



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Thomas County goes against state trend

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

According to unofficial Thomas County voting results from Tuesday, voters favored the Republican, incumbent candidates.

For Kansas House District #121, incumbent Jim Morrison, R-Colby, will retain his seat. He received 1,804 votes. His competition, Libertarian Dannis Robison had 125 votes and Reform candidate Art R. Richmond received 66 votes.

For U.S. Representative, District 1, incumbent Jerry Moran, R-Hays, will retain his seat with 1,752 votes. His opposition, Democrat John Doll, received 258 votes and Reform Party candidate Sylvester Cain had 31 votes.

For governor and lieutenant governor, Democrat incumbent Kathleen Sebelius, who was elected to another term, did not carry Thomas County. Republican Jim Barnett won in the county with 1,134 votes, but lost the election.

Sebelius received 885 votes. The other candidates for governor, Richard Ranzau, Reform Party, had 10 votes. Libertarian Carl Kramer had 11 votes.

In the attorney general race, incumbent Phill Kline, a Republican, carried Thomas County with 1,165 votes to the 857 received by Democrat Paul Morrison. Kline was defeated statewide.

For secretary of state, Republican incumbent Ron Thornburgh received 1,586 votes. Democrat David Haley had 368.

Others in that race were Libertarian Rob Hodgkinson, who had 41 votes and Reform candidate Joseph L. Martin who had 25 votes.

State treasurer, Lynn Jenkins, a



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Voters at the Colby Community Building waited from 20 to 45 minutes in line during the election Tuesday, officials said.

Republican, received 1,552 votes to Democrat Larry Wilson's 448.

The commissioner of insurance race was won by incumbent Republican Sandy Praeger, who had 1,513 votes. Her opposition was Demo-

crat Bonnie Sharp, who had 412 votes and Libertarian Patrick Wilbur who had 79 votes.

In the state board of education District 5 race, Sally Cauble, R-Liberal, won with 1,412 votes to the

529 received by Garden City Democrat Tim Cruz.

For county commissioner, first district, Republican Byron D. Sowers had 567 votes. He will replace outgoing commissioner Ron Evans

in January.

Tuesday's election results will not be official until canvassed by the Thomas County Commissioners 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse.

## Machine failure slows final results

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Problems arose in Thomas County while tabulating Tuesday's election results according to county officials.

County Clerk Shelly Harms said there were no problems with the voting machines themselves during polling hours but the difficulties began at the courthouse after the election information was loaded into the computer. Computer software and scanner problems resulted in a hand-count of mail ballots beginning about 9 p.m., two hours after polls closed.

"We're discouraged and tired," Harms said about 11 p.m. Tuesday.

The unofficial count finished at about 2:30 a.m. today.

Harms explained the scanner for mail ballots did not work. Problems with the computer were caused when compact discs with voting results from the voting machines would not copy to one disc on computer. Instead of putting all the voting information from the polls on one disc, the results from the individual discs were counted. She said there was no problem with that.

"At the polls everything worked fine," Harms said.

As of this morning, she said Jason Gilchrist with Voting Technologies International was working on the problem, and was expecting two more technicians today to "help resolve the issue."

She also asked the county commissioners for permission to call in four poll workers sometime today to help recount the mail ballots if the computer issue can't be fixed. Harms and staff members, Susan Guill and Karla Haggard, counted the mail ballots.

Despite computer problems, Harms said she was pleased with voter turnout.

Of 5,140 registered voters in the county, 2,489 went to the polls Tuesday or 47 percent. Harms said that was much better than the turnout at the August primary, which saw 23-24 percent turnout.

Susan Guill, with the clerk's office, said 1,504 people voted at the Colby Community Building. At Rexford, 129 people voted and 207 in Brewster.



S. Harms

## Incumbent governor easily wins second term

TOPEKA (AP) — It was an easy win for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, making her the first woman in Kansas to hold the chief executive's job for two terms, but she said there's more work ahead in the next four years.

With 99 percent of precincts reporting Tuesday night, the Democratic incumbent had 58 percent of the vote compared with 41 percent for her Republican challenger, Sen. Jim Barnett, an Emporia physician.

In the next four years, Sebelius told a cheering crowd, she wants to build on her accomplishments. In her next administration, she will be joined by Lt. Gov.-elect Mark Parkinson, a former GOP state chairman who switched parties to be her running mate.

"We're very proud of the work that's been done over the past four

years moving Kansas ahead, but I've got to tell you we've got a lot more to do, so roll up your sleeves," Sebelius said.

The governor was all smiles when she greeted supporters Tuesday night in Topeka, joking that her victory was a nice birthday present for her husband, Gary, a federal magistrate who turns 57 on Wednesday.

"I thought keeping a job would be a good present for him to have," she said.

At another hotel, Barnett delivered a gracious concession speech, thanking supporters and praising his running mate, Sen. Susan Wagle of Wichita.

"We look back with no regret," he said.

