



COLBY FREE PRESS

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Holiday celebrated with party

Cutting up at a Halloween party last week at the Colby Care Center were McKynzie Sigg (above left), who was painting Sierra Elling's nose, while Phyllis Kriss, dressed as a witch, watched. Activities director Magnum Shea (left), wearing a hockey mask, got egged. JoAnn Young (right) got into the spirit of the day as she tossed a few at him with apparent glee.



Time to vote for sheriff, other offices

By Andy Heintz

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Mike Baughn



Rod Taylor

Thomas County voters will settle the whole argument over who they want to be sheriff when they go to the polls on Tuesday.

After weeks of contentious letters, charges and statements filled with innuendo, and accusations from backers of both candidates, county citizens will choose who they think is the better man for the job.

On the ballot is Rod Taylor, a former part-time deputy and retired Highway Patrol officer. Taylor won the primary election in August and is the Republican candidate.

Sheriff Mike Baughn, who lost in the three-way primary, is waging a write-in campaign. Baughn is considered to have the tougher row here, since supporters have to write in his name and darken the oval beside it.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Thomas County voters will be voting in three locations, the Colby Community Building on East Fifth Street downtown, Golden Plains High School in Rexford and the Brewster City Hall.

The only other choices Thomas County voters will have on Tuesday will be three races for federal offices, president and vice president, U.S. senator and representative.

For president, the choices are the Democrats, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama and Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, or the Republicans, Arizona Senator John McCain and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

Also on the Kansas ballot are a couple of minor-party candidates, independents Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez and Bob Barr and Wayne A. Root on the Libertarian line.

For U.S. representative, incumbent Jerry Moran, a Hays Republican, is thought to be far ahead of Democrat James Bordonaro, a relatively unknown Emporia lawyer who has not appeared much in western Kansas. Moran, a veteran lawmaker, has served the sprawling 69-county district since 1996.

Also on the ballot are Libertarian candidate Jack Warner and Kathleen M. Burton, the Reform Party

candidate.

The race for U.S. senator may be a little closer, but incumbent Sen. Pat Roberts is expected to retain his seat for the Republicans. He faced Jim Slattery, a former congressman from northeast Kansas, who returned from a career as a lobbyist in Washington to make the race.

Minor-party candidates are Randall Hodgkinson, a Libertarian, and Joseph L. Martin for the Reform Party.

Other for state and county offices all are running unopposed:

- For state senator in the 40th District, incumbent Ralph Ostmyer of Grinnell as a Republican.

- For district judge of the 15th District, Division 1, incumbent Glenn D. Schiffner of Colby as a Republican.

- For district magistrate judge of the 15th District, Position 5, Richard J. "Rick" Ress of Colby, a Republican.

- For state representative in the 121st District, covering Sherman, Thomas and Sheridan counties, incumbent Jim Morrison of Colby, a Republican.

- County commissioner in District 2, Republican incumbent Paul M. Steele of Colby.

- County commissioner in District 3, incumbent Ken Christiansen of Brewster, also a Republican.

- For county clerk, incumbent Shelly A. Harms of Colby, a Republican.

- For county treasurer, incumbent Donita Applesbury of Colby, the lone Democrat.

- Register of deeds, Maybell F. Moore of Colby, a Republican incumbent.

- County attorney, newcomer Bruce Flipse of Colby, who won the Republican against Preston Pratt of Oberlin.

Council to meet

The Colby City Council will discuss plans for the Meadow Lake Golf Course, a request to use clean effluent water on city-owned property, a plan for additional holes at the course and rates for that water when it meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the city office.

There is also supposed to be a progress report and engineering plans for an irrigation system on a new golf course proposed for east of town.

The council will take up an ordinance which will allow recreational vehicles to park on residential streets for up to 48 hours in a week.

Other projects on the agenda will be a request for approval of lighting at the ball fields, purchase of 2009 police cars and approval of the route for the annual Christmas parade at 5:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, through downtown.

