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8 pages

'Represent' lines drawn in county

By Heather Alwin

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Republican voters in eastern Thomas County will decide whether incumbent commissioner Byron Sowers or challenger Lonnie Wilson will move on to the general election, where the winner of the primary contest will run without a Democratic opponent.

Sowers took office in 2007 and is finishing his second four-year term. He represents the commission on the Northwest Kansas Local Environmental Protection Group and, on behalf of the commission, has attended many meetings of a group opposing protection for the lesser prairie chicken.

Sowers was absent for some time after suffering a disabling injury in 2012.

Sowers said he has enjoyed his eight years on the county commission, and he has a heart for the people he represents. He said he wants to make sure his constituents' money is being spent properly and that laws and guidelines are being followed properly. Before serving on the commission, Sowers also served on local boards including the North Randall Township board and as president of the Farm Bureau board.

Wilson says he has served on several other area boards. He is a member of the state Sorghum

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Dems seek some changes

By Sam Dieter

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In a time where elected officials from across the country are hard-pressed to keep their seats, a slew of Democrats are looking to take the seats of some of the state's elected officials.

If he wins the Republican primary as expected, Gov. Sam Brownback will face a Democrat in the general election in November. Despite Kansas's reputation as a deep-red state, Democrats are also running for U.S. Senate and House of Representatives seats, as

well as for secretary of state, attorney general and state treasurer.

The Democrat candidate against the governor will be Paul Davis of Lawrence, who has spent 11 years in the state Legislature and is minority leader in the Kansas House. Davis is running largely on a platform critical of Brownback's wide-ranging tax cuts, which he says have almost bankrupted the state.

A KSN news poll released last Thursday showed Davis narrowly leading Brownback, including many supporters from the gov-

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Feasting and fun at Fair



HEATHER ALWIN/Colby Free Press

Fairgoers enjoyed barbecue beef sandwiches (top), chips, ice cream and watermelon at Wednesday's free community barbecue. McCarty Dairy provided the beef and the ice cream (left) was enjoyed by OF ALL AGES. After the barbecue, many fairgoers stuck around to enjoy the midway rides and carnival games, including this young man (above) and his slide-riding partner.



Jillian Thompson's metal sculpture will be on display at the Prairie Museum beginning Friday.

Metalwork exhibit opens

Metal sculptor Jillian Thompson will display her work at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in August, kicking off the exhibit with a come-and-go reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday.

Thompson, a native of Thomas County, uses wood, cast iron and steel in her work. She says she makes her art about her life, finding most of her inspiration from her son Theodore Jack, 6.

ship and adversity," she said, "but rather a celebration of my existence to bring beauty to the everyday lives of everyday people."

Thompson says the labor-intensive nature of metal work appeals to her, and she especially enjoys blacksmithing, casting and metal fabrication.

"One of the biggest things that drew me to sculpture was the cast-

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GOP faces primary contests

By Sam Dieter

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Important political offices in Kansas, including Gov. Sam Brownback's position as governor, are up for grabs this year in the Republican primary on Tuesday.

The governor is vying for his seat with a slew of candidates, including a strong Democratic challenger but also a Republican. He's not alone; most of Kansas's highest-ranking statesmen are also fighting for their seats this year. This includes Sen. Pat Roberts, Rep. Tim Huelskamp and Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who are all facing challengers from their own party.

A common theme among many of the candidates for office is that they are running specifically to reverse the policies of their incumbent opponents. Others have their sights set on undoing policies at the national level.

"I went around, they said nobody, they said nobody is going to run against him," Alan LaPolice said of Tim Huelskamp, who he is running against in the primary. "And they said nobody could, and it was like a gauntlet they threw down."

Republican Jennifer Winn is running against Brownback for governor and Robin R. Lais, for lieutenant governor on Tuesday <Aug. 5>; both are from Wichita. Like many Republicans, Winn supports getting rid of tax incentives and other rewards for corporations, and not allowing politicians to vote on bills in which they have a public interest.

She criticized Brownback's tax plan on her website for forcing the state to borrow \$675 million to cover lost tax money. Winn said that as far as she can tell, her Democratic challenger Paul Davis has done nothing more than hire two consultants for his tax plan.

Sen. Pat Roberts has faced criticism from a variety of sources for allegedly not living in Kansas, including from a group of challengers on the Republican ticket. Perhaps the most prominent is Dr. Milton Wolf, a Leawood physician. A cousin of President Barack Obama, Wolf has built a campaign platform largely on his ambition to repeal and replace the Affordable Healthcare Act, or Obamacare, which was passed into law in 2010. Wolf is a career physician and outspoken conservative who has written opinion pieces for *The Washington Times*. He has his own healthcare proposal, called Patient Care, which throws out some of the key

provisions of his cousin's healthcare law.

