



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Candidates

# Deadline for filing closing in

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

An important deadline is just days away for residents wanting to serve their communities in special ways.

The date is Tuesday, Jan. 21 with the deadline on that day at 12 noon.

This reminder is for people wanting to serve on local and area city governing bodies, school boards and the Colby College board of trustees.

Elections will be held in April; however, primaries are also possible in March if sufficient numbers of candidates for any given seat dictate that fate.

The Colby Free Press will publish an up-to-date list of all candidates — incumbent and new — who have filed so far in its Thursday edition.

Questions anyone might have as regards a candidacy can be directed to Tracey Perkins, Thomas County Clerk/Election Officer at 462-4500.

# Elder Bush says world safer today

SALINA (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush told Kansas business leaders Tuesday the world is a safer place today than when he was president.

“Despite international terror, it is a safer world,” the elder Bush said. “There is no superpower staring out at us, across an ocean, armed to the teeth with missiles aimed at us. There is no Soviet empire. It doesn’t exist any more.”

The nation’s 41st president was the featured guest at the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual meeting. About 2,500 people came to hear Bush speak at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

“After 78 years of living, I’ve seen how far we’ve come — from world divided to a world literally transformed,” Bush told them.

He advised young people worried about a war or a depression to get involved in their communities. “I am an optimist. I used to talk about a new world order,” Bush said.

“It is not perfected, but there are a lot more democracies today than when I started as president.”

Bush found a receptive audience in the local chamber of commerce, and he urged his audience not to judge the whole economy by the shortcomings of a few “greedy law-breakers.”

“Things are changing, and I think they are changing for the better,” Bush said.

He told the crowd that markets are solid for investors, and he has no doubt the nation is in an economic recovery. Bush said he also supports efforts proposed by his son, President George W. Bush, to stimulate that recovery.

# Ready to roll!



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Fairview Estates administrator Karen Hodson showed the new electric wheelchair this morning which was donated to Fairview Estates by Brian Sondburg and Connie Smith, in memory of their

mother Mary Sondburg, who was a resident at Fairview. The chair cost \$4,000, and Hodson said that it is available for use by any resident of the facility.

# Sainty's Morris under fire at first board meeting

TOPEKA (AP) — A newly elected State Board of Education member didn’t have to wait long before drawing sharp criticism for her view the state should not educate the children of illegal immigrants.

But Connie Morris, a St. Francis Republican, said at her first meeting since being elected that funding education for immigrants was an issue for her western Kansas constituents and she

would be vocal.

Four people spoke Tuesday at the board’s monthly meeting, directing their criticism at Morris.

“We can’t afford to be known as the Trent Lott of the 50 states,” said John Martellaro, executive board member of the Kansas Families United for Public Education.

Lott is the former U.S. Senate majority leader from Mississippi who resigned from his leadership post after making remarks some

interpreted as a supporting segregation.

Martellaro said the board’s decision in 1999 to de-emphasize the teaching of evolution, later rescinded, brought international ridicule on Kansas and cost the state unknown dollars in lost economic development prospects.

“Being the butt of jokes on the Jay Leno and David Letterman shows wasn’t funny,” Martellaro said.

Morris defeated board Chairman

Sonny Rundell of Syracuse in a Republican primary in August, and again in November, when Rundell mounted a write-in campaign. Critics have said her proposal on immigrants is unconstitutional.

To deny those children access to education would invite lawsuits at a time when, Martellaro said, “we simply cannot afford to waste that kind of money pandering to extreme right-wing ideology.”

## Unable to elect chairman

# Political split keeps state board from organizing

TOPEKA (AP) — The State Board of Education tried Tuesday to chart a course for the next two years, only to discover it again is stuck in place by an ideological split.

After repeated failures, the board ended the first of two days of meetings without electing a new chairman, spitting several votes on varying options. They mostly included either electing board member Janet Waugh, a Democrat from Kansas City, Kan., or splitting the two-year

term into a pair of one-year appointments.

The board’s chairman and vice chairman are normally elected for a two-year term and set the 10-member board’s agenda. No nomination for Waugh or any compromise plan received more than five votes. All board action requires six votes.

Waugh was vice chairwoman in 2001-02. The board will continue to put the selection of a chairman on its agenda each month until the is-

sue is resolved.

Following November’s elections, the board is split between five members identified as conservative Republicans and a coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans.

During the meetings this week, the coalition of Democrats and moderate Republicans generally supported Waugh and refused to support the split-term proposal or offer a compromise. The block is made up of Waugh, Sue Gamble of

Shawnee, Carol Rupe of Wichita, Bill Wagon of Topeka and Bruce Wyatt of Salina.

Board member John Bacon, an Olathe conservative, said electing a chairman who represented only moderate views was inappropriate and would misrepresent the views of the entire board. Along with Bacon, Steve Abrams of Arkansas City, Connie Morris of St. Francis, Iris Van Meter of Thayer and Ken Willard of Nickerson usually voted against electing Waugh.

