



Republicans make clean sweep

By Kevin Bottrell

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The polls are closed, the results are in, and the Kansas Republican Party had exactly the big a night everyone had predicted.

Republican Sen. Sam Brownback and running mate Jeff Colyer handily won the governorship with 522,061 votes to Democrat state Sen. Tom Holland's 264,067, roughly 66 percent to 34 percent. In Thomas County, Brownback did even better, polling 1,969 votes to Holland's 461, roughly 81 percent to 19 percent.

"Now, it's a difficult time for many Kansas families. Jobs are scarce and the future is uncertain," Brownback said, speaking from the Maner Conference Center in Topeka. "Jeff and I promise you an energetic administration focused on what's best for the people of Kansas, with a government serving the people, not the

other way around."

Republican Jerry Moran, who has represented the Big 1st District of western Kansas in Congress for more than a decade, won a seat in the U.S. Senate with 70 percent of the vote. In Thomas County, he got 2,261 votes to Democrat Lisa Johnston's 218.

Republican state Sen. Tim Huelskamp was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives with 74 percent of the vote over Democrat Alan Jilka, former mayor of Salina. In Thomas County, he got 2,016 votes to Jilka's 444.

Republican incumbent Lynn Jenkins won the 2nd District congressional seat and Republican candidates Kevin Yoder and Mike Pompeo won the 3rd and 4th Districts.

Republicans also took the three state government positions held by appointed Democrats:

Kris Kobach will be the new Kansas secretary of state, winning with 59 percent of the vote. Secretary of State Chris Biggs got 37 percent. In Thomas County, Kobach won

1,833 votes to 563.

Attorney General Steve Six lost the closest of the three races to challenger Derek Schmidt, 453,558 votes to 341,973. In Thomas County, Six lost 1,799 to 646.

Challenger Ron Estes beat state Treasurer Dennis McKinney, 58 percent to 42. Here he got 1,696 votes to McKinney's 753 here.

Unopposed incumbent Sandy Praeger, a veteran Republican, got 2,228 votes for insurance commissioner in Thomas County and Sally Cauble got 2,095 votes for Kansas Board of Education in District 5.

Republican Jim Morrison of Colby won reelection to the Kansas House of Representatives unopposed with 5,675, votes. In his home county he got 2,207 votes. Register of Deeds Lora Volk was re-elected with 2,376 votes and County Commissioner Byron Sowers with 777 votes in District 1, both running without

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Colby resident Arlen Leiker prepared to cast his vote in Tuesday's general election.

Grade schoolers cast their vote



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Substitute teacher Ashley Cox helped kindergartner Ali Bartlett into a polling booth at Colby Grade School on Tuesday. The grade schoolers voted for governor and accurately predicted Sam Brownback's victory almost down to the exact percent. Brownback won Colby Grade School with 62 percent of the vote and won the state with 63 percent.

Wind farm road pact to go before townships

By Vera Sloan

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The Thomas County commissioners finished work on a road-condition agreement with Solomon Forks Wind Farm covering possible damage to county roads that will be affected by wind-tower construction crews during their meeting Monday.

The four townships involved, Lacey, Morgan, Summers and North Randall, can either sign on their own authority or give all authority to the county. As of Monday morning, those decisions had not been made by the township boards.

"The signing isn't ultimate approval to begin building," said Tiff Thompson, project manager for Solomon Forks.

She said the firm's development plan must first be made available for public comment. She said the

company is still optimistic about finding a buyer or buyers for the power to be generated by the farm, although none has signed on the dotted line yet.

Sunflower Electric Power Corp., a regional cooperative based in Hays, is one of the potential buyers. Peter Keenon of Acciona Energy, the Spanish firm behind the farm, said the price is low, so this is the time to buy. He said he believes there is a place for renewable energy in the Sunflower portfolio. He noted that Midwest Energy gets a lot of its power from Sunflower Electric, but the big power users are in eastern Kansas. So far, no start date has been set for construction.

The commissioners approved sending letter of support for the project to Sunflower.

