

Remember to vote Tuesday!

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Monday

August 4, 2008

Volume 119, Number 123
Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages



COLBY FREE PRESS

Don't flinch!



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

A juggling duo showed off their skills during the Thomas County Fair parade held Saturday down Franklin Avenue in downtown Colby. Following the parade, spectators continued enjoying fair activities on the fairgrounds. Some events included Mutton Busting; rides and more.

Primary election set for Tuesday

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Voters go to the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 5, to let candidates know which one they want in office.

Three highly contested races are the ones for Thomas County Sheriff, 15th Judicial District Judge (position #2) and Thomas County Attorney. Mike Baughn, incumbent sheriff, is facing off against two former employees, Rod Taylor and C. D. Hopper. Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick of Colby is being challenged by Scott Showalter of Goodland and Kevin Berens of St. Francis all want the seat being vacated by Chief Judge Jack Burr, who is retiring. Burr plans to remain in the judicial system accepting special appointments from the Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka.

Colby resident Bruce Flipse is facing off against Oberlin resident Preston Pratt for the office on county attorney.

State law does not require a county attorney to reside within the boundaries of the county served.

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harm, a candidate herself and seeking a second term in office, said polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

"Polling places will be at Golden Plains School in Rexford, Brewster City Hall in Brewster, and the Colby Community Building in Colby," Harms said.

The school in Rexford is located at 335 School Street.

Brewster City Hall is located at 425 Illinois Ave., and the Colby Community Building is located at 285 E. 5th Street in Colby. Harms, who is also Thomas County's election officer, will distribute all necessary voting machines, supplies and ballots to supervising judges before noon on Monday.

Voters who have voted by mail or advance ballot have done so since July 16. Harms said while final voting will take place on Tuesday, votes won't be official until canvassed on Friday.

"Canvassing will be done on Friday, Aug. 8, beginning at 8 a.m. in the board of county commissioners' room," she said. The commissioners' room is located in the courthouse at 300 N. Court Ave. in Colby. The meeting is open to the public.

Others running in uncontested races are:

Commission District #2, Paul M. Steele (R), and District #3, Ken Christiansen (R), both incumbents.

Thomas County Clerk: Incumbent Shelly Harms (R).

Register of Deeds: Incumbent Maybelle F. Moore (R).

Magistrate Judge 15th Judicial District: Incumbent Richard (Rick) J. Ress (R).

District Judge 15th Judicial (position #1): Glenn D. Schiffner (R).

East Morgan Precinct Committeeman/ Committeewoman: Tamara Ziegelmeier (R) and Steve Ziegelmeier (R).

Menlo Township Treasurer: Susan D. Guill (R).

Lacey Township Treasurer: Vernon Roemer (R).

New building features games

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The Thomas County fair added a new feature to its fairgrounds this year.

Starting in July, a building for the fair games was built by Ginther Construction and was completed in time for fair activities, said Wanda Brown of the Thomas County Amusement

Association.

"It has worked very well," she said. "It will save us a lot of time on set up and a lot of time on tear down."

In previous years, the games were held underneath a large tent, but the new building allowed games to be held inside with garage doors all the way around to close up the building.

The prize booth was also incorporated into the building in-

stead of having a trailer next to the gaming tent.

In the winter during the off season, the building will be used for storage.

While the building has already been built, a loan had to be taken out in order for the building to be constructed.

Any donations to help pay for the building will be accepted, Brown said.



Construction for the new game building, built by Ginther Construction, began in July and was completed in time for fair activities.

Brewster Public Schools go to four-day week this fall

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Anticipated enrollment numbers at the school in Brewster are holding steady despite a switch to a four-day school week.

Superintendent Sherri Edmundson said she is expecting 110 students to enroll Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week and classes being Aug. 19.

The high school in Brewster graduated 15 seniors in May and is only bringing in three kindergarten students.

"That puts us down 12 students," she said. "But enrollment isn't down as much as we expected."

"We've got in three new families with children, so we'll be steady."

Enrollment during the 2007-2008 school year stood at 97 students; 48 in grades kindergarten through grade 8 and 49 in grades 9 through 12.

