



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Taylor edges sheriff in tight race

By Andy Heintz

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Republican candidate Rod Taylor came out ahead in a bitterly fought sheriff's race Tuesday, gathering an unofficial total of 1,818 votes to 1,634 for incumbent Sheriff Mike Baughn.

Taylor's total was 52 percent of the vote, while Baughn had a little less than 48 percent. While slim, the 184-vote margin appeared solid, election officials said. Still to be counted were about 118 provisional ballots cast by voters who may or may not have been qualified for the election.

The remaining ballots are not enough to affect the sheriff's race, said County Clerk Shelly Harms. They will be decided, and possibly counted, when commissioners meet to canvas and certify the vote at 8 a.m. Friday.

Harms said the county's vote total of 3,599 was about 73 percent of registered voters.

It was a tough race with passionate supporters on each side. Accusations, innuendo and endorsements appeared almost daily in Letters to the Editor section of the *Free Press*.

Taylor criticized Baughn for what he saw as a lack of accountability. Baughn, running as a write-in candidate, countered that he thought Taylor — a retired Highway Patrol supervisor who later worked as a part-time sheriff's deputy — lacked the experience needed to run the sheriff's department.

No one could say how the hostile tone of the race will affect the staff at the sheriff's department or the supporters of Baughn and Taylor. Part of the answer may become known when Taylor takes office as sheriff on Jan. 12. Before the election, he promised not to get rid of any of the current staff.



By ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Before final counts started coming in, Sheriff Mike Baughn and C.D. Hopper, a supporter and former opponent, were among those waiting at the Thomas County courthouse Tuesday night for election results. A man (above) looked at unofficial returns.

Taylor credited Baughn and his supporters for running a well-organized campaign. The sheriff was in the unusual position for an incumbent of running a write-in campaign. Taylor had won the Republican primary in August in a three-way race with the sheriff and C.D. Hopper. Hopper later endorsed Baughn and helped in his campaign.

Today, Taylor also thanked the people who helped run his campaign.

"I want to thank my family and my supporters," he said. "They did a terrific job running the campaign."

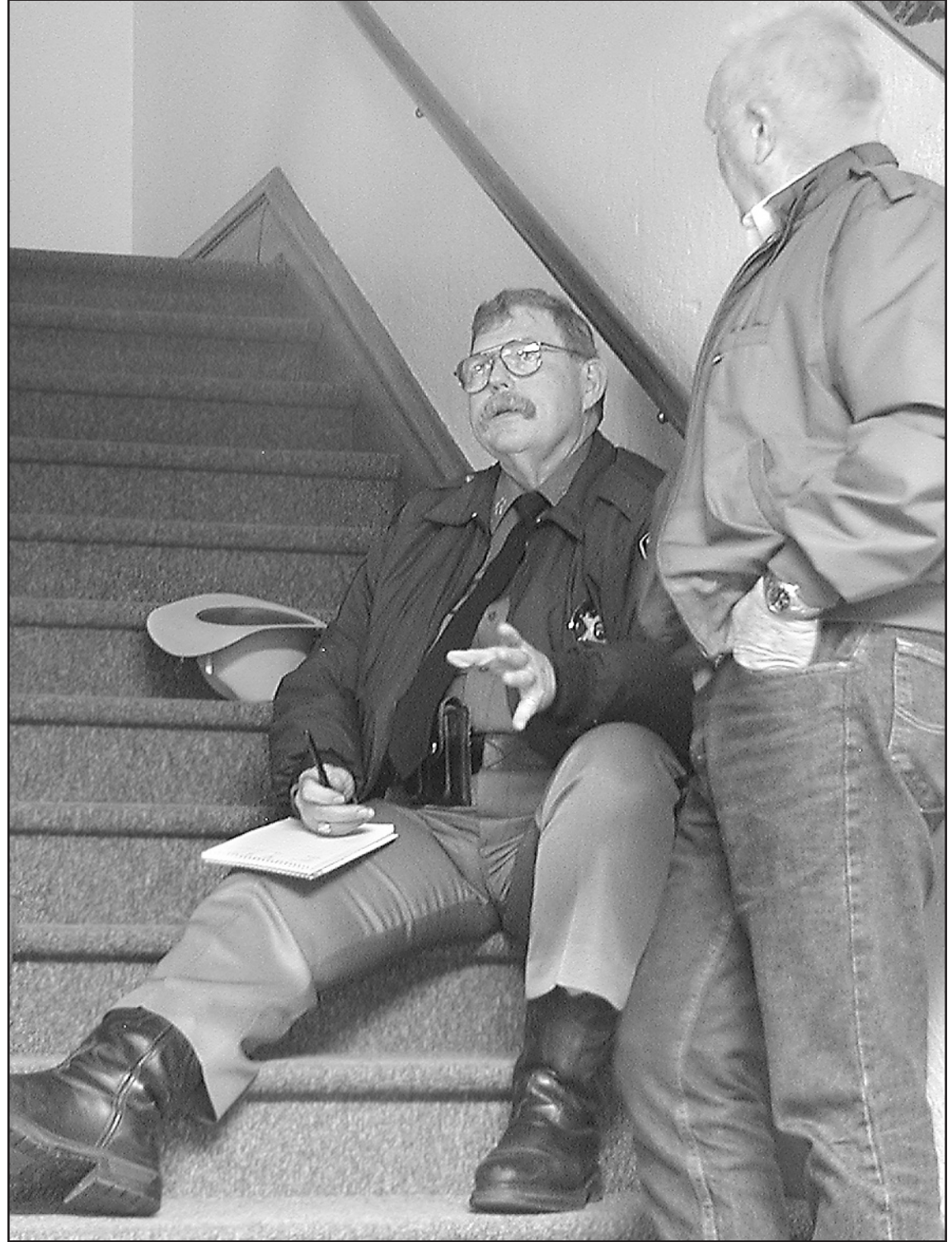
Taylor said one of the first things he plans to do when he takes over is to meet with the staff and de-

