



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Lori Wicks, left, and her mother, Becky Jumper, were at Pioneer Memorial Library recently for a book signing and to introduce the public to Arlo the Ant and his adventures. Wicks illustrated the book.

Neighbors ask county to intervene

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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Byron Sowers on Monday to talk about noise and smells coming from the kennel area.

A Colby woman whose dog kennel is being targeted as a foul place to live near by, according to her neighbors, has been told to clean up the mess.

"We hate having to be here," Curry said at the meeting. "But if she's going to run a business, she needs to buy ground and do it outside the 3-miles limit."

Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers on Monday said Sharon Dunn has been told by the sheriff to quiet her dogs and get rid of an odor coming from her kennel. The kennel, which Dunn last week said has more than 20 dogs, is located in the 1700 block of N. Range Ave. That block is a residential area.

The four men asked the commissioners to uphold codes set out by the City of Colby and Thomas County linking a 3-mile area around Colby.

In a letter Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baugh sent Dunn July 17, he told her to take "immediate steps" to control her dogs' barking and get rid of the "overwhelming" odor of dog feces or she might be charged with maintaining a public nuisance.

The codes apply to the area they live, Murray Subdivision, that says a "home occupation permit" must be approved by 75 percent of the residents before a business, in this case the kennel, can open. Those same codes apply to building permits and other aspects of a neighborhood; however, patrol of the area falls under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff.

Maintaining a public nuisance is by act, or by failure to perform a legal duty, intentionally causing or permitting a condition to exist which injures or endangers the public health, safety or welfare. A Class C Misdemeanor, maintaining a public nuisance is punishable by one month in the county jail and a fine of \$500.

Don Woofter, Jason Woofter and Curry said they have tried talking with Dunn about barking and the smell of animal feces with no success.

Last week, Dunn said her kennel complies with kennel laws enforced by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She said she received her breeding license on July 10 after state inspectors approved the kennel.

Steele said any covenants that apply to the neighborhood would involve a "civil action," but on the public side of the matter the 3-mile limit is something the county could look at. Curry said Dunn's backyard fence butts right up to his and he fears a dog might jump the fence and injure a child.

On July 14, Don Woofter, Shawn Curry, Jason Woofter and Dave Harper met with Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and

He said he built children's play equipment in his backyard which now sits unused because of his concerns.

Don Woofter said while all the neighbors selected their properties and are being taxed for them, the location does not afford the same services as being within the city limits.

Colbyite introduces 'Arlo'

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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County Treasurer's office, Wicks in February was asked by authors Christi Sorrell and Paula Sorrel of Springfield, Mo. to illustrate their book "The Adventure of Arlo, Arlo's D.C. Dilemma." Married to Brian Wicks, the couple is expecting their first child in Oct. and reside in rural Brewster.

lance artist and do flyers and I'm currently doing 36-inch by 48-inch canvas paintings of new and old cars for Herl Chevrolet for the showroom."

under the publishing label of B Squared Publishing, LLC, Springfield, Mo.

Colby native Lori (Jumper) Wicks has a new career that has opened doors for parents and teachers to teach and for children to learn.

The Sorrelles, sisters who are both teachers, wrote the book and learned about Wicks' art skills through her brother-in-law, Ben Wicks, also of Springfield, Mo.

Wicks has no formal art training other than what she learned at Colby High School. She is a 2002 graduate of Colby High.

"The books are educational tools for teachers," Wicks said. "The next book is 'Arlo Takes A Bite out of the Big Apple.'"

"I've really been blessed with this project," Wicks said.

"This is my first illustrated book," Wicks said. "I am a free-

"I'm kind of a jack-of-all-trades of art," she said. "I watch too many cartoons and it kind of comes out of the noggin."

Wicks said besides books, toys will accompany the line of products available as part of the project. For more information about the books or the project, visit www.arloadventures.com. Wicks can be contacted at (785) 443-1642 or by email at lori@surrealcreations.org.

"I thank God for my gift of art and I thank my husband for encouraging me to quit my job to pursue art."

Formerly a clerk in the Thomas

Two candidates, incumbent vying for sheriff's job

Hopper has about 50 years experience



C.D. Hopper

When voters go to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 5, they will need to choose between one of three Republican candidates for the Thomas County Sheriff's position.

sheriff is responsible for the jail and inmates.

In addition to Mike Baughn, the incumbent seeking a second term, Rod Taylor and C.D. Hopper are challenging for the seat.

