



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

New council member Waldschmidt takes Beims' position

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council recognized outgoing Councilman Mitch Beims during its meeting Thursday and welcomed Tom Waldschmidt to fill Beims' unexpired term.

Waldschmidt, 58, said Mayor Ken Bieber asked him if he would consider serving on the council.

"Since I consider this part of my civic duty, I agreed to serve," he said. "I believe we all need to step up and pay back to our communities when asked."

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said Waldschmidt will be a valuable addition.

"I think he will bring a lot to the city council from his community perspective and business perspective," she said.

Waldschmidt has lived in Colby since 1971 and is the president of Service Oil Corporation, where he's



Tom Waldschmidt, background, listened to another council member during the city's meeting Thursday. Councilman Pat Mallory is in the foreground.

been employed for the past 28 years.

In addition to his recent appointment, Waldschmidt was a member of the 1995-96 Leadership Thomas County group; served on the executive committee of Pheasants Forever; was a member of the Citizens Medical Center Board of Trustees and is a Kiwanis Club member and serves on the executive board of Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association Stores in Kansas. Although Beims was not present at the meeting, the council approved a resolution thanking him for his service.

Beims was elected to the council April 19, 2005, and served until June 20. Beims' term will end in April 2009 and, at that time, Waldschmidt can decide to run for reelection.

He has two sons: C.J., an emergency room physician in Kansas City and Craig, living in Chicago and working in advertising. Tom's wife is Vicky.

County prepares for voters, primary

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Clerk is preparing for the Aug. 1 primary election and voting locations and precincts have been finalized.

"Those voting at the Colby Community Building gymnasium will be Wards One, Two, Three and Four, and the townships of Morgan, Summers, Rovohl, South Randall and North Randall," she said.

Voters from Brewster and townships of Barrett, East and West Hale and Kingery will vote at Brewster City Hall. Voters from Wendall and Lacey Townships, Gem, Smith and Menlo Townships and Menlo and Rexford will vote at Rexford City Hall.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