Hunters head outside in search of pheasants

By Andy Heintz

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The pheasant-season opener Saturday drew hunters, who jammed license counters and motels Friday night.

When they got up Saturday, the hunters found a beautiful day — maybe too beautiful for great hunting.

On Nov. 1, it was the earliest the season had opened in Kansas, but also the last early opening. State officials agreed earlier this year to move the 2009 season opener back to the second Saturday of the month.

"This year was the earliest pheasant opener in history," said Benny Young, state wildlife officer for Thomas, Logan and Sheridan counties.

The bag pheasant limit is four per day, and the possession limit is 16, he said, adding people will eat some of their birds so they can keep hunting. If a hunter has a limit of 16 in four days, he can eat four and go out and hunt again.

While Saturday was the first day of pheasant season for adults, a special pheasant and quail hunt for kids 16 or younger was open Oct. 25 and 26. The youths had to be accompanied by an adult 18 or older, who was not allowed to hunt.

Young said that hunters have to shoot pheasants

while they are up in the air. Shooting a pheasant while it is on the ground is illegal, he said, as is shooting a female, or hen, pheasant.

The pheasant population is good this year, said Matt Bain, district biologist for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

"Wheat harvests have occurred late," he said, "and wheat has been tall, so pheasant chicks have been allowed to grow older and more mature so they are able to evade harvest machinery and evade predators."

Another reason for the spike in the pheasant population has to do with the weather, he said.

"The early spring rains has made the weeds grow, and those are full of the little bugs that pheasant chicks feed on when they are young."

Although the number of birds has risen this year, Bain added, that may not have improved the hunting as much as you would think.

Since many farmers have yet to harvest their fall crops, much of the land harboring pheasants is inaccessible.

Young said that pheasants stay near milo and corn in the fall because that is where they feed. He estimated that hunters were shooting an average of one bird every day or two, compared to the limit of four.

Bain said that he thinks the pheasant hunting will get better over time.

Briefly

Send Eagles off to playoff

Fans will gather at the Colby High parking lot at 8:15 a.m. Tuesday to give the Eagles a big sendoff for their state playoff game at 6 p.m. in Andale. Bring your voice, whatever you have that's orange and black and come cheer the boys on to victory.

Deputy retiring after 22 years

A retirement party will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin Ave., for Thomas County Sheriff's Deputy Kenneth Patton. He is leaving the force after 22 years.

Flu shots available now

The Thomas County Health Department will be offering flu

shots at the office on Range from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Tuesday and next Monday. The cost is \$25. No reservations are needed. For information, call the department at (785) 460-4596.

Army Band here Wednesday

The U.S. Army Field Band will give a free public concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Colby Community Building, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association. To get free tickets, stop by the Colby Free Press office at 155 W. Fifth.

License office to close for day

The Kansas Department of Revenue driver's license office at 990 S. Range in Colby will be closed for examiner training on Wednesday. All western Kansas offices will be closed that day.

Genesis looking for food, cash

Genesis-Thomas County is looking for nonperishable food and money to buy items to put in Christmas baskets, which will be distributed during the holidays. Donations can be left at Genesis from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday or at LeRoy's Printing, Sacred Heart Catholic, First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran churches. Send checks to Genesis-Thomas County at Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701. For information, call (785) 460-7930.

Food signup is this week

Prairie Land Food, formerly Share, is having signup for November delivery through Friday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St., Colby. Delivery will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Sacred Heart Catholic School gym. The cost is \$23.50 plus two hours of volunteer time. Meat-only and fruit/

vegetable-only packages are available. For information call Gene Griffin (785) 460-3579 or Mary Schroeder (785) 462-7525.

Women plan turkey supper

The Brewster United Methodist Women will hold their annual turkey supper from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 202 Nebraska, Brewster. Donations will be take for mission work. For information, call Nadine Kammer (785) 694-2456.

Auction will benefit Hospice

The 13th annual Hospice Services "Dream, Act and Believe" Banquet and Auction will be Saturday at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. The event starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the auction at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each. For information, call 462-6710.

