



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Thomas County election results are in

Of the eligible Thomas County voters, 70.35 percent turned up at the polls Tuesday to cast their ballots in the national, state and local election.

Unofficial counts came in about 9 p.m. Tuesday for Thomas County. County Clerk Shelly Harms said she has 133 provisional ballots left to count, and official results will come in with the canvassing Thursday, Nov. 15.

Despite a victory for President Barack Obama, Democrat, in the presidential election, voters in west Kansas swung Republican in all areas. Voters here gave 576 votes to the incumbent, but favored Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan with 2,729 votes. Libertarians Gary Johnson and Jim Gray took 65 votes and Reformists Chuck Baldwin and Joseph Martin received 18 votes.

The constitutional amendment regarding watercraft tax laws received 1,560 votes in its favor; 1,519 votes rejected the amendment. The amendment questions whether the Kansas Legislature should be permitted to classify and tax watercraft on a different basis than other property.

Candidate Nancy L. Moritz was given 1,993 votes for retention as Supreme Court Justice Position 7. There were 911 votes against her.

All of the Court of Appeals judges were voted in favor for retention. Steve Leben, Position 2, received 2,024 votes in his favor; 837 against. G. Joseph Pierron Jr., Position 6, took 2,093 approving votes and 754 rejecting votes. David E. Bruns, Position 6, received 2,137 votes vs. 718. G. Gordon Atcheson, Position 8, took 1,953 vs. 900. Karen Arnold-Burger, Position 9, received 1,968 votes vs. 886. Richard D. Greene, Position 10, took 1,994 approving votes vs. 789.

In the Senate race, Republican Ralph Ostmyer, Grinnell, took most of the votes cast in the county, grabbing 2,485 votes to the 869 votes cast for Democrat Sen. Allen Schmidt, Hays. Because of the redistricting plan, Ostmyer and Schmidt, both incumbents, were facing off for the 40th Senate District. Ostmyer has represented the 40th District for 12 years, while Schmidt represented the 36th District for two years before Ellis County was shifted into the 40th District.

Thomas County will be represented by two unopposed state representatives, both of whom are representing the county for the first time because of the re-



districting. Rep. Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, beat Rep. Rick Billinger from Goodland in the Aug. 7 primary election after the two incumbents were thrown together into the 120th state District, which includes Colby and the northwest part of the county. In the general election Tuesday, 2,567 votes were cast for Cassidy.

Rep. Don Hineman, Dighton, took 474 votes and will be representing the 118th District, which includes the southwest part of the county.

Rep. Tim Huelskamp, Fowler, took 3,034 votes for the 1st District of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sheriff Rod Taylor is coming out of the major county race as the apparent winner. The Republican took 2,067 votes while

Democratic challenger Dave Rodriguez, a former deputy and city police officer, took 1,246.

The morning after the election, Taylor said he was "just ready to go to work, I appreciate all the support."

Despite his wide lead, Taylor was not certain going into the election that he would win.

"I don't take anything like that for granted," he said.

All other county officials ran unopposed for their positions in the Republican ticket.

Mike Baughn, 892 votes from Brewster, will join Paul Steele, Colby, on the Thomas County Commission. Steele took 1,039 votes. Baughn, a former sheriff for Thomas County and mayor of Brewster, is taking the seat for District 3 being vacated by Commission Chairman Ken Chris-

tiansen. Steele has represented District 2 since 2004.

Layn Bruggeman, 3,075 votes, is replacing Donita Applebury as treasurer. Applebury, who is retiring after 33 years, will have time to train Bruggeman, since she is already working in the office.

Shelly Harms, 3,113 votes, ran unopposed for County Clerk after winning the primary against Cindi Kriss. Harms has been clerk since 2004. Lora Volk will keep her place as the Register of Deeds, having been appointed to replace Mabel Moore in 2009. She took 3,141 votes.

