



Two battle for county sheriff

Candidate says sheriff is next step in career

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D. Rodriguez

Dave Rodriguez, running for sheriff as a Democrat against incumbent Rod Taylor in the general election next week, brings with him a decade of law enforcement experience in Thomas County, both with the Colby police and the sheriff's department.

The candidate says his interaction with his employers and local government has usually, but not always, been positive.

Born and raised in Colby, Rodriguez said he will be 41 in December. He earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Colby Community College and attended Kansas State University. His mother, Florence Rodriguez, lives here and worked at the Colby Free Press for many years. Most of his family is from Texas, he said, but he has brothers and

sisters across the country.

He sees a run for sheriff as the next step in his career, and has been considering it for four or five years.

"Everyone knew I was going to run for sheriff," he said. "Everyone thought that I should run except for some of the people that I have worked with."

He said Sept. 11, 2001, prompted him to change careers from work as a landscaper in Kansas City.

"I just decided landscaping wasn't what I wanted to do after the world changed," he said. "I could have been a police officer anywhere, but I chose to come here."

He called then-Sheriff Tom Jones to ask about opportunities and started as a jailer for the sheriff's department in April 2002, the beginning of nearly 10 years in police work. After working his way

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Incumbent touts experience as big asset

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Rod Taylor

Incumbent Sheriff Rod Taylor is geared up for his re-election campaign against Democrat Dave Rodriguez for sheriff, the big-ticket race in the Thomas County election next week.

With more than 45 years of work and a degree in law enforcement under his holster, Taylor, a Republican, is touting his experience.

As a trooper with the Kansas Highway Patrol starting in 1966, Taylor said, he was proud to serve the citizens of Atchison, Topeka, Greensburg and Wichita. Later, he spent 10 years as a Thomas County sheriff's deputy, from May 1998 to April 2008.

In 2008, he ran against former sheriff Mike Baughn, who is now running unopposed for a seat

on the Thomas County Commission. Before the election in 2008, Baughn fired Taylor as a deputy, but if Taylor wins, the two will have to work together as fellow county officials.

Taylor would not talk about why Baughn fired him.

"I don't have any concerns with working with Mike," the sheriff said, "I know he'll be watching, but politics are a part of law enforcement and you have to move on ... (Law enforcement) is always about service to the people and to the taxpayers. But there's a business side to being sheriff, too ... you've got to learn how to jockey between the two."

Taylor says he feels good about the election and his ability to continue the position of sheriff.

"Yeah," he said, "I do think I'm the best can-

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College holds art walk

Robin Delzieit (right) made balloons for local kids Saturday afternoon at the Autumn Art Bazaar. Franklin Avenue was blocked off between Fourth and Fifth streets for the event. Artists exhibited their work at about a dozen local businesses along Franklin. They included Jerry Hill (below) who is a faceter - someone who polishes the faces of stones used in jewelry. He was at Smoffee's showing off his work. Hill thinks that he is one of eight faceters in Kansas.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Candidate says he won't run in township race

By Kayla Cornett
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The township election races this November involve mostly unopposed candidates, but in West Hale Township, two candidates won places on the ballot for the position of treasurer.

One is the incumbent, the other a former treasurer who says he doesn't want the job back and won't serve.

Republican Willard Crumrine, Brewster, filed before the primary, and Democrat Brian Eicher, Brewster, won the Democratic spot as a write in.

Thomas County Deputy Clerk Susan Guill said candidates who don't file before the primary can only get on the general election ballot if they have at least three write-in votes.

Crumrine is an incumbent, meaning he currently holds the position. Eicher was the treasurer before Crumrine, but said he has

no interest in the job this time around.

"If I get voted in, I will not take the position," Eicher said.

He said he was the treasurer for 20 years and asked his neighbor, Crumrine, to take over for him.

"He's not happy" Eicher joked. "He didn't like all the work that came with the job."

Either way, Eicher said, Crumrine has his full support in the election. He said he has a plan to try and keep people from voting for him.

"I'm gonna have an 'uncampaign' poster to put up in Brewster," he said, "so people don't vote for me."

The other township treasurer candidates on the election ballot this year include Jasen Gray, Levant, Barrett Township; Guill, Menlo Township; and Bob Ottley, Oakley, South Randall. All three are incumbents, but a few more candidates for treasurer were writ-

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Hurricane Sandy aims for Northeast

By Allen G. Breed and Jennifer Peltz
The Associated Press

NEW YORK - A fast-strengthening Hurricane Sandy churned north today, raking ghost-town cities along the Northeast corridor with rain and wind gusts. Subways and schools were closed across the region of 50 million people, the floor of the New York Stock Exchange was deserted and thousands fled inland.

Forecasters expected the monster hurricane to make a westward lurch and aim for New Jersey, blowing ashore tonight and combining with two other weather systems to create an epic superstorm.

Its projected path put New York City and Long Island in the danger zone for a huge surge of seawater made more fearsome by high tides and a full moon.

"This is the worst-case scenario," said Louis Uccellini, environmental prediction chief for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

By late morning, the storm's top

winds had strengthened to 90 mph. It was about 200 miles southeast of Atlantic City, N.J., where the emptied-out streets were mostly under water and where an old section of the historic boardwalk broke up and washed away.

Authorities moved to close the Holland Tunnel, which connects New York and New Jersey, and a tunnel between Manhattan and Brooklyn. Street grates above the New York subway were boarded up, but officials worried that seawater would seep in and damage the switches.

Because the storm is so big, with tropical storm-force winds extending almost 500 miles from its center, it could upend daily life for big cities and small towns alike across the Northeast - including Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston - and as far west as the Great Lakes. Up to 3 feet of snow was forecast for the West Virginia mountains.

