction City's population in 1990 was about 22,000, according to the Census Bureau, but dropped to about 18,000 by 2000.

Kicking off the Fair!!

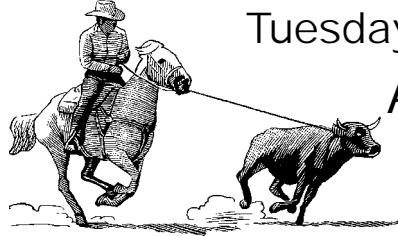
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P.R.C.A. RODEO

Tuesday & Wednesday

August 3 & 4

8 p.m.



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P.R.C.A. RODEO

2 BIG NIGHTS!

Tuesday & Wednesday

August 3 & 4

8 p.m.



Wednesday, August 4

ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW &
STATIONARY ENGINE
DISPLAY: 3 - 9 P.M.

FREE BBQ:

Wednesday, August 4

@ 5:30 p.m.

Roofmasters DEMOLITION DERBY



Thursday, August 5

8 p.m.

2 NIGHTS OF RACES!!

Friday, Aug. 6

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Saturday, Aug. 7

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