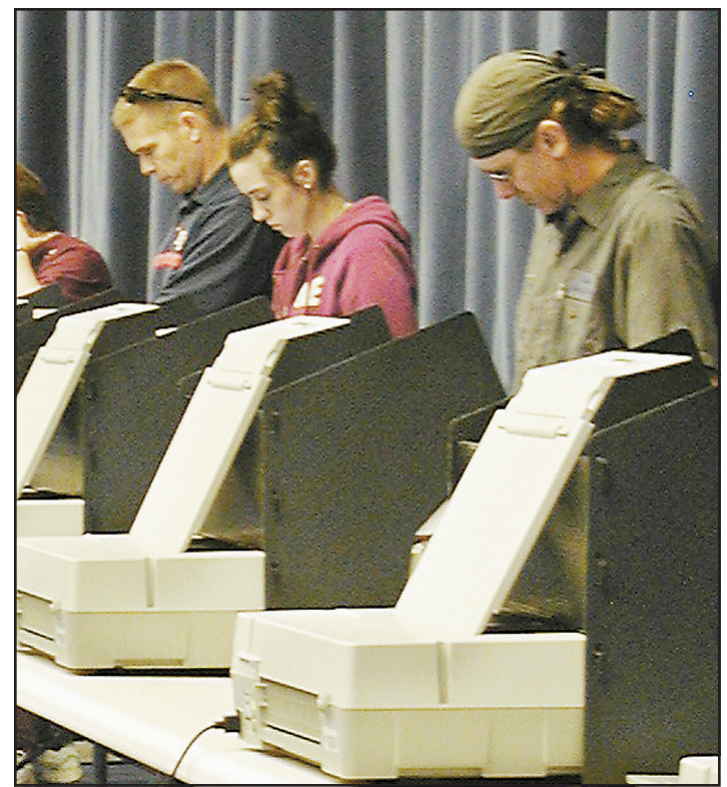
Kevin Berens, 3,007 votes, has been Thomas County Attorney since he was appointed in March 2011 after Bruce Flipse resigned.

Republican Glenn Schiffner

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The polls in the gym of the Community Building were busy all day Tuesday for the election, where voters, such as Ernie Kistler (left), had to present their photo IDs for a ballot. Election worker Charles Berend (below) gave voters their ballots, while provisional ballots were handled at a table (bottom) at the side of the gym.

MARIAN BALLARD
SAM DIETER
Colby Free Press



Movie premiere set in Colby

Time is running out for people to secure advanced tickets to see the premiere of "Harvesting the High Plains," a documentary that was filmed, in large part, throughout Thomas County and Colby.

The screening will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Colby. Admission is free, but people will not be able to get a ticket at the door.

Contact the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office to get your free ticket and for information about the time and location at (785) 460-3401, colbychamber@thomascounty.com or at their office in the Thomas

County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Suite 10.

Presented by Smoky Hills Public Television and Inspirite Creative, the inspirational film of hope, persistence and triumph showcases the struggles of life during the 1930s and 40s, and even features many people living in Thomas County now.

"We are proud to present such an incredible story of success through adversity," said Michael Quade, chief executive officer and general manager of Smoky Hills Television. "This film could not have premiered at a more

relevant time, as Kansans have recently endured both a prolonged drought and another recession."

The documentary brings to life the story of two men who lived during the 1930s in western Kansas. It traces a single farming operation that began during the Dust Bowl in 1933 and overcame the impossible to harvest one of the largest wheat crops ever raised by a single farming operation in 1947.

The story is told through the written corre-

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Colby High students will perform play

By Christina Beringer
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The Colby High School drama department is inviting everyone to enjoy a "dasterly good meal" and a very funny melodrama Thursday

and Friday.

The performance, which includes 24 students in all grade levels of the high school, will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the auditorium. A meal will be served by forensics and debate team members at 5:30 p.m. before the Friday performance.

Donations for the Italian meal are requested to help cover the

students' travel expenses during the season. Transportation costs, the play's director Nancy Rundel said, can add up fast when you figure that their group needs at least eight to 10 hotel rooms at about \$80 each, plus fuel and food, for one overnight trip.

Donations help make the trips possible for the team as well as for the students who might find

it difficult to afford participation, said Rundel.

Tickets for the meal are not required, but people do need a ticket to see the show. Admission for adults is \$6; students can see the play for \$4. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting any of the cast members, at the

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Veterans parade planned Monday

Since Veterans Day, Nov. 11, falls on a Sunday this year, the Colby Veterans Day Parade will be held at 4 p.m. Monday.

Participants will line up at Eighth and Franklin and parade up Franklin to Second Street, going east on Second to Court Avenue, and from there to the memorial in front of the Thomas County Courthouse.

Veterans are encouraged to gather between 3:30 and 3:45 at the American Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St.

A bus provided by Colby Community College will be ready to give them a ride, and will return them to the Legion after the parade.

The parade will feature the Colby High School and Colby Middle School bands, along

with an honor guard from the Kansas National Guard in Colby, said Dale Deaver. Other entries are welcome, Deaver said; just join the lineup on Eighth Street.

Following the parade, a brief ceremony will be held at the memorial.

David Becker of Colby will speak. He served two hitches in Afghanistan and has two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

Refreshments will be provided at the Legion Hall afterward by the American Legion Auxiliary. Food donations are welcome.

In case of bad weather, the parade will be replaced by a ceremony at the Legion.

