



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

In Tuesday's primary

Christiansen, Cousins win contested races

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Republican Ken Christiansen and Democrat Jim Cousins came away with victories in Tuesday's contested primary election races in Thomas County.

Christiansen defeated challengers Bert Stramel and Bill Miller Jr. in the race for county commissioner in district 3. Christiansen received 262 votes, Stramel 126 and Miller 116.

Christiansen will go up against Democrat Rosalie Seemann in November; she ran un-

opposed in the primary. Seemann is a former Thomas County Clerk.

Cousins won 118 votes while fellow Democrat Richard Stefan polled 36 in the race for District 2 county commissioner. Cousins will face Republican Paul Steele in the November election. Steele ran unopposed Tuesday.

Thomas County Attorney Laurance A. Taylor, a Democrat, received 265 votes. Republican Andrea Wyrick, who hopes to unseat Taylor in November, had 1,097 votes. Both were unopposed in the primary.

Additionally, Wyrick defeated Republican incumbent Logan County Attorney Douglas Spencer in the primary, 654-321. There was no Democrat on the primary ballot.

In other results from Tuesday's primary, County Clerk Tracey Perkins, a Democrat, received 304 votes and will face Republican Shelly Harms in November; Harms received 1,144 votes in the primary. Neither faced opposition Tuesday.

Democrat Donita Applebury, county treasurer, received 314 votes (unopposed);

Republican Maybelle Moore, register of deeds, 1,216 votes (unopposed); Republican Mike Baughn, sheriff, 1,275 votes (unopposed).

Republican incumbent Sen. Sam Brownback received 1,183 votes in Thomas County, while challenger Arch Naramore received 165 votes.

Brownback will face Democrat Lee Jones in November, who beat Robert A. Conroy 135 votes to 129 in Thomas County.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, who ran unopposed, received 1,299 Republican primary

votes in Thomas County.

County Clerk Perkins said 33 percent of registered voters cast ballot in the primary.

"That's pretty good for a primary," she said, adding it's much better than in years past.

Perkins said that it has been in her experience that the primary election participation is usually much closer to 20 percent, or slightly less than what was seen in Tuesday's voting.

She said she was pleased with voter participation.

Rough riders



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

LEFT: Bull riders (front to back) Justin Jacobucci of Clinton, Okla., Cal Peterson of Parade, S.D. and Ardie Maier of Timber Lake, S.D. got their rigs ready to go behind the stock pens at the Thomas County Free Fair PRCA rodeo Tuesday. ABOVE: A saddle bronc rider came busting out of the chutes during the rodeo, which continues tonight at the fair.

Ostmeyer moves into November election with win

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Oberlin Herald

OBERLIN — It was a nail-biting night for the Republican candidates for Kansas' 40th District Senate seat but, in the end, the veteran lawmaker Ralph Ostmeyer beat the rookie Dan Rasure by a little over 1,100 votes.

As the precincts came, in the vote swung back and forth between Ostmeyer, a state representative from Grinnell, and Rasure, a fresh new face from Goodland.

Rasure had thrown his hat in the ring early in an attempt to unseat incumbent Sen. Stan Clark. However, on May 29 the senator was killed in a car wreck on I-70.

Shortly thereafter, Ostmeyer, considered a conservative like Sen. Clark, announced he would run for the Republican nomination against Rasure.

Sen. Clark's widow, Ruth, was named to fill his vacant seat, although she did not plan to run election. In the last weeks of the race, she gave her support to Ostmeyer and helped with his campaign.

Both men campaigned extensively, crossing and recrossing the 18-county district. Rasure, in campaign finance reports filed in late July, had the larger war chest and apparently outspent his opponent more the 2-1. He raised most of his money in the district, but put more than \$22,000 in personal funds into the race.

Rasure, 22, called for a new way of doing things, pointing out that the population of western Kansas con-

“I'm tickled to win. The young fellow ran a tough campaign. He worked hard. My hats off to him.”

Ralph Ostmeyer, regarding his opponent Dan Rasure for Senate

tinues to shrink, the schools continue to close and property taxes keep going up.

Ostmeyer, 61, pointed out his four years of experience as a member of the state House of Representatives, plus time as a Gove County commissioner and a school board member.

When the votes were counted Tuesday night, Ostmeyer had 8,553 to Rasure's 7,385. Rasure beat his opponent in Decatur County 444 to 296 and also took victories in Cheyenne, Greeley, Gove and Lane counties. Rasure carried his home county, Sherman, 1,010 to 415 and also carried Ostmeyer's home county, Gove, 368 to 357.

