



COLBY FREE PRESS

Election 2007 coverage

Rexford city candidates talk about streets, money

Editor's Note: Throughout the week the Colby Free Press will highlight all the candidates from Thomas County for the April 3 elections.

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Keeping things running smoothly is the top priority for candidates of Rexford's city council on the April 3 ballot.

"I try to do the business of the city and get it done right," incumbent council member Dave Williams said. "That's why I'm there."

Williams, 62, said damage to Rexford's streets caused by the harsh winter is the key issue he wants to tackle.



Williams

in Rexford.

Williams' nephew, Dwight Williams, 40, is also in his second term on Rexford's city council.

"There's street work coming up and the streets need gravel, he said.

Williams said he served on the city council many years ago and is currently in his second term and seeking a third.

He is owner of Dave's Auto Supply

"Somebody's got to do it," Dwight said about several residents asking him to run for a third term. Dwight, 40, said he wants to "keep peace" and keep Rexford running smoothly without spending a lot of money to do it.

"I want it to be a nice place for residents to live," he said.

Dwight and his wife, Sharla, have one daughter and four grandchildren. Williams farms for his father, Charles Williams.

Also an incumbent is Nancy Dahl, 61, a home health aide for L & C Home Health of Colby.

In addition, Dahl is an emergency medical technician for Rexford.

Dahl said she's running for re-election because she wants to continue the work that's been started in Rexford, such as installation of sidewalks.

"Right now we don't have any major issues, but we are working on streets," Dahl said.

"The streets are pretty good, but there are some cracks on Main Street."

Dahl and her husband, Jay, have three children and nine grandchildren.

Also running for city positions are current Mayor Bill Dible and his challenger Dennis Allison.

Both candidates did not return telephone calls.

Two towns in Thomas County have ballots only for write-in candidates because none of the current council members filed for re-election. In Gem, current officials are Mayor Phyllis Ziegelmeier, council members Annette Spresser, Monica Miller-Bugbee, Margaret Flanagan, Larry Higerd and Warren Ziegelmeier.

"It only takes one vote and they can write themselves in and get it," Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms said.

None of the current council members in Menlo filed for re-election. Officials are Mayor Troy Staats and council members Ed Finger, Ron Hazlett, Richard Fields, Travis Durham and Joe Carmen.

Brewster's future, vitality important to council candidates

Mike Baughn looks for another term; others vie for variety of seats

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Keeping Brewster headed on a proactive path is the reason being cited by the April 3 candidates for city offices. Incumbent Mayor Mike Baughn, 58, has for the past 30 plus years worked in various capacities of Brewster's city government.

Marshal from 1972 to 1973, Baughn was elected to the city



Ribordy



Baughn



Edmundson



Schoenberger

council in 1974, and has served as mayor since 1979.

"I enjoy the position to start with," Baughn said, "and think working together with the council can do what the residents want us to do to keep the city's infrastructure maintained."

Baughn said the issues he sees most important to Brewster are clearing tree roots from certain areas of the sewer system, keeping drinking water at its safest level and repairing damage done to streets over the winter.

Baughn is the son of James and

Jean Baughn of Colby, and one of three children, his sisters residing in Colorado Springs and Concordia, Kan.

Kept involved with activities besides being Thomas County's sheriff, Baughn is a board member of the Thomas County Historical Society, Brewster Lions Club, Brewster Heritage Center, senior citizens' center, grocery store board and United Methodist Church in Brewster.

Ron Ribordy, an incumbent member of Brewster's city council, said streets and keeping the city looking good are key issues for him. Ribordy, 63, believes having a qualified city superintendent like Mike Schultz is an asset to

Brewster. "(Mike) does a good job," Ribordy said.

"And I decided to run again because I like the progress we have done in the last five years and it's challenging."

Ribordy and his wife, Gloria, have five grown children and three grandchildren.

He is employed by the Brewster school district as transportation director and head custodian. Stacey Edmundson, 40, is a newcomer to Brewster's political arena.

A route salesman for Frito Lay, Edmundson said he believes economic development is a top priority for a town the size of Brewster. Brewster has about 300 residents.

"I am real interested in economic

development and bringing more business and people to town and keeping our little town alive," Edmundson said. Edmundson and his wife, Sherri, have one son and one daughter.

Besides family and work, Edmundson keeps busy as a board member of the Brewster Lions Club, Booster Club and city recreation department. Also up for re-election is Gene Schoenberger, 59, and a council member for almost 20 years.

Schoenberger is central office technician for S&T Communications and his wife's name is Doris.

Asked about running again for office and key issues, Schoenberger declined comment.

Time to shop!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press



ABOVE: The S&T Communications booth was one of many featured at the Better Home and Living Show Saturday at the Colby Community Building. **LEFT:** Karson and Madysyn Haggard looked at a grill in the shape of a pig during the Better Home and Living Show.

Brewster man stabbed by wife, both charged

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

A domestic dispute, a disorderly bus passenger and a car fire turned violent kept the Thomas County sheriff's office, Colby Police Department and Brewster Fire Department busy Saturday.

The day started with a 911 call at 4:46 a.m. from a Brewster man calling for help after being stabbed with a butcher knife in the 400 block of Main.

"When the deputy arrived," said Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn, "an altercation between a husband and wife had occurred with the man having a laceration on his right palm."

Both Wanda Kay Swenson, 41, and her husband, Vernon, 43, were arrested. Wanda was charged with aggravated domestic battery and Vernon was taken by ambulance to Citizens Medical Center for treatment before being booked on charges of domestic battery and disorderly.

Swensons are expected to be arraigned today or Tuesday, Baughn said.

Baughn said a caller alerted officials at 9:57 p.m. about a car fire at the 24-hour self-serve gas station at the Brewster exit on Interstate 70.

"The caller said it was a car fire,

but when we arrived, it was more than a car fire," he said.

Baughn said he saw a transient man was being held up against the fire truck after hitting one or two firefighters trying to put out the fire.

The man, Kenneth Robert Hardy, 22, of New Jersey, was alleged to have started the car fire and when firefighters attempted to put out the blaze, the man became aggressive, Baughn said.

The charges pending included arson, battery, disorderly and resisting arrest.

Colby police were also busy Saturday assisting a Greyhound bus driver with an unruly passenger at 7:55 p.m. in the McDonald's parking lot.

According to information released, Guillermo J. Luna-Jimenez, 49, with unknown address, was arrested for disorderly and remained in the Thomas County jail today.

Baughn reminds residents whenever they see suspicious or unusual happenings in their neighborhoods, to call the sheriff's office or police department and report the information.

"We cannot be everywhere and the public can play a big part in being our eyes and ears," he said.

For questions or to report a crime, call the sheriff at 460-4470 or the police at 460-4460.

Gambling bill clears first hurdle in House

TOPEKA (AP) — Tourist-attracting casinos and slot machines at race tracks were a step closer to reality when the House gave first-round approval to the idea after more than a dozen hours of sometimes contentious and emotional debate.

The 65-50 vote before dawn Saturday advanced the bill to final action, scheduled for Monday. House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, a gambling opponent, said he thinks the votes will hold to send the measure to the Senate.

A bipartisan coalition proposal called for state-owned casinos in

Wyandotte County, Sedgwick County and either Crawford or Cherokee county, plus 2,200 slot machines distributed among three race tracks with wagering, the Woodlands in Kansas City, Wichita Greyhound Park and the now-closed Camptown Greyhound Park in Frontenac. After the coalition plan emerged, lawmakers lined up to offer some 50 amendments, with all but a few voted down.

All casino locations would have to be approved by voters in the county in which they're located.

Slots at the tracks could be a reality within a year.