"To accommodate all voters who

Election information

<p>Voting deadlines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 17 — Last day to register to vote and last day to change party affiliation. • July 25 — Advance voting begins. • July 28 — Last day to apply for advance voting ballot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 31 — Noon deadline for advance voting at courthouse. <p>Reasons to register again:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of address. • Change of name. • Individuals turning 18-years-old by election day are allowed to register.
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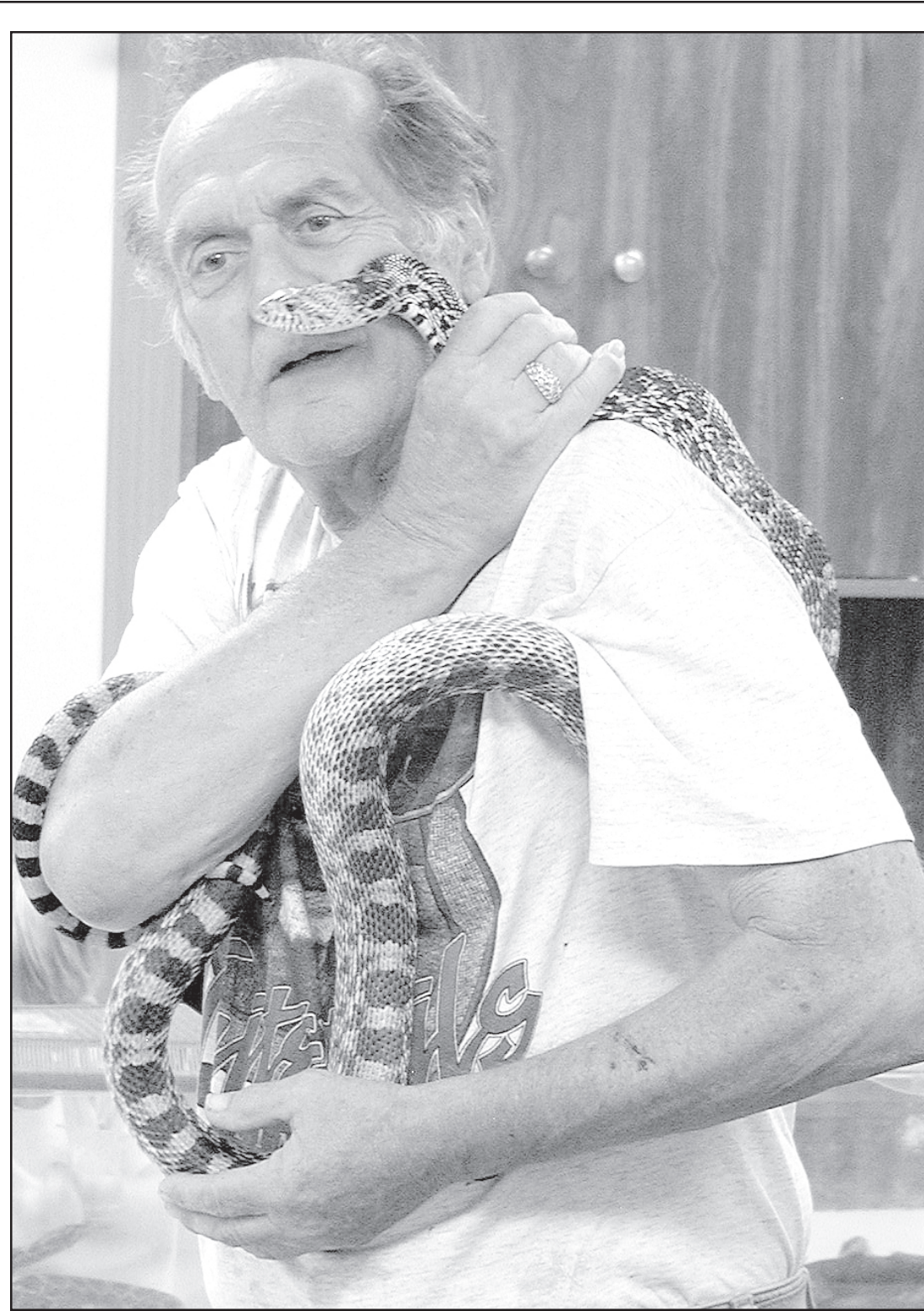
wish to vote early and in person, they can go to the county clerk's office from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 25, 26, 27 and 28," Harms said. "As well, we'll have the courthouse open on Saturday, July 29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or you may request a mail ballot."

Harms said in order to vote in the primary election individuals must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of Kansas, and at least 18

years old.

Those planning to vote need to register at the county clerk's office, when renewing a driver's license or online at www.kssos.org.

"It is recommended to all registered voters to bring your voter identification card that was recently mailed to you when you go to vote," Harms said. For more information, call the county election office at 460-4500.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Slithery show

ABOVE: Jack Haugen held a bull snake, of one of the many snakes he and wife Thea brought from the Sternberg Museum in Hays. The Haugens showed the snakes and other items from the museum Thursday at Pioneer Memorial Library. RIGHT: Thea holds a hognose snake and used her own nose to demonstrate to the children what the snake's nose looks like.



Thomas County's 2006 moisture better than last year

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Nearly three and a half inches of rain between the beginning of June and now may seem like a lot. However, not every area in the Great Plains received that amount said Larry Boyd, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Goodland.

Data from the Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby shows Colby has received 7.87 inches of precipitation since January.

Boyd said Goodland is 1.04 inches over its normal rainfall amount for this year, with 11.93 inches of precipitation since January.

Burlington, Colo., has had 4.04 inches of moisture, which is 4.9 inches below normal. Hill City has received 10.43 inches of rain so far, and is 1.78 inches below normal. McCook, Neb., is also below normal by 4.88 inches. It has only received 6.92 inches of moisture since January.

Boyd said there is no way to account for how one place gets more rain than another.

"It's the luck of the draw," he said. "The rain just fell on our area."

Compared to the 30-year average provided by the center, Colby's average for June is 2.64 and for July, 3.76. Colby is above its 30-year average, and even surpassed last June's rainfall amount of 3.12.

Data from the National Weather Service shows while the precipitation amount was more than last year, the amount of precipitation for the year so far is below average. Colby's average total for the same time period between 1971-2000 is about 10.1 inches.