Road Supervisor Clair Schrock told the commissioners the five-year road and bridge maintenance

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Colby College graduate to donate kidney to sister

By Tara Fields

The Rawlins County Square Deal

Celeste Bliss Johnson, 1990-1991 class president at Colby Community College, and her brother, also a Colby College graduate, will soon share more than the bonds of sibling love.

Celeste, diagnosed with lupus in 1997, has had flare-ups and now, a failed kidney. She has been on dialysis since April 2009.

After testing of all three of Celeste's siblings, Maureen, Alec, then Breon, doctors deemed that the only match to donate a kidney was Breon.

Celeste and Breon, the children of Roger Bliss of Atwood and the late Catherine Bliss, will undergo kidney transplant surgery Tuesday in Wichita.

Lupus is like fighting on both sides of a battlefield: Celeste's body is its own enemy.

Lupus, an autoimmune disease, is the opposite of AIDS, she explained. Her body produces raging antibodies and these randomly attack different areas of her body.

"I have lived a lot differently than a lot of people with lupus," Celeste said. "I never accepted I had the disease, and I was going to be normal and not be a burden

on my family."

Celeste lives in Ellis with her two daughters, Ashton, 11, and Aiden, 10. She is a grant writer, trained in community and foundation development. While at Colby Community College she majored in music education and ran track and field. She is a 1988 graduate of Atwood High School.

In order to better manage her disease, she stopped doing two of her favorite things. She was teaching music in school, she said, but being exposed to constant illness proved dangerous to her immune

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Judge tosses out supreme court lawsuit

WICHITA (AP) - A federal judge has tossed out a constitutional challenge to the way Kansas nominates its appellate justices.

U.S. District Judge Monti Belot on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit claiming the state's judicial nominating process gives lawyers too much power and violates voting rights.

Belot says it is not the court's job to weigh in on

the debate over whether judicial nominees should be popularly elected. He says there is no evidence that the Kansas system has led to unqualified people being appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals.

His ruling comes just two days after the governor filled a vacancy on the Supreme Court, and a day after voters retained the four justices up for election.

Briefly

Red Cross to collect blood twice

The American Red Cross will have blood drives from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the student union at Colby Community College, and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at Golden Plains High School in Rexford. Schedule an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call Trudy Wildeman in the college Health Science Building at (785) 460-4797 or the Golden Plains office at 687-3265. Walk-ins are welcome.

Driver's license office to close

The state driver's license office in Colby, along with all offices in the western half of the state, will be closed for a training session Thursday. All license offices will close for the session, with offices in the eastern half of the state closing today. For information, call (785) 296-3041.

Heartland banquet will be Friday

Heartland Christian School will hold the "Partners for the Future" endowment banquet at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the school. Tickets are \$15 each from the school office. Sandra Aldrich will speak. For information, call the office at 460-6419.

Singles dance Saturday

There will be a singles and couples dance from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course clubhouse. Granny Z will provide music. For information, call Lue Duffey at (785) 269-7057.

Come to church for turkey, fixin's

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will serve an old-fashioned Thanksgiving dinner from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the church. The menu includes tur-

key, ham, dressing and mashed potatoes. Donations will be accepted. For information, call the rectory at 462-2179.

Diplomats' fall luncheon Nov. 17

The Colby Diplomats would like to invite the women of Thomas County to their annual Fall Luncheon from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the United Methodist Church. The theme this year is "Say Yes to the Dress." Admission is \$12 per person; reservations should be mailed to Peg Tole, 610 W. Webster, no later than Monday. The Diplomats are also looking for wedding pictures to decorate the luncheon. E-mail your pictures to colbychamber@thomascounty.com.

Township sets road meeting

Summers Township will hold a special meeting at

7 p.m. Tuesday at the Thomas County Office Complex on Range Ave. All township residents are invited to come discuss equipment upgrades and a right-of-way agreement with the county. For information, call Bert Stramel at 443-0052.

Food sign-up open open

Prairie Land Food sign-up is open until Monday at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Delivery will be Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Sacred Heart School gym, 1050 W. Sixth St. For information, call Gene Griffin at 460-3579.

