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## County to hold public budget hearing

By Vera Sloan

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The Thomas County commissioners gave preliminary approval for a 2011 county budget that holds the line on county tax rates while increasing some spending and giving employees a raise at a special meeting Wednesday.

The commissioners said they are satisfied to the best of their knowledge that the figures they have come up with will be sufficient to meet the county's needs for next year. The budget will be published Friday in the *Colby Free Press* and the commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, Aug. 16, when they plan to give final approval for the budget.

Commissioners discussed small changes, both up and down, in the proposed budget in detail.

Commissioner Paul Steele said the Road and Bridge Department shows a "slight" increase (\$131,000, or 10 percent) again this year to prepare for future asphalt projects. That will assure the money will be available when the county is ready and avoid a big jump in a single year, he said. It also allows for projected

improvements on graveled roads.

"These minimal raises in the budget allows the county to avoid being hit all at once with a huge bill, and is called controlling costs," Steele said. "We need to take care of our historical society (\$2,000 increase) because their buildings are getting older, and they need maintenance to keep them in good shape."

"The Free Fair levy is actually down,

because a portion of their budget will come from the liquor tax which the state returns to the county. The fairgrounds qualifies as a park, because there are trees, grass and a place for entertainment, so it qualifies to receive a portion of that money."

There is an increase in money budgeted

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## Kids learn to bake healthy snacks



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free

Meghan Elling, third grader at Sacred Heart School, Lynnsey Elling, Meghan's older sister and fifth grader at Sacred Heart, Caitlin Tinkham, fifth at Sacred Heart, made Zucchini Brownies on Tuesday at the 4H building. The event was put together by

Kids A' Cookin through the Thomas County Extension Center and the Community Garden, a Thomas County Coalition project at the Kansas State Research Center.

## Candidate enjoys role as underdog

By Kevin Bottrell

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ELECTION  
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One man whose name will be on the ballot in November – no matter what happened on Tuesday – is Ken Cannon, who is running for governor of Kansas for the Reform Party.

Cannon, who lives in Salina, said he entered the race as an independent, but the Reform Party liked what he had to say and recruited him. Cannon said he doesn't mind the disadvantage of being a third-party candidate going up against a popular senator.

"I like the role of the underdog," he said. "Everybody cheers for the underdog. We may be David going against Goliath, but we'll keep throwing stones."

Cannon said he feels his campaign has a lot of support from people who are tired of politicians.

"In any other election year, I'd be a long shot," he said.

Cannon was a principal for 18 years at schools including Concordia Elementary and Oscaloosa Middle School, managed malls in Salina and Hays and was a night professor at Brown Mackie College. He said he enjoyed managing malls, and found the job similar to being a principal.

Cannon said the variety of jobs has served him well. While in education, he also was a basketball coach. Cannon said he brings a lot of his coaching principals, such as team building and discipline, to politics.

People right now are so tired of Republicans fighting with Democrats and Democrats fighting with Republicans," he said. "It's created an 'us-against-them' mentality."

Cannon said that, as governor, he would sit both parties and other independents down and outline goals and strategies just like he would feuding basketball players. "You may have to kick one or both of them off," he said.

Cannon said that right now, he couldn't be out on the campaign trail in person because his parents had been in a head-on collision. But he has been doing phone interviews and has his staff out listening to the public's concerns.

Cannon said the economy is first and foremost on people's minds. He said he supports the "Fair Tax," which would replace income taxes with a one-time tax

See "UNDERDOG," Page 3

## Colby Scouts attend national jamboree

By Nicholas Larmer

Boy Scout Troop 140

Boy Scouts gathered Wednesday from across the nation to take part in a ceremony that has not happened in five years: the opening of a National Scout Jamboree.

The jamboree, taking place over the last week at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts in the U.S.

In the contingent from Kansas are six Scouts from Colby: Braden Sager, Karlton Lieker, Jared Nally, Matthew Barnum, Eric and Henry Schuette and Nicholas Larmer. Adult leaders on Jamboree Staff from Colby are Allan Sager, Gary Schuette and Ron Biller.

"We are having a great time and an experience that will last a life time," Larmer said.

The Kansas Scouts gathered on a small hill among 43,000 others

to watch the opening ceremony Wednesday, July 28. The ceremony began with three fighter jets flying over. Then a parade of flag bearers marched in to the National Anthem, sung by Natalie Weiss.

The first speaker was Miss America 2010, Caressa Cameron, who started to address the crowd as "young ladies" but then remembered she was talking to young men. After that, President Barack Obama was supposed to speak but had to cancel for another engagement. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, an Eagle Scout and a Kansas native, spoke, saying Americans should not let their fears get the best of them.

"I believe in the power of Scouting for the community," he said.

The Scouts saw a black spot falling through the sky, which they soon found out was a U.S. Army

See "JAMBOREE," Page 3



NICHOLAS LARMER/Boy Scout Troop 140

Boy Scouts from around the country, including six from Colby, gathered for the opening ceremony of the National Jamboree on

Wednesday, July 28, in Fort A.P. Hill, Va. The jamboree began Tuesday, July 27, and ended Wednesday.

## Briefly

### Commission to check vote Friday

The Thomas County commissioners will meet from 9 to 11 a.m. Friday in the commissioner's meeting room on the main floor of the courthouse to canvass the vote from the primary election Tuesday.

### Dance Saturday at golf club

A dance is planned at the Meadow Lake Golf Club, 1085 E. Golf Club Dr., from 6:30 to 10:30 Saturday, with music by Jim Christensen. For questions, call Lue Duffey in Rexford at (785) 269-7057.

### Commodities here on Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Anyone who's eligible may come and get commodities first-come, first-served. Items

will include vegetable soup, apricots, beans, instant milk, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and rotini. For information, call the volunteer office at 462-6744.

### Catholic youth ordering fruit

The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization is taking orders for peaches, pears and apples until Monday, Aug. 23. Pickup will be Wednesday, Sept. 1, at the 4-H Building. To order, call Megan Augustine at the rectory, 462-2179. Some fruit may be available for those who do not order ahead of time.

### Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service

and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

### Football team to meet Tuesday

A meeting for Colby Middle School football parents and equipment checkout will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Middle School cafeteria.

### Volunteers needed for Relay

Relay for Life, an annual fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, needs teams and team captains for the relay, which is on for 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Fike Park. For information or to sign up, call Denise Stupka at 462-2122. The event has not been cancelled, she said.

### Museum plans '125' quilt show

A special quilt show celebrating Thomas County's

125th Birthday will be held at the Prairie Museum of History and Art from Oct. 7 to 31. Quilts of any size, pattern or age with a Thomas County connection should be entered at the museum from Sept. 1 to 24. Call (785) 460-4590 for information.

### Signups open for kids' football

Signups are open for Colby Little League Football at the Sports Shoppe for kids in third to sixth grades. A \$100 fee covers equipment rent and other materials. Space is limited. The Shoppe is open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call Travis Branum at 462-8342.



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