# Hospital motion is granted

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The Kansas Court of Appeals in Topeka is expected to rule sometime in the next several months on a lower court’s decision in October of 2002 that would not allow Citizens Medical Center to bar Dr. Victor Hildyard from seeing patients at that facility.

The appeal was filed last month by Carol Bonebrake, attorney for the Colby hospital, requesting the higher court overturn District Court Judge Jack Burr’s decision and allow Citizens Medical Center to take action that it deems appropriate.

The Court of Appeals granted that motion earlier this week and further denied Michael O’Neal’s motion (who represents Hildyard) to dismiss the case. It was the second time Burr reinstated the doctor’s privileges since the case began in April of 2002 when a registered nurse at the hospital filed a complaint against Hildyard alleging he violated the facility’s hostile work environment policy.

As a result the Citizens Medical Center board of trustees suspended the doctor’s privileges at the facility.

However, in both instances, Burr ruled in favor of reinstating Hildyard’s privileges until a due process hearing took place.

A due process hearing was held in November of 2002, although no results of that hearing have been made public.

During the October teleconference hearing with Burr, which prompted the request for an appeal, Bonebrake argued that the hospital was within its rights to suspend the privileges.

O’Neal argued that his client deserves due process, which was not afforded to him.

After hearing both sides, Burr again ruled to reinstate the doctor’s privileges and further denied Bonebrake’s request for a security bond to insure that in the event of danger to patient care, the hospital would be covered.

# Not betting on Sebelius

TOPEKA (AP) — Some Republicans believe Gov. Kathleen Sebelius won’t be able to present a budget that protects public schools while neither raising taxes nor hurting other public services. Some Democrats suspect GOP legislators are hoping Sebelius falls into a trap.

Sebelius, a Democrat, presents her budget tonight for the fiscal year that begins July 1. She had said during her campaign that she would not cut state aid to public schools and would not propose a tax increase.

“There was skepticism during the campaign,” Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, said Tuesday. “We didn’t set the expectations. We’re just waiting to see whether they’re met.”

Sen. Christine Downey, D-Newton, said some Republicans are “gathering chairs and popcorn to watch” the Democratic governor stumble.

## WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

### The numbers

Tuesday’s high, 43  
Low this morning, 16  
Soil temperature, 34  
Temperature at 11:30, 30

Records for this date: 70 in 1943, 0 in 1930

### The forecast

Snow is removed from the forecast. Tonight, clear, cold, lows near 10, north winds up to 30 mph, gusting to 40. Thursday, sunny, cold, highs in the upper 20s, north winds up to 30 mph, gusting to 40. Thursday night, partly cloudy early then becoming cloudy, lows near 10. Friday, cloudy and breezy, highs 35-40.

# Briefly

## Stadium, track fund raiser planned

In an effort to raise money for the Dennen Field Stadium-Track project, members of the Colby Booster Club are sponsoring a soup supper beginning at 5 p.m., Friday, at the Colby Community Building. The event is being held in conjunction with the Colby High School vs. Hoxie basketball game. All proceeds will go towards refurbishing the track and a new stadium at Dennen Field. The cost is a free-will donation.

## Blood drive planned Jan. 29

The Thomas County American Red Cross blood drive coordinators are reminding everyone that on Wednesday, Jan. 29, there will be a blood drive in Colby. The drive is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn and organizers are encouraging anyone eligible to donate blood to help in making the drive a success. More information about the blood drive will appear in a later edition of the Colby Free Press. For questions or information, call either Jackie

Stephens, 462-8122 or Jo Frahm, 462-2082.

## Students to do job shadowing

Second through fifth grade students at Colby Grade School will be job shadowing in area businesses on Friday, Jan. 31, from the opening of that business until 10:45 a.m., said Terrel Harrison, principal. Parents will ask the business to give approval on a permission slip, which will need to be returned to the grade school office. For those with questions about the job shadowing project, call Harrison at 465-5100.

## Moran plans stop in McDonald

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in McDonald from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Peoples State Bank, 304 Rawlins Ave. as part of his “Big First Listening Tour,” said Travis Murphy, public information officer. Moran will be holding town hall meetings in 69 counties during January and February, traveling more than 5,000 miles to

meet constituents in the First District, he said. All area residents are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting and ask questions about any federal issues affecting them.

## Booster Club seeks helpers

The Colby Booster Club is looking for any school group or team interested in earning extra money for their group’s specific goals to work at its concession stand during home wrestling matches and basketball games, said Shawn Stephens with the Booster Club. In the event there no school groups or teams requesting to work, the club will extend the offer to church youth groups and other organizations.

If interested, call Stephens at 462-6929.

## Landfill on winter hours

The Thomas County landfill is on its winter hours. The hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

