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# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Taylor wins sheriff's race

By **Patty Decker**Free Press Editor  
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It took county commissioners 4 1/2 hours to canvass the votes and decide on provisional ballots Friday, but their official count confirmed Rod Taylor, a former sheriff's deputy, as the Republican candidate for sheriff in November.

The ballot slot could almost guarantee election in the fall, since there is no Democrat on the ballot, but Bahghn, finishing his first term as sheriff after many years as a deputy and undersheriff, has mentioned a possible write-in campaign. He also is mayor of Brewster.

Incumbent Mike Baughn did gain a few votes in the tally. The final total, including provisional ballots, saw Taylor with 718 votes to Baughn's 704 — narrowing the spread from 20 to 14 from the unofficial Tuesday results.

Thomas County Commissioners Paul Steele, Ken Christiansen and Bryron Sowers spent the morning reviewing the votes from Tuesday and the 85 provisional ballots, of which 74 were counted.

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms said 11 of the 85 were thrown out, primarily because of registration declarations.

"This was a closed primary," she said, "and voters casting a bal-

lot as a Libertarian or with the Reform party were not eligible."

The candidates sat through most of the count, waiting to see how their race would come out. Also present were Bruce Flipse, who is running for county attorney; Harms; Deputy Clerk Susan Guill; and Undersheriff Allen Marcum and his wife, Stacey.

Before the canvass, Taylor had 697 votes to Baughn's 677. A third candidate for sheriff, C.D. Hopper, had 293.

In the two other contested races, Flipse increased his lead, with his vote total going from 1,179 before provisionals were counted to 1,218 and Preston Pratt went from 455 to 467.

The canvass in the contested 15th Judicial District judge race with Andrea Wyrick of Colby, Scott Showalter of Goodland and Kevin Berens of St. Francis, didn't see a change in the outcome. Showalter ended with 856 votes; Berens with 529 and Wyrick had a final total of 335.

The count started at 8 a.m. and Harms said was done by 12:30 p.m. today.

"Anytime there's an election," she said, "it's a long process — starting with the forms, training, setting up the poles, election night and finally the tabulation."

Harms said her office is gearing up for the Tuesday, Nov. 4, general election.

## Summer is over!



MICHELLE MYERS/Colby Free Press

Families gathered at Colby High School to register for the 2008-2009 school year Thursday. Registration at Sacred Heart Catholic School is All Colby public schools will begin Thursday, Aug. 21. New students enrolled today, but officials said late registrations will continue.

## Colby's celebrity rides into county fair

By **Michelle Myers**Colby Free Press  
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The Thomas County fair had a special guest during the PRCA rodeo Tuesday last week as Miss Rodeo America Amy Wilson of Colby rode into her hometown and was received with a warm welcome.

"I was introduced and got a standing ovation, which was a highlight of the year," said Wilson.

Wilson was crowned Dec. 8, 2007, and has been spending her year-long reign touring the country to promote and educate people about the professional sport of rodeo.

In the past month, Wilson has been to various rodeo events in Colorado, Idaho, Texas, Wyoming and different parts of Kansas. Her schedule has been nearly non-stop as she attends various rodeo-related events.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., she was able to attend the Pikes Peak or Bust rodeo and the professional rodeo hall of fame induction.

"It was an honor to be a part of that," she said.

In Dodge City, she made an appearance at the Miss Rodeo Kansas coronation, where part of her family joined her for the event. The experience brought back



Miss Rodeo America Amy Wilson of Colby offered her assistance at the PRCA rodeo during the fair last week.

memories for Wilson as she remembered where her rise to Rodeo America all began.

"Part of my family came to watch that, and it was fun to see that and go back where it all started," she said.

Wilson also highlighted the opportunity she had to stay with Miss Rodeo Canada in Cheyenne, Wyo.

"It was fun to get to know her," she said.

Among her attendance to rodeo events, Wilson also does TV interviews and is always prepared to give her autograph.

The only other Miss Rodeo America to come from Kansas was Diana Putnam Friend in 1979, who held the title of Miss Rodeo America in 1980. The 2009 Miss Rodeo America will be crowned Dec. 6 and Wilson's reign will officially end Dec. 31.

Wilson is the daughter of Lonnie and Lori Wilson and is the sister to Kayla, Brenda, Sally, Dana and Brent, all residents of Colby.

