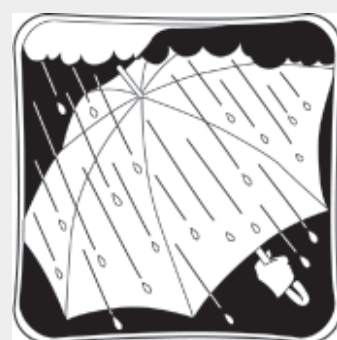


**Weather Corner**



**Warm temps return to area**

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with a low around 68. South wind around 10 mph.

**Tuesday** — Partly cloudy and hot with a high near 99. south wind around 5 mph.

**Tuesday night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 4 a.m. Partly cloudy with a low around 69. South wind around 5 mph becoming north.

**Wednesday** — Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 99. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 66.

**Thursday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy with a high near 93.

**Temperatures**  
Sunday's high, 92  
Low this morning, 63  
Records for this date, 111 in 1936, 50 in 1911

Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00  
July's precipitation, 1.48

**Water Use Report**  
**Average Friday, Saturday and Sunday**

- 2,812,300 gallons
- 3.5 million = Water Watch.
- 4 million = Water Warning
- 4.5 million = Water Emergency

A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

**Briefly**

**Queen, princess deadline Tuesday**

The Thomas County Rodeo Queen and Princess Pageant is looking for contestants for the 2006 contest, said Marie Skolout, coordinator. Girls ages 8-11 are eligible for the junior princess; 12-15 for princess and 16-23 for the queen contest. Contestants are judged on horsemanship, interview, speech and modeling. A trophy saddle is awarded to the queen along with other great prizes for the princess and junior princess. This year's contest will be on Friday, with entries due Tuesday. For entry forms or questions, call Skolout at (785) 586-2228.

**Window painting deadline Tuesday**

The Thomas County Fair Board is sponsoring a window painting contest as part of this year's activities for the fair. Registration forms can be mailed or dropped off at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, 350 S. Range. Windows will be judged Monday, July 31. First prize will be \$150; second, \$100; third, \$75; fourth, \$50; fifth, \$25. Registration forms must be turned in by Tuesday, and anyone is eligible to participate with any business, or any business on its own.

**Advance voting continues**

In an effort to accommodate registered voters in Thomas

County for the Aug. 1 primary election, Shelley Harms, Thomas County Clerk, said advance voting continues Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave. Voters can also cast their ballot from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday. The three locations available on election day will be at the Brewster City Hall, Rexford City Hall and Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St.

**Book sale begins July 29**

Pioneer Memorial Library, 375 W. Fourth St., Colby, is planning its annual book sale beginning Saturday through Saturday, Aug. 5. The sale starts at 9 a.m., Saturday and during the week and 1 p.m., Sunday. For questions, call 460-4470.

**Volunteers needed at fair**

The Thomas County Free Fair scheduled Aug. 1-5, is almost here and the Amusement Association needs volunteers to work games during the fair, said Holly Stephens, executive director of the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce. Volunteers are needed for the ball of chance, shooting gallery and bell ringer. Each game requires two people per shift. Help is needed all five days of the fair at 6:45 to 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. For those interested in volunteering, call Stephens at (785) 460-3401.

**Heartland Share delivery Saturday**

Heartland Share, a program designed to promote community involvement, will be delivering groceries at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, at Sacred Heart School gym, 1150 W. Sixth St. For information, call 460-3579.

**Extension office closes during fair**

The Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., will be closed from Monday, July 31 through Friday, Aug. 4.

**CPR classes scheduled**

The Thomas County Red Cross will be teaching First Aid and adult CPR from 6 to 10 p.m., Wednesday. In addition, infant and child CPR will be taught at the same times Thursday. Both will be held at the Thomas County Red Cross office, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. Reservations call, 462-7161.

**Tractor show entries sought**

An antique tractor, combine garden tractor and stationary engine show will be held at the Thomas County Free Fair Wednesday, Aug. 2. The show begins at 3 p.m. in front of the 4-H Building. The parking lot will be reserved starting at 1 p.m. For information, contact fair board members Nancy Rundel at 586-2210 or Darrel Dible at 687-4861.

**Conservative Republicans seek to gain in primary**

TOPEKA (AP) — Republican primaries in Kansas are a time for the party's moderate and conservative wings to scuffle even more than usual.

This year, there are two offices — secretary of state and insurance commissioner — that conservatives are eyeing eagerly. With only a Republican incumbent and a lone challenger on the Aug. 1 Republican primary ballot, each race is a true showdown of the GOP's two factions.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is challenged by conservative Sen. Kay O'Connor of Olathe. Thornburgh calls himself a conservative but isn't nearly as right-wing as O'Connor, and his strongest support has come from GOP moderates.

Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger is an unapologetic moderate facing Rep. Eric Carter, who — like O'Connor — has been endorsed by the conservative Kansas Republican Assembly.

"The reason they are being challenged is because they are moderates," said Joe Aistrup, head of Kansas State University's Department of Political Science. "You can see

**“ It shows the primary base of the Republican Party is willing to support winners, as opposed to somebody who is more ideologically in tune with them.”**

Joe Aistrup, KU Political Science Department

this as a test of how strong that conservative base is in the Republican Party.”

That moderates and conservatives are squaring off like two kids in a school yard isn't new. What's different in this year's Republican primaries is that conservatives have singled out a pair of statewide incumbents they see as too moderate.

The last time something similar happened was in 1998, when state Republican chairman David Miller sought to oust moderate Gov. Bill Graves but got his head handed to him in the primary.

If Praeger and Thornburgh defeat their challengers this year by large margins, Aistrup said, it could help unite the party. It also could put Thornburgh in the position of be-

coming the bridge-building party leader he wants to be.

"It shows the primary base of the Republican Party is willing to support winners, as opposed to somebody who is more ideologically in tune with them," Aistrup said.

For Republican voters, Aistrup said, the question is "whether we are going to support the candidate who can win in the general election, or are we going to support the candidate is who more true to our own ideology?"

Even if conservatives fail, they won't be jumping in front of a cattle stampede.

"We have lost before and we have always been back and we will be back again," said Charlotte Esau, executive director of the Kansas

Republican Assembly.

As the officials in charge of elections and insurance industry regulation respectively, the secretary of state and insurance commissioner don't deal with such hot-button social issues as abortion or teaching evolution in public schools.

Still, "Some conservatives think it doesn't matter what office you are in, it's a chance to pursue some conservative issues," said Bob Beatty, Washburn University political science professor.

"Neither office has anything to do with the ideology issues, but (Attorney General) Phill Kline has shown you can work on conservative issues regardless of what office you are in," he added.

Praeger is in her first term, not long enough to be a household name. She also has a record from her Senate days of backing moderate causes that send conservatives reeling. Critics also see her as a little too cozy with Democrats, including Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"Carter's main appeal is he is the more conservative candidate," Beatty said. "But going against an incumbent, a lot of that falls out of the window about being the conser-

vative candidate. It's an advantage to have a clean slate if he has a lot of money for the campaign."

Thornburgh first was elected in 1994 and over the years has become the face of that office, spending his political capital on such issues as voter registration and honest elections.

Having O'Connor as a challenger has been good for Thornburgh.

"It's forcing him go out and run a

**For the Record**

The following arrests or incidents have been provided by either the Thomas County Sheriff's office or the Colby Police Department. All suspects were booked into the county jail and are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The Thomas County Jail is used by Colby, Oakley, Logan and Thomas counties.

**Colby Police Department Wednesday, July 19**

• **Suspicious incident:** Police were notified at 12:27 a.m. of two individuals looking into a window in the 1800 block of West Fifth Street.

The reporting party said the two subjects left eastbound on Fifth Street.

**Thursday, July 20**

• **Suspicious incident:** Quality Inn on Range Avenue wanted extra patrol at 2:33 a.m. due to an individual impersonating an officer.

• **Service rendered:** Colby police assisted the fire department at 9:40

p.m. with a structure fire, 3445 Cottonwood Dr. that ended up being a controlled burn.

• **Domestic:** An individual called the police at 11:01 p.m. advising of someone bothering her and would not leave her alone.

