



12 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Way back when



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

The history of baseball in Brewster is just one of the many things on display at the Heritage Center Library and Museum in Brewster. The facility, which has been open since 1975, has a large collection of items, most of them donated. See photo spread on page 3.

## Five seek four school board slots Newcomers are among the candidates

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Three incumbents and two newcomers are on the Tuesday ballot for four positions on the Golden Plains School Board.

The only contested race is between current board member Mark Miller and newcomer David Gould. Jay Todd, also a newcomer to elective office, is running uncontested for position 2, with incumbent Kathy Albers not seeking another term. Incumbents LeRoy Spresser and Paul Bruggeman will be on the ballots for positions 3 and 7 respectively, and will not have opposition.

• Miller, 40, is a married farmer and rancher. He and his wife Lori have three children, Josh, Abbie and Jesse. He has served for three years on the board and is a graduate of Golden Plains High School. "I have enjoyed being on the board," he said. "and I feel the community needs to help out with the school and the kids' education...I want to make sure it stays on the right track."

Miller said he also feels his experience on the board will be a benefit. "It takes one or two years on the board to understand how everything works in areas like the budget, which is one of the hardest things facing our small schools."

• Gould, 40, owns a small farm and he and his wife Teri both work for Co-Ag. They have four children,

## Golden Plains

Matthew, Jeremy, Ryan and Casey. Gould is also a graduate of Golden Plains High School.

He says it is time for some fresh approaches to funding and would like to be a representative of the voters. "I don't have anything against the current board, but I think it is time for some new ideas," he said. "Some things they do are getting stagnant."

Gould said he wishes the board would pursue more grant money and not cut back on some of the things that are currently being hit.

"I come from many different backgrounds," he said.

"I know how to run a business and think it is important to get as much information as possible before making a decision."

• Todd, 33, works for Peoples State Bank. He and his wife Brandy have a six-year-old, Taylor, and a child on the way next month.

He graduated from Golden Plains High School and Kansas State University with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business.

Todd says he knows the people and the area and was interested in

doing his part.

"I felt like I should step up to the plate and take my turn," Todd said. "Small schools need good board members so children like my daughter can graduate from here like I did."

• Spresser, 42, is a farmer and a land excavator. He has four children, Daniel, Devin, Dusty and Darcie. His soon-to-be-wife, Renee has two children, Cameron and Caitlin. Spresser is a Golden Plains graduate.

He has been on the board for 12 years and has decided to run for another term.

"I don't know if I am better qualified than anyone else, I just want to do my part," Spresser said.

"We have a great school and I would like to help keep it that way."

• Bruggeman, 49, is currently attending the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland in the area of engineering technology. He is a graduate of Lenora High School. He and his wife Karla have six children, Nicole, Layne, Jean, Alan, Pate and Genna.

Bruggeman said he also feels Golden Plains is a great school and wants to do his part. "It takes common sense and the ability to keep an open mind until you hear all the information," Bruggeman said.

He says his goal is to step back and see how the school can remain open and functioning.

## • Election 2003

## Four want school board seats

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

One incumbent and three newcomers are seeking the four positions open on the Colby Board of Education in the Tuesday, April, 1 election..

Stan Molstad has served on the board for the past six years, filling the unexpired term of Larry Sloan and then being elected to a full four-year term.

The other three candidates — Dewey Augustine, Joel Powell and Kevan Taylor — all said this is their first time running for public office. The other three board members — Bill Miller, Wilburn Holloway and Kathy Gordon — who are currently serving on the board decided not to seek re-election for various reasons.

In talking with the four candidates, each gave varying views on why they chose to run. For Molstad, 41, he said he believes his experience will be a big help. He said he has been through building projects during his tenure on the board and with another project possible, his previous experience would be helpful.

Molstad said he has lived in Colby all his life, having graduated from Colby High School and major-

## Colby

ing in business at Colby Community College. He is a partner at Colby Canvas. Molstad and his wife, Maradith, have two children, Katie, 18, and Erica, 16, both attending Colby High School.

