



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

Races begin taking shape in the county

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Several Thomas County residents have filed to run for office in the upcoming August primary. County clerk Tracey Perkins said the deadline to file is noon on June 10.

Bert Stramel and Bill Miller, Jr., both Republicans, have filed to run for county commissioner in District 3, currently held by Duane Dawes, who has not as yet announced his intentions.

Also up for election is the District 2 commissioner seat, currently held by Glen Kersenbrock. He has not as yet signaled his intentions and no others have filed as of today.

Undersheriff Mike Baughn, a Republican, earlier filed his intent to run for sheriff. Tom Jones, current sheriff, said he is not seeking another term.

Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, has filed his intent to run for re-election as Kansas Representative of the 121st District. He represents Thomas, Sherman, Sheridan and Graham counties.

The term of State Senator Stan Clark is also up this year. Clark, who

represents the 40th District, will face opposition from Goodland Republican Dan Rasure. Clark represents Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Norton, Rawlins, Rooks, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, Wallace and Wichita counties.

Wilbur F. Henry, a Republican is running for Rovohl Township Trustee and Lyman Bear, also a Republican, for Brewster-Barrett Township Trustee.

Voters in the county will also have to decide on the offices of county attorney, county treasurer, register of deeds and county clerk. No one has yet filed to run for those positions and the incumbents have not as yet declared their intentions.

Currently filling those positions are Laurence A. Taylor, county attorney; Doneta Applebury, treasurer; Maybelle Moore, register of deeds; and Perkins, county clerk.

Perkins said there are currently 5,413 registered voters in the county, with 3,053 Republicans, 1,104 Democrats, 29 Libertarians, 5 Reform party, and 1,222 unaffiliated.

Struggling wheat



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Rob Aiken, a crop research specialist with the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby, checked over some of the dryland wheat in one of the center's wheat test plots this week. He said recent rain helped the wheat get some growth but underneath the soil, the crop doesn't have a very extensive root system. He said wheat in the plot is similar to conditions around the area.

Three dead in crash

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Three dead. That was the figure the Kansas Highway Patrol gave today as the result of a one-vehicle rollover on Interstate-70 approximately two miles west of the Levant interchange at mile marker 43.

The accident, said the Patrol, occurred around 10:27 this morning.

The Dodge Caravan, said Marvin Platner, a dispatcher with the Kansas Highway Patrol at Salina, was traveling eastbound and carrying nine people. It rolled once ejecting some of the occupants. Platner said the extent of injuries to the other six were not known. Details of the accident were still be worked on at presstime. Names were also not available.

The injured were all transported from the scene by 11:30 a.m., some taken to Citizens Medical Center, while EagleMed flew others to facilities elsewhere, not immediately known. Local law enforcement personnel directed traffic on Range Avenue while ambulances were bringing victims to the hospital here.

A more detailed report will follow in Thursday's Free Press.

Kennedy here on Thursday

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will speak on the environment and other issues as part of the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series, Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center.

There is no charge and the public is urged to attend.

Campus Close-Up

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Cattlemen's group questions identification measure

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

If the state legislature has its way, Kansas cattlemen will soon have to start identifying each cow in their herds.

House Bill 2593 would require all cattle in the state to be identified, to assist with the tracking and eradication of disease.

However, Mike Schultz, chief executive officer of the Kansas Cattleman's Association in Brewster, said the association isn't

in favor of that particular measure.

"We are not in agreement with that bill the way it is written," he said. "It's a big issue."

Schultz said he agrees with the purpose of tagging and tracking livestock would be to help in tracking and eradicating disease. In the case of an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow, the animal could be tracked back to its point of origin quickly by investigators instead of having to follow a paper trail.

The federal government, he said, is working on a plan for livestock identification but hasn't yet written its guidelines or even suggested how it can be done.

He said a visual marker like an ear tag or clip would be the best way to identify cattle. Certain vaccines require issuance of a tag by a veterinarian and are administered by a vet until the animal is slaughtered, then the tag is turned in.

Kansas' tag number is 48 and Schultz said he would like to see

that incorporated if cattle do have to be identified.

He said it would help simplify the process and people would know immediately an animal was from Kansas.

Kansas has 12.8 million of the estimated 95 million head of cattle in this country.

Another issue is country of origin labeling. Schultz said the association is in support of that — labeling livestock and boxed beef

"We are at an opportune time to

take advantage of country of origin labeling," he said. "We cannot afford the risk of that disease in the U.S."

He said restrictions on cattle imports have helped with the problem. Imports of cattle over the age of 30 months have been banned to help lessen the possibility that an American herd would become infected with BSE or other diseases.