Ostmeyer carried Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Logan, Wichita, Thomas, Scott, Rooks, Ness, Graham and Wallace counties.

By the time the last votes were in,

See "SENATE," page 7

School board approves budget; taxes going up

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A public hearing for the 2004-05 Colby Public Schools budget was on the agenda at Monday's meeting, with the board approving the document following a public hearing. The budget was set at \$11,148,545, which includes a 4.545 mill levy

increase.

District resident Lloyd Theimer was the only person who spoke during the public hearing. He said it becomes "monotonous" to find everything was "cut and dried" before the hearing and wanted to know if the board would take seriously what he had to say.

"It (the hearing) cannot be closed and discussed later," Theimer said.

Board President Stan Molstad said he didn't know why they should change protocol for one night, but did let Theimer speak.

"Today we work for the government instead of the government working for us," he said, a senti-

ment he heard in several conversations he's had with people around town.

Theimer said 50 percent of general taxes in the state go to fund K-12 education in Kansas, which he

See "TAXES," page 7

City council hears proposal for new business

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

An Oberlin couple looking to relocate a truck business to Colby met with the Colby City Council at its meeting Tuesday to talk about their preliminary plans. The council took no action on the prospective business, but did want to move forward on the request.

The business, known as "Truck

Town," owned by Kirk and Holly Young, includes used semi-trucks for grain and would also do wholesale repair.

Holly Young said they have been working with Steve Hanson at Pioneer Country Development in Hill City and Ransom Corp., which is a company that sells industrial revenue bonds.

"By using industrial revenue

bonds," she said, "we would be able to have a long-term fixed interest rate and we already have purchasers for all the bonds."

As for the advantages to Colby, she said, the business would create more jobs, increase the city's tax base and employment base.

Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, told the council that the use of industrial revenue bonds will in no

way be a risk to the city.

Phil DeYoung, council member, asked how many new jobs they thought would be created. Kirk Young estimated 9.5 new jobs in the areas of truck washing and truck lubing.

None of the new jobs would be in the mechanical repair part of the

See "CITY," page 7

Briefly

VFW and Auxiliary needed for parade

VFW and Auxiliary members are invited to participate in this year's Thomas County Free Fair parade, said Dale Deaver, one of the coordinators. Any veteran or auxiliary member interested is asked to go to the north end of Franklin Avenue and look for the VFW trailer that will be available. The parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, and Deaver suggests parade participants plan to arrive early. For questions, call 443-1113.

Blood drive scheduled

The Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at the Colby Community Building. For information on donating blood, to volunteer or to schedule an appointment to donate, call 462-2082.

Colby Sacred Heart plans enrollment

Enrollment for the 2004-05 school year at Colby Sacred Heart School will be Tuesday, Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., said Dave Evert, principal. The enrollment will be for all students in grades preschool through fifth grade. For questions, call 460-2813.

Library book sale continues until Sunday

Pioneer Memorial Library is continuing its annual "Summer Book

Sale" from now through Sunday. Book prices will start at 10 cents. As the week progresses, all book prices will drop. The book sale will take place during normal library business hours. For more information contact the library at (785) 462-4470. All proceeds go to benefit the library.

County Fair Schedule

- **Wednesday** — 5:30 p.m., Free Barbecue; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games; 8 p.m., PRCA Rodeo
- **Thursday** — 8:30 a.m., 4-H Dairy, Bucket Calf, Breeding Livestock Show; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games; 8 p.m., Demolition Derby
- **Friday** — 9 a.m., 4-H Round Robin; 5 p.m., Buyers' Appreciation Barbecue and 4-H Livestock Sale; 7 p.m., Modified Qualifying, Sprint Cars and Cruisers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
- **Saturday** — 8 a.m., Release of livestock and clean up of barns; 10 a.m., Parade, downtown Colby; Noon, Pioneer Day at the VFW; 7 p.m., Modified Shoot-Out, Super Stock and Bombers; 7-11 p.m., Carnival and games
- **Sunday** — 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Release of all exhibits
- **Monday** — 6 p.m. Fair Clean-up

Colby
Oakley
Oberlin



Warming trend continues

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. **Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. **Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs around 90.

The numbers

- Tuesday's high, 96
- Low this morning, 66
- Records for Aug. 4, 106 in 1918 and 49 in 1894
- Year ago today, 92 and 69
- Precipitation past 24 hours, 0.00
- August, 0.00
- Soil temperature, 83

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.

Water use

- Aug. 2 = 3.317 million gallons.
- Aug. 3 = 3.662 million gallons.
- **Water Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days. • **Water Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days. • **Water Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