Augustine, 48, said he thinks he has a positive attitude about the school district to include the administration, teachers, coaches and students. He also said that having children in the school district and following their activities and academics, he is confident he can be an asset to the board.

He and his wife, Pam, have two children, Dana, 24, and Matt, 16. They also have a grandson, Heath, 3. Augustine said he graduated from Ellis High School and the Goodland Vo-Tech with emphasis in agriculture. He is employed with Frahm Farmland Inc.

Powell, 41, also believes he has something to add and is interested in education and children. He said with the current economic climate, it could also be a tough budget year.

In preparation for a district posi-

tion, Powell said he has been attending board meetings for the past several months. Regarding his education, he said he graduated from Lincoln High School and Fort Hays State University in agriculture.

Powell and his wife, Anita, have three children: Travis, 16, Trenton, 14, and Tara, 12. He has been employed with Fed Ex as a courier for eight years and prior to that was in management with United Parcel Services for 10 years managing 75 employees.

Taylor, 39, said he thinks the Colby School District has a "tremendous system," and his main purpose for seeking a board position is to help sustain that. He also said he has some new ideas that he thinks will be helpful to the district.

He and his wife, Melissa, have three children: Torey, a fifth grader, Alyssa, 19, and Justin, 20. Taylor is a graduate of Miltonvale High School, Cloud County Community College and Kansas State University having majored in ag/business. He said he is employed with Service Oil

All four candidates said they are looking forward to positions on the board and are ready for the challenges ahead.

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

When voters go to the polls on Tuesday, they will be deciding on two contested races for positions on the Colby City Council.

Four of the seven seats are open with no one running against the two incumbents, Todd Barrows and Ken Bieber. However, in Ward II and Ward III, Francis Britton and Darrel Follis both chose not to seek another term, but four candidates are vying for those two positions.

In Ward II, Beverly Eicher and Tom Rundell are seeking the same position and in Ward III, the same situation is occurring with Jim Brown and Monti Montgomery.

Eicher said she is running for the Ward II position because she believes it's no accident that Colby is such a good place.

"I really enjoy living here and believe it's my turn to help out by serving the community," she said. Although new to public office, Eicher said she has served on the Prairie Museum of Art and History board and her church board. She is an Oakley High School graduate and Kansas State University graduate with her degree in child development and elementary education.

Among her assets, Eicher said she believes she can offer experience from having owned a business for 30 years. She and her husband, Curtis, have two children: Eric and

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Erin. Her son, along with his wife, Vanessa, both teach in the Colby School District.

Also vying for the Ward II position is Tom Rundel, 39, who said he is running because he is concerned about the direction the city is going. In clarifying, Rundel said he believes the council needs to put stronger focus on economic development, retaining citizens and lower expenditures.

Rundel, who is in retail management at the Goodland Wal-Mart, said he believes he can be of value to the city through his experience in customer service and product issues.

"I believe my leadership training with Wal-Mart will allow me to come to the council with objective views," he said. Rundel is a Colby High School graduate, Colby College graduate, Kansas State graduate with a degree in agriculture and animal science. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children: Case, 12, and Colton, 7. He also said that while he doesn't have all the answers, he did say that in his opinion, "the residents of Colby don't exist to support the city, but rather the City of Colby exists to serve the people." If elected, he said that is

what he would strive to accomplish.

As for the two incumbents, both are wanting to continue serving the city. Barrows, 38, and single, came on the council six months ago. He said he wants to see Colby keep growing and that his generation needs to be more involved which is one of many reasons for seeking another term.

Among his assets, Barrows said he is a graduate of the Thomas County Leadership Program and is currently employed as the county executive director for the Farm Service Agency.

Barrows is a Ness City High School graduate, Colby College graduate and Kansas State University graduate with a bachelor of science degree in animal science and industry.