ties so he can lay out his goals and objectives for the department. He said he wants to look into security issues with the jail and the Law Enforcement Center. He said he wants to make sure there is more accountability over what is available to prisoners inside the jail cells.

Baughn wanted to thank county officials for giving him a chance to work for them.

"I want to thank my loyal staff and all my supporters," he said. "I would like to thank the people for letting me serve them."

The sheriff said he plans on retiring after his term comes to an end in January.



## Food bank ready to fill annual holiday baskets

The Genesis food bank asking for help for its annual Christmas Basket project, which provides a full holiday meal to Thomas County families who could use a little help, during the Christmas season.

Applications for baskets should be picked up at the food bank, 350 S. Range Ave. Suite 13, on Wednesday between 10 a.m. and noon and 1 and 4 p.m., or call Genesis at (785) 460-7930 and leave a message. Applications should be returned by Saturday.

Donations for the baskets can be left at the food bank, Leroy's Printing or at Sacred Heart Catholic, First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity

Lutheran churches. Send donations to Genesis-Thomas County, Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701.

Any group planning a food drive should let the pantry know so that a board member can answer any questions, members said.

The baskets will be put together at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at the Thomas County 4-H building at the fairground. Volunteers are needed and everyone is welcome.

Baskets will then be available to be picked up between 9 and 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, at the 4-H Building.

## Fall harvest gets rolling

By Andy Heintz

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After a slow start, fall harvest is getting underway, with farmers in some parts of the county reporting average to above average yields.

Harvest has been delayed this year by weather, said Brian Olson, northwest area agronomist for Kansas State University Research and Extension.

Eric Sperber, general manager at Cornerstone Ag here, said this year's harvest is later because of a cool August, followed by rain and snow over the last month.

He said he didn't think the harvest actually started that late this year, if you look at the situation historically as opposed to comparing this year to the last five.

"In the last five years," Sperber said, "the harvest has been earlier than normal."

Larry Maxwell, president of the Farm Credit of Western Kansas, said cool weather slowed development of the corn and milo plants in the spring, then cool weather in the fall slowed the maturing of the crops.

Olson said whether or not Thomas County farmers have good yields this year mostly depended on the weather.

Some parts of the county had good moisture during critical periods of growth, he said, while others missed those rains.

The Cumberland area northeast of town could have some of the better crops in the county due to more rain, he said, while the area southwest of town hasn't had as much. Yields will likely be depressed there, he said.

"East of Colby, we experienced more rainfall, which helped irrigated and dryland crops," Maxwell said. "West of Colby, we got less rain, which significantly affected the dryland crops."