From the start, there was little doubt Sebelius would come out on

top. A popular governor who enjoyed Republican support, she outspent the underfunded Barnett at every turn. Despite his criticism, Barnett never came up with an issue that gave voters a reason to replace her.

Donald R. Mather of Overland Park said he's a registered Republican, but voted for Sebelius.

"I try to pick the best person," he said.

In Westwood, Carl Deatherage said, "I stayed with the incumbent. She's done an OK job and didn't run a negative campaign."

Sebelius conducted a generally upbeat campaign, focusing on the state's rebounding economy and her efforts to improve education and health care. Her television and radio ads focused on her accomplishments and a positive vision of

Kansas. Sebelius is the second woman to hold that office, after Democrat Joan Finney, who was elected in 1990 but left office after one term. Sebelius is the state's 44th governor and among nine Democrats to be the state's chief executive.

With her victory, Sebelius did something her father, former Ohio Gov. John J. Gilligan, couldn't do — win a second term as governor. They are the nation's first father-daughter pair of governors. He was with his daughter when she gave her victory speech.

Barnett's main battle was getting his name known statewide, raising less than \$1.19 million and spending \$434,000 on radio and TV ads. By comparison, Sebelius raised a record \$5.18 million starting in 2005, and spent almost \$3.8 million

in television and radio ads during the past three months.

Barnett said Sebelius painted a false picture of an improved economy and faulted her for "mismanagement of the Kansas economy," including signing a \$541 million school finance package he said the state couldn't afford.

The school finance plan was passed to comply with a Kansas Supreme Court order for the state to provide more money for public schools. The court said the state complied. Barnett portrayed himself as a champion of tax reform, including income and estate tax cuts to help stimulate the economy.

He suggested requiring most health insurance companies to sell policies through a "Kansas Health Connector," creating a single access point for consumers.

## Inquiring minds



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Sherry Kinderknecht looked at her teammates while thinking of an answer to one of the questions Tuesday during Pioneer Memorial Library's Trivia Night. Kinderknecht, a Colby Middle School teacher and scholars' bowl coach, was part of the Middle School Maniac team, one of five teams that competed.

## Logan County passes drink law

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

After three tries, Logan County supporters of liquor by the drink passed the measure in Tuesday's election.

With 605 votes in favor to the 439 votes against, liquor by the drink will go into effect after votes are canvassed by Logan County Commissioners Doug Mackley, Nick Scott and Uhrich on Monday.

According to Logan County Clerk Pat Schippers, voters defeated the measure in the 1980s. The same question was on a 1992 ballot, and defeated 963 to 738.

The win means customers at establishments like The Bluff and Country Club in Oakley can buy alcohol by the single serving rather than by the bottle. Liquor stores must continue to sell alcohol in its original packaging and require consumption off the premises of where it is sold.

Tuesday's win means Logan County, on a local basis, will supersede state law which requires 30 percent of gross sales at clubs be food.

Logan County joins Thomas

County that has 11 on-premise drinking establishments and has allowed liquor by the drink since 1986. Wallace, Gove and Sheridan counties are considered "dry" and do not allow liquor by the drink.

Voters approved an Oakley Township tax levy of about \$45,000 a year for five years to pay for road improvements. Seventy-nine voted in favor and 17 voted no.

Oakley Township lies from the Gove and Logan county line east of Oakley to County Road 400. It also lies from the Logan and Thomas county line at the north of Oakley.

Logan County Commission District No. 1, Carl Uhrich, 64, sought re-election as the incumbent commissioner. He received 478 votes for his effort and will serve another four-year term. He ran uncontested.

Schippers said there was a 64 percent turnout for the election with 1,118 of the 1,741 registered voters going to the polls. She said the election went "really good."

Democrat incumbent Governor Kathleen Sebelius garnered a majority vote in eastern Kansas. Logan County voters supported Republican Paul Barnett. In Logan County, Barnett took in 576 votes to Se-

belius' 493.

In the race for attorney general, 632 Logan County voters wanted Phill Kline for a second term over Paul Morrison's vie for the seat with 432 votes.

Oakley resident Virginia Beamer (R) was uncontested for her Kansas House District 118 seat and took home 901 votes.

Republican Sally Cauble won 681 votes to Democrat Tim Cruz's 318 for the District 5 seat on the State Board of Education.

Jerry Moran's (R) 936 votes in Logan County overshadowed John Doll's (D) 136 and Sylvester Cain's (F) 17 votes for the District 1 U.S. House of Representative seat.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh's (R) 866 votes were more than David Haley's (D) 153, Joseph Martin's (F) 26, and Rob Hodgkinson's (L) 20 votes.

Logan County supported incumbent Commissioner of Insurance Sandy Praeger (R) with 843 votes for a second term, over Bonnie Sharp's (D) 188 and Patrick Wilbur's (L) 28 votes. Incumbent Lynn Jenkins (R), state treasurer, won 855 votes to Larry Wilson's (D) 198 votes.