*Bridal Registry*  
Crystal Herschberger & Zachary Luedke  
July 29th, 2006

OFFICE WORKS Home Furnishings  
462-2222  
350 S. Range • Colby Fax: 462-2262

**The 900 pound Gorilla**

*is waiting to work for you!*

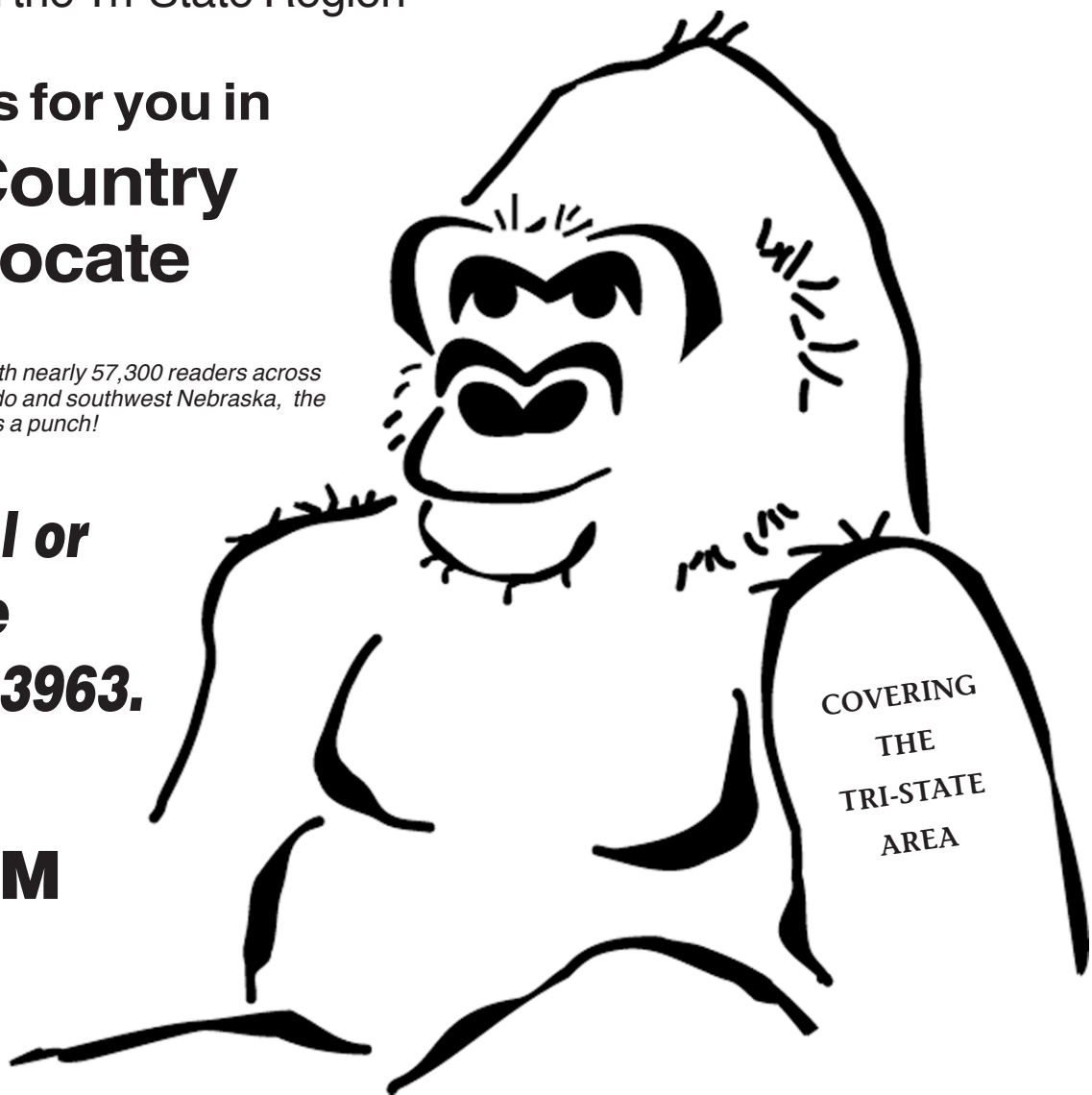
He is biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region

He works for you in **The Country Advocate**

Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 57,300 readers across northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Nebraska, the Gorilla packs a punch!

Call **Crystal or Jasmine** today at **462-3963.**

**GIVE HIM A TRY!**



**VOTE, August 1**

Republican

**BYRON SOWERS**

Seeking position of District 1, Thomas County Commissioner

Born and raised in Thomas County. Married 33 years, raised 7 children and shows an interest in the functions of Thomas County.



Byron Sowers, Farmer, Rancher

Paid advertisement by Byron Sowers, Byron Sowers, Treasurer.

**THINKING GOLF?**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO GET A GREAT DEAL AT THE COLBY COUNTRY CLUB.**

**BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2006 YOU CAN JOIN FOR THE FOLLOWING PRORATED AMOUNTS:**

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| single basic golf                | now \$367.50 |
| family golf                      | now \$446.25 |
| young adult golf                 | now \$236.25 |
| (30 and under w/cash only basis) |              |
| senior golf                      | now \$288.75 |
| (70 and older)                   |              |
| new golf                         | now \$288.75 |
| social only                      | now \$34.13  |

(sales tax will be added at 6.55%)

(membership good until Dec. 31, 2006)

call 460-6443 or come by the Colby Country Club for more details on membership applications & monthly requirements.