"It came down to who caught rain when," Sperber said.

He said farmers have gotten a good start on the harvest in the last few weeks.

"The guys are making some progress," he said.

"Once the hard freeze came, that really got the crops to dry down," Maxwell said, "and the harvest really took off."

Maxwell said, from the people he had talked to, that yields in Thomas County have been average to above average this year.

"The yields are coming through in good shape," he said.

## President-elect enjoys victory day-after, awaits first security briefing

WASHINGTON (AP) — His storied election behind him and weighty problems in his face, Barack Obama turned today to the task of building an administration in times of crisis as Americans and the world absorbed his history-shattering achievement as the first black leader ascending to the presidency.

Obama enjoyed an everyman day-after in his hometown of Chicago today after an electric night of celebration, anchored

by his victory rally of 125,000 in Chicago and joyful outpourings of his supporters across the country. The president-elect saw his daughters off to school, a pleasure he's missed during nearly two years of nonstop travel, and then a gym workout.

Pressing business came at him fast, with just 76 days until his inauguration as the 44th president.

The nation's top intelligence officials planned to give him top-secret daily briefings

starting Thursday, sharing with him overnight intelligence as well as other information he has not been allowed to see as a senator or candidate. And Obama planned to give the first of his daily briefings to the media Thursday as he moves quickly to begin assembling a White House staff and selecting Cabinet nominees.

Campaign officials said Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel was a favored prospect for Obama's chief of staff. The advisers spoke on a condition of anonymity because the

announcement had not yet been made.

President Bush pledged "complete cooperation" in the transition and called Obama's victory a "triumph of the American story."

Naming the staggering list of problems he inherits in his decisive defeat of Republican John McCain — two wars and "the worst financial crisis in a century," among them — Obama sought to restrain the soaring expectations of his supporters late Tuesday night even as he stoked them

with impassioned calls for national unity and partisan healing.

"We may not get there in one year or even in one term," he said. "But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there."

A tide of international goodwill came Obama's way on this morning, even as developments made clear how heavy a weight will soon be on his shoulders.

## Briefly

### Auction will benefit Hospice

The 13th annual Hospice Services "Dream, Act and Believe" Banquet and Auction will be Saturday at City Limits Convention Center in Colby. The event starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the auction at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each. For information, call 462-6710.

### Emergency group meets Thursday

Election of officers and replacing board members will be on the agenda for a meeting of the Thomas County Local Emergency Planning Committee at noon Thursday at the Thomas County office complex conference room, 350 S. Range Ave. This should be the last meeting of the year.

### McDonalds offers a free cup

The McDonalds restaurant at 2000 S. Range Ave. plans a coffee hour for Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce members with rolls and coffee at 9:30 a.m. Thursday to mark its remodeling.

### Food signup is this week

Prairie Land Food, formerly Share, is having signup for November delivery through Friday at State Farm Insurance, 905 E. Fourth St., Colby. Delivery will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, at the Sacred Heart Catholic School gym. The cost is \$23.50 plus two hours of volunteer time. Meat-only and fruit/vegetable-only packages are available. For information call Gene Griffin (785) 460-3579 or Mary Schroeder (785) 462-7525.

### Yard waste OK now in trash

Public Works Director Chris Bieker says people no longer need to separate their grass and household waste. Trucks are running the winter route, he said, and the waste can be mixed. For questions, call 460-4420.

### Women celebrate community

World Community Day will be observed with a service at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the First Presbyterian Church in Colby. The event is sponsored by Church Women United, a national group of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox women in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. For information, call Joyce Gatlin at (785) 460-3656.

### Flu shots available on Monday

The Thomas County Health Department will be offering flu shots at the office on Range from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday. The cost is \$25. No

reservations are needed. For information, call the department at (785) 460-4596.

### FFA members selling fruit, meat

The Colby FFA is conducting its annual Rivestart fund raiser, selling fruit and smoked meats through Monday. Delivery will be Wednesday, Dec. 10. To order, contact an FFA member or advisor Shawna Howell at (785) 460-5320 or showell@colbyeagles.org.

### Endowment Foundation to meet

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Student Union, including scholarship dinner and reception for students and donors. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge. Call foundation Director Nick Wells at (785) 460-4684 for information.