"As sheriff, I would develop and provide leadership, education and training to the sheriff's office employees and, in turn, they would provide professional service and protection to the citizens of Thomas County at a minimum cost to taxpayers," he said.

Hopper, 71, is running on a platform of "responsible change" and with almost 50 years in law enforcement, he thinks he is the best candidate for the job.

Born and raised in Colby, Hopper's roots stretch back to 1885 when his great-grandfather homesteaded east of Gem.

"I have a lot of ideas for the sheriff's department," he said, "and my intent is to look at a different direction."

"My family has been farming this land ever since," he said.

He believes there are many issues which will need to be addressed, citing the fact that the

He attended Colby schools, graduating from Colby High

See "HOPPER," Page 3

Baughn seeks second term in department



M. Baughn

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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Thomas County Sheriff Mike Baughn wants to continue serving the public, despite believing the face of law enforcement changed Sept. 11, 2001.

As sheriff, undersheriff, jail and road deputy, and part-time deputy.

"9-11 brought about new legislation, both on the federal and state level, addressing foreign-generated terrorism," Baughn said. "For our area, the main concern is agricultural terrorism."

"I have a broad base of training in all aspects of law enforcement from incident command to criminal justice data management," Baughn said. "I have benefitted from serving under three sheriffs, Lloyd Lunsway, Dale McFarland and Tom Jones, and from working with such respected law enforcement officers as Kansas Highway Patrol Sergeant Reed Smith and Kansas Bureau of Investigation Agents Jock Murray and Bill Piper, to name a few."

Baughn said he is responsible for coordinating response plans with other agencies and making sure people are educated about legislative requirements and how those laws are implemented and documented.

Baughn said his undersheriff, See "BAUGHN," Page 3

Taylor offers his experience, knowledge



R. Taylor

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"I enjoy working with people," said Rod Taylor, one of the three candidates vying for the Thomas County sheriff's position. "I understand the challenges of law enforcement and I am a good communicator when it comes to working with the public — where integrity and consistency is very important."

he is not bitter and would like to move on — focusing now on the election.

Taylor, 65, a former deputy with the sheriff's office, filed for the sheriff's position in early April and the following day, Sheriff Mike Baughn forced his resignation.

"I enjoy law enforcement and with 42 years of experience, I want to continue serving the people of Thomas County," he said.

"I have a right to run for public office without jeopardizing my job," he said.

A Kansas native, Taylor was born in Hiawatha, raised in Goodland and graduated from Norton High School.

Although he was unhappy about Baughn's decision, Taylor said

He was a graduate of Dodge City Community College and in 1966 Panhandle State University, south of Liberal with a bachelor's degree in physical education and business.

In 1974, Taylor continued to See "TAYLOR," Page 3

Briefly

Football camp planned

A free Colby Middle School football camp is scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m., Monday through Thursday, July 28-31, for students entering seventh and eighth grade, said Todd Murdock, head coach. All camp activities will be held at the middle school practice fields.

be selling spare ribs and bottled water; and handing out brochures outlining the events at the fairgrounds throughout the week. The Amusement Association will have a sign up sheet there if someone still wants to work a game shift. The proceeds from the "Fair Kickoff" will go to the Thomas County Amusement Association.

Fair kickoff Monday

Farmers and Merchants Bank and Dillons will be set up in the Dillons' parking lot on South Range Avenue to kick off Thomas County Fair week from 5 to 7 p.m., Monday. The two businesses will also

Picnic in the Park finale set

The annual "Picnic in the Park" events begin at noon, Wednesday, at Fike Park and are continue through Wednesday, July 30, said Holly Stephens, executive director of the Colby/Thomas County

Chamber of Commerce. Larry and Taylor McLemore will perform on the last day of the picnic series. The event is sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and Colby Free Press.

Carnival volunteers sought

The Thomas County Amusement Association is needing help to operate game booths at the Thomas County Fair scheduled from Tuesday, July 29 through Saturday, Aug. 2. "We are looking for any groups, organizations or individuals who would be willing to volunteer a few hours," said Wanda

Brown with the association." Anyone interested would be asked to work two hour shifts — two per shift. Games run from 7 to 11 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For questions or to help, call Holly Stephens at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber office, 460-3401.

Class of '98 plans reunion

Members of the Colby High School Class of 1998 are planning a 10-year reunion. The plans are to meet at 8 p.m., Friday, July 25 at City Limits fireside lounge for a social, then at noon, Saturday, July 26 at Fike Park. For more details, visit the website at: www.eaglesalumni.org.