



COLBY FREE PRESS

2006 royalty announced during rodeo

Rodeo royalty was crowned in Thomas County Tuesday.

The winners of the 2006 Thomas County rodeo queen, rodeo princess and junior princess contest were announced during the first night of fair rodeo.

Brenda Wilson was crowned queen; princess, Jade Kruse and Bailey Terrell is the junior princess.

Wilson received a trophy saddle, belt buckle, tiara, queen jacket and sash. The other two girls received trophy belt buckles, tiaras, princess jackets and sashes.

Winners from other contests were also announced, said Marie Skolout, organizer.

Winners in the queen contest were Brenda Wilson for horsemanship, modeling and speech.

First runner-up was Avery Schultz and second runner-up was Michelle Goetz.

Jade Kruse was the horsemanship, modeling and speech winner in the princess contest.

First runner-up was Leigh Ann Maurath. Katera Harter was second runner-up and ticket sales winner.

The queen contest, sponsored by the Thomas County Fair Board, was held Friday at the Colby Quality Inn.

Skolout said contestants were judged in three categories: horsemanship, interviews and modeling and speech.

Judges were Ty Inlow, Amy Carman, Valerie Krier and Susie Duncan.

She added the rodeo royalty serves an important function during the fair, and throughout

the year.

"Royalty help out at the fair all week," Skolout said. "They hand out ribbons at all the 4-H shows, trophies at the demolition derby and races, ride in the parade on Saturday.

They are ambassadors to the Thomas County Fair for the year, attending local parades and events throughout the year."

Skolout thanks everyone who helped with the contest.

They include: Someplace Special and owners Mike and Jackie Wiens for donating flowers for the royalty; Leesa Wark of Wark's Embroidery for donating the queen and princess jackets; Donelan Jewelry for donating the queen and princess tiaras; Shelly Plummer of the Prairie Skillet donated the use of a room for the contest.

Perma Garrett - E.L. Garrett Memorial queen's traveling tiara; Drew Krier Quarter Horses in Oakley for donating J-Cross Horse Feed; Michelle Morris and Fotogirl Photography for donating 2006 royalty gift certificates; Vaughn and Nina Nash of OutWest in Garden City for donating tooling on the queen saddle.

Trudy Wildeman of Klassic Kollectables for donating a barn wood mirror and Jay Hawk of Quality Inn for donating use of a motel room during the contest.

Skolout said thank Karen Jones, Linda Pabst, Brad Skolout, Sheila VonLehe, Roxy Wilson, Ron and Cheryl Kogler for their help during the contest.

Taylor Todd, 9, of Rexford, the 2006 Beef Empire Days Rodeo Princess, made an appearance at the rodeo.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Above left: Jade Kruse is the 2006 Thomas County Princess. **Left:** Bailey Terrell is the 2006 Thomas County Junior Rodeo Princess. **Above:** Brenda Wilson of Colby was crowned 2006 Thomas County Rodeo Queen during the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo Tuesday. The rodeo royalty will ride in Saturday's fair parade and have helped with fair activities this week.

Crash kills Levant resident

A Levant man was killed in a two-vehicle accident Wednesday on a Thomas County road.

According to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, Mark A. Schuette, 46, died in the wreck which happened at 1:45 p.m. at the intersection of Thomas County Roads 15 and T, which is three miles west and one mile north of Colby.

Angel G. Salinas, 48, of Colby was driving west on Road T in his 2004 Ford pickup and Schuette was driving south on Road 15 in his 1995 GMC pickup.

Salinas hit Schuette in the intersection and both pickups came to rest in the west ditch.

Salinas was not injured and Schuette was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Neither man was wearing a seat-belt.

Details on Schuette's funeral are available on page 4.

Auction planned Friday

By Patty Decker

Free Press Editor

One of the major highlights at the Thomas County Fair is the annual 4-H Livestock Auction.

This year's event begins at 4 p.m., Friday, at the livestock show arena on the fairgrounds.

"The auction offers 4-H members an avenue to sell their animal projects in addition to providing business owners exposure and the feeling they have invested their money in supporting Thomas County youth," said Joe Leibbrandt, extension agent.

Leibbrandt and Darrel Pabst are coordinating this year's auction and are encouraging businesses and individuals to consider participating at the auction.

"For those who might be wondering what they would do with an animal after they buy it," Leibbrandt said, "there are resale programs for people not wanting to take possession of an animal."

Leibbrandt said a company will pay buyers a set price (before the auction) based on the price per pound of specific animals. The buyers would then pay the difference between the resale price and what they bid.

"In other words," Leibbrandt said, "if you bid \$1.50 per pound on a sheep that weighs 135 pounds and you wanted to use the buy-back option with a base of 68¢, for example, then the total you would pay is \$110.20."

For those wanting to keep the animal for the meat, transportation is provided to Grinnell Locker, Oakley Premium Meats or Ben Lee Processing in Atwood. The buyer would be responsible for paying the processing fees.