Boyd said May, June and July are the wettest months of the year for the area.

Bad for wheat harvest, good for growing crops

Brian Olson, area agronomist with the Northwest Research-Extension Center, said the rain cause a few delays for wheat harvest. Now, however, the 2006 harvest is mostly over with the exception of some cutting still around Goodland and in Cheyenne County.

Olson said the rain kept farmers their out of their fields until now.

Wheat yields ranged from 0 to 40 bushels an acre.

"Twenty bushels was average," he said.

"Some spots were real good, some spots were real bad."

Recent rainfall has been a boon for farmers and their growing fall crops.

"It's been really good for them," he said. "It was definitely a good thing but we'll have to see what harvest brings."

The June precipitation has helped fall crops but more rain will be needed in a few weeks. Olson said corn benefited most from the rain. The crop was stressed, but has bounced back.

Rain also helped sorghum and sunflowers, which were planted after the corn.

Trick with car turns fatal for Goodland man

From Goodland Star-News

Two Goodland men trying to "surf" on the hood of a moving car early Tuesday on a dirt road west of Kanorado fell off, leaving one dead and one badly injured.

The driver was being held for vehicular homicide and drunk driving.

The Colorado State Patrol reported that Gage Allen Cloyd and Corey D. Schulte, both 20, were in a 2002 Mercury Mountaineer with Kelley Dwight Faylor, 26, of St. Francis. Faylor was driving south about 3:30 a.m. on Kit Carson County Road 59, about .4 of a mile north of County Road FF, the patrol said.

Cpl. Kirk Preston of Burling-

ton, Colo., said witnesses told him Cloyd and Schulte climbed onto the sun roof of the sport utility vehicle and slid down the windshield to the hood. Cloyd fell off and was run over by the truck. Preston said Faylor tried to slow down without having Schulte fall off, but that did not work and the second man was run over also.

Preston said the two men were taken to Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital in Burlington, where Cloyd was declared dead at 4:52 a.m. by Dr. James Perez. Schulte was flown to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver, where he was reported in fair condition on Thursday.

Dr. Anthony Olaiz, Kit Carson

County coroner, said an autopsy was done for Cloyd, but the final report won't be available until tests are completed by the El Paso County coroner's office. Dr. Olaiz said Cloyd had multiple trauma to his chest, ribs and pelvis.

"This is just a shocker," he said. "This is the first of this kind of accident. We hear about this in the metro areas. We want to bring this to the young people's attention so we don't have another accident like this."

Faylor was in the Kit Carson County Jail in Burlington, Preston said. He is being charged with vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and assault.

Five other people in the car wit-

nessed the incident, the trooper said: Tomi Leigh Windell, 20; Amber Lee Peterson, 21; and Malcom Joshua White, 20, all of Goodland; and Kristi Marie Boyce, 21, and Matthew Allan Windell, 22, both of Kanorado.

Preston said alcohol was involved. He said no on-scene investigation had been done since the car was driven to Burlington by a family member after the incident.

Services for Cloyd will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the First United Methodist Church in Goodland with Pastor Janet Hernandez presiding. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Cattle thief convicted

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

The Monument man charged with cattle rustling pleaded no contest in Logan County District Court on Thursday.

Michael T. Coberly, 24, told District Judge Glenn Schiffner he waived his rights to a jury trial for having taken cattle from a Logan County man and selling them at auction.

Coberly was formally charged with having stolen two cows, two heifer calves and four bulls from Dave Hubert, owner of Pure Breed Charolais on or about May 25. His no contest plea has the same effect as a guilty plea.

After the cattle were reported missing, livestock auctions in

Colby and Russell were contacted and advised to look for ear tags matching those on the missing cattle.

After the ear tags were located, Coberly and his wife, Jackie Ann Coberly, were arrested.

Michael Coberly has been charged with a level nine nonperson felony punishable by five to 17 months in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Logan County Attorney Andrea Wyrick has dismissed charges against Jackie Ann Coberly.

"The state doesn't believe we have enough evidence to continue with that case and will be dismissing it," Wyrick said Thursday morning. Sentencing for Michael Coberly has been set in Logan County for 10 a.m. on Sept. 7.