Most of the beef people eat in the U.S. is between the ages of 12 to 16 months.

Legislators approve suspension of new sales tax law

TOPEKA (AP)—A bill suspending the state's new destination-based sales tax system until Congress allows taxation on Internet purchases won House approval Tuesday.

Last year, the Legislature passed a measure that changed how merchants calculate and collect retail sales taxes. The new law requires vendors to collect all applicable taxes based on where their goods are delivered, meaning they must

deal with hundreds of rates and track sales in more detail than ever before.

This year's bill returns Kansas to its previous sales tax policy until Congress passes a law allowing sales tax on Internet sales. The House vote was 95-29 and sent the measure to the Senate.

During a debate Monday, the House voted 120-1 to amend the bill to provide small businesses a one-time, \$1,000 income tax credit to

help offset the costs of complying with the new law. The credit was proposed by Rep. Nancy Kirk, D-Topeka.

Rep. Arlen Siegfried, R-Olathe, said the tax credit was meaningless if the moratorium is in effect. But Kirk's amendment will give House members some "wiggle room" in negotiations with the Senate over the final version of any tax legislation, he said.

Senators last month rejected pro-

posals to repeal the 2003 law and exempt businesses with less than \$200,000 in annual sales from its provisions. Siegfried said he hoped the Senate's tax committee will take testimony from businesses about the sales tax issue before voting on the House bill.

The House rejected a proposal by Rep. Scott Schwab, R-Olathe, to repeal the 2003 law altogether. Still, Schwab said advancing the bill sends a message that the concerns

of small businesses cannot be ignored.

Schwab and Siegfried said complying with the new law appears to be more expensive than initially assumed. Businesses will pay an estimated \$7,000 per computer or \$12,000 per cash register programmed to calculate the destination sales tax, he said.

"If you consider 14,000 businesses at those prices, you do the math," Siegfried said.

Briefly

Share sign up this week

Sign up for Share started Monday and will continue through Friday at the State Farm Insurance Office, 905 E. 4th St., Colby. This month's delivery is Saturday, March 27 at the Sacred Heart School gymnasium. For questions about the Share program or how to participate, call Gene Griffin, 460-3579.

Caregiving class Thursday

The American Red Cross Family Caregiving segment offered Thursday is, "Caring for the Caregiver." Featured speaker will be Elaine Ptacek of Heartland Rural Counseling Services. Class begins at 7 p.m. at the Red Barn Senior Center in Rexford. Call 462-7161 to register.

Walk Kansas program begins

Those registered for the Walk Kansas program need to begin recording their miles walked on Sunday (March 14). Any aerobic activity may be used in place of walking using

the formula of fifteen minutes of activity equals one mile. For those who planned on participating and missed the registration deadline, D'Ette Scholtz, extension agent, urges them to call the Thomas County Extension Office as soon as possible at 462-4582.

Chautauqua programming offered

"All True Travels and Adventures of Liddie Newton," a presentation by Ann Liston, will be given at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Pioneer Memorial Library. The program is one of several events leading up to Kansas Chautauqua "Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil War Began" in June.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include a Thomas County Extension Agent report, financial report and bills, committee reports on buildings and grounds, the carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. The board will also discuss barbecue bids and contest rules for the queen and princess con-

test. The meeting is open to the public.

Free workshop planned

Colby Community College will host a free workshop on the new Kansas Destination-Based Sales Tax Law on Thursday, March 25, in the Colby College Student Union, Room 106. The 90-minute session will begin at 9 a.m. Larry Barrett, one of the presenters, will review the purpose and methods of the new program and how it affects local businesses. This program is being provided at no charge as a business outreach service of the Colby College community service division. For information call Barrett at (785) 462-6215 or email <mailto:lbarrett@kspeech.com>lbarrett@kspeech.com.

Musicians wanted for praise rally

A pre-national Day of Prayer rally is being organized on Wednesday, May 5 with "A Night of Praise and Prayer" as the theme. Coinciding with this event, musicians and vocalists are wanted to participate on a praise team or to perform special music during that evening. For questions or to volunteer, call her at 460-9077.



Breezy outlook

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Lows in the 20s. North winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph, shifting to the west 10 to 15 mph after midnight. **Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs around 50. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Thursday night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the 20s. South winds around 10 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Friday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows around 40.

The numbers
Tuesday's high, 65
Low this morning, 31
Records for March 10, 82 in 1989 and -5 in 1948
Year ago today, 56 and 12
Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
March total, 0.74
March snowfall, 1 inch
Soil temperature, 45

The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