Edmundson said the move to a four-day school week has gone smoothly.

Board action in March changed the district's school hours from a five day school week to a four day week. Students will attend school from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the school year.

The only exceptions to the Monday through Thursday schedule will be for weeks when

“Enrollment isn't down as much as we expected. We've got in three new families with children, so we'll be steady.”

Sherri Edmundson,
Superintendent, Brewster Schools

a teachers' inservice takes place on a Monday, and classes will shift to Tuesday through Friday.

While daycare for younger students was up in the air when the idea emerged, it has not become an issue.

The four day school week will effect less than 10 children needing a place to stay on Friday while parents work.

"It seems to be most of them have an older sibling or grandparents who can take care of that issue," Edmundson said.

Edmundson said the calendar is flexible to accommodate snow storms.

"We don't have a lot of snow days, but will have to adjust to Friday if necessary," she said.

A full school calendar can be

seen at www.usd314.k12.ks.us/cafolder2/ca.html.

One thing parents that enroll their children in the Brewster school district will not complain about is the cost.

"It costs \$10 dollars to enroll children in preschool and kindergarten," Superintendent Sherri Edmundson said.

"And first grade through grade 12 costs \$15. And there's no athletic fees."

If parents have their children eat breakfast at school, it will cost \$1.05 per meal.

Lunches for kindergarten through grade 5 costs \$1.75, and grades 6 through 12 costs \$2 dollars per meal.

Edmundson said sports will remain as it was last school year,

with junior high games being played on Thursdays and high school teams playing Tuesdays and Fridays depending on the season.

Brewster school has a cooperative agreement with Tri-Plains in Winona for football and students playing football play with those from Tri-Plains.

Due to the fact sports schedules are set three years in advance, Edmundson said it will take two years to switch to what she calls "Super Fridays" so as many of the games as possible will be played on Friday.

Other area schools operating on a four day school week are Cheylin in Bird City; Tri-Plains in Winona; as well as Weskan and Healey.

Briefly

Football meeting Aug. 14

All Colby High School students (and parents) planning to play football this fall are asked to attend a parent meeting at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 14, in the school auditorium. For questions, call 460-5300.

Artist to exhibit work

Colby artist Bev Kern will exhibit her paintings throughout the month of August at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave. in Colby.

Diplomas available

Students who have not picked up their diplomas for the Colby High School Class of 2008 can do so at the district's administration office, 700 W. Third St. For questions, call 460-5000.

Celebration cancelled

The Celebration committee composed of members of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau said they have regretfully cancelled Celebration on the High Plains 2008. As of January, the Celebration committee had conformation from two bands to perform at Celebration on the High Plains. However due to a management error, the headline band had to cancel their Sept. 6 performance. They were previously confirmed for a conflicting appearance through management, which was not noticed until paperwork for Celebration on the High Plains went through management's system. "We appreciate the community's support, sponsors and volunteers of Celebration on the High Plains and we were looking forward to having another great concert in Colby," a spokesperson said. Due to these unforeseen circumstances,

though, which included having to replace entertainment at such short notice, the committee felt it was in the best interest of the event to cancel for this year.

Pet adoption available

Colby Animal Clinic has animals ready for adoption. Interested people can call or stop by the facility at 810 E. Fourth St. All adopted animals have current shots. The goal is to find homes for these animals. For questions or minimal adoption costs, call 460-8621.

Enrollment dates set

Enrollment for K-12 returning students will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday at Colby High School in the commons area. New student enrollment will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 8, at the respective

buildings. Enrollment details were published in the Wednesday, July 30 edition of the *Colby Free Press* and parents should have received their enrollment packets today. In addition, the 2008-09 activity calendars will not be available until enrollment (Aug. 7). For questions, call 460-5000.

New massage class set

A new therapeutic massage program is being offered at Colby Community College. The first day of classes will be Tuesday, Aug. 19. "It is the first time such a program has been offered in western Kansas," said Program Director Carol Johnson. Interested person can register from now until early August. For questions or to schedule an appointment, call 460-5427 or Nikol Nolan, admissions, 460-5496 to schedule an appointment.