"This is great exposure for businesses," he said.

In previous years, auction totals have either come in at \$90,000 or exceeded that amount, but the more buyers, the better for the 4-H members, who use the money to pay their project expenses.

For questions call Leibbrandt at 460-4582 or Pabst at 462-3313.

The auction is open to all businesses and individuals. In addition, the buyers, sellers and grand and reserve grand champions will appear in a later edition of the *Free Press*, along with the total auction amounts.

County researches new hazardous waste facility

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

Work continues for a building at the Thomas County landfill for household hazardous waste collection.

Thomas County Commissioners Ron Evans, Paul Steele and Ken Christiansen Monday signed a grant application to work with the state in construction of a building at the landfill.

The proposed \$110,000 grant requires \$44,000 in matching money from Thomas County, with the state kicking in \$66,000.

Landfill director Larry Jumper has until Aug. 18 to file the grant application with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If approved, Jumper said he anticipates construction to start in early 2007.

In a letter which will accompany the application, commissioners said the current collection site for hazardous waste materials is becoming increasingly inadequate and is open only a few days each week.

Resignation accepted

During the July 24 commission meeting, Weed Director Ken Ptacek resigned citing a feud between two landowners as the reason saying he'd "had enough."

The commissioners on Monday approved Ptacek's resignation and publicly thanked him for his years of service.

"We want to thank him for his 12 years of public service to Thomas County," Evans said.

Commissioners talked about to

leave the weed department as it is or combine it with the road and bridge department.

Evans said the commissioners need to visit with Road and Bridge Director Clair Schrock about getting some of his staff members certified in chemical application.

"When they have some down time they could spray weeds," Evans said.

"I think we ought to consider a salary bump if they take on more work," Steele said.

"It's cross training and we'd all win."

Concealed weapon class

Evans said Colby Community College is considering implementing a course on concealed weapons in response to the state's new concealed carry law which

started July 1.

"They may want to use (the county's) shooting range," Evans said.

It was agreed to have Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn and Colby Police Chief Randy Jones get more details from the college and report back to the commissioners.

Court security meeting

Commissioners approved one, two or all three of them would attend a Kansas court security and emergency preparedness project meeting Aug. 9 at the courthouse.

"It would be a special meeting," Steele said.

The meeting is hosted by Thomas County District Judge Glenn Schiffner as part of a grant award to create safe court facilities, project court personnel and the public, as

well as secure courts against outside threats.

Court staff and county commissioners of the 15th Judicial District, Thomas, Sheridan, Logan, Rawlins, Wallace, Sherman and Cheyenne Counties are invited.

In other business, the commissioners reviewed a bid for a caterpillar 816F from Martin Tractor Company of Colby for \$334,943. Following a proposed trade-in of \$72,150, the piece of equipment would cost \$262,793, or \$1,459 per month over a 15-year period. The topic was tabled.

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms reported 191 people did advance voting for Tuesday's primary.

The commissioners are scheduled to canvas votes 9 a.m. on Friday.

Selden postmaster retires after 30 years of service

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press



Mary Jane Goalden

office. The other communities are open normal hours.

At Selden, she was the only person there during the week and had help on Saturdays or when needing a day off.

Her work in Colby was more behind the scenes and Goalden said Selden's post office was more cus-

tommer-based.

"I knew the customers and they knew me," she said.

Technology was the biggest change she saw during her career with the post office.

"Everything from sorters to computers changed how everything is done. In the beginning, everything was done manually, but has become more high-tech," she said. "It was a learning experience. Every year there was something different to learn."

Individuals sorted and loaded the mail and sold stamps. Now, machines sort the mail and stamps are sold online or via machine.

For someone with a high school education, Goalden said, it was a good job, with plenty of opportunities to learn.

"The training has been fantastic," she said. "Everything that

comes out you were trained in doing it."

During her postal career, working with people was what she enjoyed most.

"The postal service was good to work for, and had a personable environment, considering the size of the company," she said.

Goalden said people shouldn't take the postal service for granted, and remember how much effort it takes to move millions of letters and packages each day.

"It's not an easy job," she said. "It's a very demanding job but it's a very rewarding job also."

In her retirement, Goalden plans to spend time with her grandchildren, reading and relaxing.

"It's been a while since I have had time to herself, and I plan to enjoy it."

A retirement party was held for

Goalden Tuesday, July 18.

She was presented a certificate for her service by Mark Kerschen, manager of Post Office operations for western Kansas in Hutchinson.

He first met Goalden in 1998, and came to learn she always had a positive attitude, and was easy to get along with.

Kerschen said it isn't unusual for someone in the postal service to have a 30-year career. He said 25 to 30 years is average, but some people go as long as 40.

Colby Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel worked with Goalden almost 10 years.

"She was always fun to be around, always in a good mood," he said, adding she was a hard worker who had a good rapport with her fellow postal workers.

"I wish her the best in her retirement," he said.