D.J. Smith of Osawatimie and Alvin Zahnter of Russell are also running against Roberts on the Republican ticket. Democrats Chad Taylor and Patrick Wiesner are also running for the seat.

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp is going up against one Democratic and one Republican challenger. LaPolice, of Clyde, is running against Huelskamp in the primary, while Democrat Jim Sherow will face the winner in November.

LaPolice also has a healthcare plan that he hopes to pass to replace Obamacare, if he can find people in Congress willing to work with him. A Gulf War veteran, the would-be representative spent years in California after the war as a teacher, principal and even actor.

Scott Morgan, a Republican from Lawrence, went through a line of reasoning similar to that of LaPolice when he decided to run against Secretary of State Kris Kobach: no one else

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K-State quarterback getting awards attention

WICHITA (AP) — Kansas State University quarterback Jake Waters is one of 27 players on the preseason Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award watch list. The honor is awarded to the nation's top senior quarterback.

Waters is the fourth K-State quarterback to be nominated. Colin Klein won in 2012. Former Kansas State passers Michael Bishop and Chad May were both finalists. Waters can now find his name

on three preseason watch lists. The other two are the Maxwell Award, presented annually to the nation's top college football player, and the Davey O'Brien Award, which is given annually to the nation's top quarterback.

As a junior, Waters threw for 2,469 yards and 18 touchdowns after a slow start that featured sharing plenty of time under center with now former K-State quarterback Daniel Sams. Sams transferred to McNeese

(La.) State University earlier this year. The Wildcats overcame a slow start and still won eight games, including their first bowl victory in six tries. Kansas State knocked off Michigan, 31-14, at the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl in Tempe, Ariz. Kansas State kicks off its season

against the Jacks from Stephen F. Austin (Tex.) University at 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30. The Wildcats' marquee pre-conference game will be when defending national runner-up Auburn visits Manhattan for a Thursday, Sept. 18 contest on ESPN. The Auburn Tigers are again drawing national top five rankings

You're trying to bust me?

R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press The wild, woolly frivolity involving kids and sheep resumed with Monday night's Thomas County Fair mutton bustin'. As expected, young riders tried their best to hang on longer than anyone although some probably wished they'd let go sooner (below). There was plenty of post-ride attention awaiting from rodeo clowns (below right) to the more comforting arms of mom (bottom right). Mutton bustin' always draws more than a few spectators, many (bottom left) who were possibly thinking I'll be the County Fair mutton bustin' champ next year — or thank you, Lord, that I'm too old to try this again.



Colby K-18 state opponent wins title

The Concordia Blade-Empire LUCAS — Scratching out just enough runs to back a solid pitching performance by Cole Larsen, Concordia Citizens National Bank clipped Norton 2-1 in the championship game of the K-18 Baseball State Tournament Tuesday night. Larsen gave up just one run on four hits, struck out 12 and walked six in seven innings work as Citizens National Bank finished up the season (23-1). Concordia began its state tournament run with a 6-4 win over the Colby K-18 team Friday evening.

Colby took 1-0 and 3-2 leads before the state champs rallied. Fellow state finalist Norton lost three of four contests with Colby earlier this season. Norton's Jacob Green allowed two runs on just two hits, struck out 10 and walked five in suffering the loss. Roper Dorman drew a walk to

lead off the top of the fifth. Meyer and Billy Bechard walked to load the bases with one out. A ground ball by Brent Beaumont got Dorman home, and Citizens National Bank led 2-1.

Citizens National Bank had runners at second and third when Green got a strikeout to end the inning. Norton had an opportunity to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth and seventh innings. However, Concordia escaped both jams and celebrate the state title.

Colby Zone champ loses In Wednesday's AA state tournament at Wathena, Zone champion Ellis lost a 16-0 first-round game to Ottawa.

Ellis had went 3-0 while taking the Zone tournament title at Colby last week. It was Ellis' third consecutive zone crown and state tournament berth.

Now Ellis must play its first elimination game today.

Teams work big trade

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox traded ace pitcher Jon Lester and outfielder Jonny Gomes to the Oakland Athletics not with an eye to the distant future, but to next season, acquiring

slugger and two-time Home Run Derby champion Yoenis Cespedes.

The deal is hours before baseball's 3 p.m. central time non-waiver trade deadline today.

**VOTE FOR
LONNIE WILSON**

**Thomas County
Commissioner**

District 1

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