"My goal is to promote the sport and educate people about the sport of rodeo," she said. "I love to be able to serve the people of Colby."

## Dealership has new owner

Michelle Myers

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Dougherty Implement of Colby is experiencing a change in ownership from Jim and John Dougherty of Colby to Todd Gilliland of Plainville.

Gilliland, member of the National New Holland Council, described Colby as having a progressive attitude and sees it as the business center for the local area. His close relationship with the Dougherty's gave him an open door to merge the two businesses.

"They expressed interest in doing something different," said his father, Ron Gilliland.

One evident change will be the name of the business, which will

be Farm Implement & Supply Co., Inc. of Colby. They are also anticipating expanding their business by increased inventory and staff. They currently have 20 plus employees and are hoping to hire more.

"There will not be a lot of changes, just adding people," said Todd. He also said they are big on sales, getting more equipment and hope that customers will find the mix of different products to be helpful.

Part of the mix in products is due to Plainville serving a dryland farming community while Colby caters to irrigated farming. The merging of the businesses will bring a good mix for some of their products, said Todd.

Other changes include a new

computer program, new New Holland signage and a new visibility program.

Todd and his family will continue to live in Plainville to manage his business there while Jim and John Dougherty manage the business in Colby. The business will be jointly operated and will share assets.

Todd and his wife, Tina, have four children, Andy, 19, Harrison, 13, Rachel, 7, and Mary, 5.

Dougherty Implement began in the fall of 1950 by Bill and Louise Dougherty. They built a new building and moved it to its current location in 1974. Jim and John Dougherty then bought the business from Bill and Louise in 1990. Dougherty Implement has been in Colby for 45 years.

## Counties look at wind power

By **BRANDY LEROUX**Norton Telegram  
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Logan County Economic Development Director Dan Hartman and Norton County Economic Development Director Diane Becker invited the Norton County Commissioners on Monday to a meeting about wind energy.

Hartman is interested in getting 12 Northwest Kansas counties together to see if they can form a collaboration and all work together to bring wind energy turbines to this area of the state. Hartman said Sen. Sam Brownback might be there as well. Hartman agreed with the council that there are many,

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Dan Hartman,  
Logan County Economic Development

many issues — large and small — that would need to be worked out before even putting in an order for a wind turbine; however, he is very supportive of wind farms in Northwest Kansas. "In the last 50 years, nothing has come down the

pike that would put cash directly into the family farmers' hands like this will," he said.

The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Colonial Steakhouse Restaurant outside of Oakley, Wednesday, Aug. 13.

## Briefly

### Party in the Park Aug. 18

The annual "Party in the Park," welcoming back new and returning Colby College students will be held from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18 at Fike Park.

### Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club will hold its next remote control car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary and we have many remote control cars available for all ages (10 and up) who would like to learn," he said.

There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

### Well testing done

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group in Colby does testing on private wells. For questions or to make an appointment, call (785) 462-8636 or stop by the office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 4, Colby. Residents can also call the Thomas County Health Department, 460-4596 to set up an appointment.

### Square dance Saturday

The Golden Buckle Square Dance Club will hold its regular event at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Colby

Community Building. For questions, call Elaine Hurtt, public relations coordinator, 460-2895.

### Free physicals next week

The Family Center for Health Care in Colby is offering free school physicals to Colby students from 5 to 6 p.m., Thursday Aug. 14, and out-of-town students from 6 to 7 p.m. For questions, call (785) 462-6184.

### Tennis meeting Aug. 15

A player meeting for the Colby High School girls tennis team is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 15, at the gazebo in Fike Park, said Jennifer Rall, head coach. The first tennis practice is planned at 6 a.m.,

Monday, Aug. 18, at Fike Park. For questions, call 462-0320.

### Informational meeting set

The Thomas County Emergency Medical Services plans an informational meeting at 7 p.m. today for people interested in becoming an emergency medical technician. The meeting will be at 1275 S. Franklin Ave., Colby. Classes are scheduled to begin Monday, Sept. 15. For questions, call 460-4585 or 443-0176.

### Football meeting Aug. 14

All Colby High School students planning to play football should attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, in the school auditorium. Parents are urged to attend. For questions, call 460-5300.