Bieber, 60, has been on the council for eight years and said his experience will be an asset, along with his fiscal policy strengths. He is the owner and manager of the B-Hive and is a Colby High School graduate and Fort Hays State University graduate with a degree in psychology. Bieber and his wife, Lois, together have two children: Scott, 39 and Rod, 41.

*Editor's note: Both Jim Brown and Monti Montgomery running for the position in Ward III will be highlighted in the Monday edition of the Free Press.*

## Six candidates running for three seats on college board

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Three positions are open on the Colby Community College board of trustees. Incumbents Don Kready and Ken Poland will be running again, while Matt Hamill will not seek another term. The other four candidates for the positions are

Larry McDonald, Mark Schwarz, Larry Arehart and Lon Frahm.

• Kready, 74, is a retired insurance agent, he has been on the board of trustees for a consecutive 24 years. He and his wife, Jo, have three grown children, Pat Walz of Littleton, Colo, and Donna and Rick, who both live in Topeka.

Kready is a graduate of Abilene High School.

"I think Colby Community College is such an important economic benefit to Colby," Kready said, "but even more important to the educational development of students in northwest Kansas."

He feels his experience is an as-

set to the board.

"I have business experience which is important," he said. "With that experience, I can make decisions and contributions to the board's thought process."

• Poland, 68, is a farmer who lives north of Gem with his wife, Helen. They have three grown children,

Robert of Owasso, Okla., Carmen Cornell of Bamberg Germany and Bill of Ellis. Poland graduated from Gem High School.

Poland also said the educational opportunities in northwest Kansas are important and has been on the

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## Briefly

### Notes from Heartland School

Heartland Christian School will hold kindergarten roundup on Friday, April 11, from 8:20 to 11:30 a.m. at the school, 1995 W. Fourth Street. All students entering kindergarten for the 2003-3004 school year are invited to attend with their parents. To reserve your child's place or to receive additional information, please contact the school office at 462-6419 before Monday, April 7.

Families wanting to know more about the school are invited to attend an informational meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, April 7.

### Association plans annual meeting

The Colby Community College Endowment Association will hold its annual meeting on Monday, April 14, at 5:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend. It will be held in the Fireside Lounge in the Robert Burnett Memorial Student Union. For more information, contact Nick Wells at (785) 462-4684.

### Scouts to operate concession stand

Colby Girl Scouts will be operating the concession stand at the Home and Living Show today through Sunday. All proceeds will go to defray scout facility expenses. The show is being held in the Colby Community Building.

### Grass clippings to be picked up

The City of Colby will begin picking up grass clippings next Tuesday. They must be at curbside by 8 a.m. along with regular household waste, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. In addition, grass to be picked up must not be mixed with any solid waste, he said. For questions call 462-4420.

### Wesleyan women plan dinner

The Colby Wesleyan Women are sponsoring a Mexican Cafe' from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds will go to mission projects. The cost is free-will donations and everyone is invited.

### Food drive set for Sunday

The Colby High School *Service Club* will be conducting a community drive to collect food for the Thomas County Genesis food bank, said Doug Finley, one of the organizers. Everyone is encouraged to leave non-perishable donations on their porches between 2 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

"The food bank relies on the generosity of people in the community to keep the shelves stocked for those needing assistance," he said. For questions call Colby High School at 465-5300.

### Brewster school carnival scheduled

The Brewster School Carnival, sponsored by the class of 2003, will be held Saturday, April 5 at the school from 4 to 7 p.m.

Games include plinko, football throw, basketball toss, dunking booth, cake walk, duck pond, tattoo parlor and more. There will also be a silent auction and bingo with prizes donated by area businesses.



### Gradual warming

Tonight...partly cloudy. Lows in the upper teens to around 20. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Saturday...partly sunny. Highs 45-50. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph. Saturday night...partly cloudy. Lows in the middle 20s. Sunday...partly sunny. Highs in the middle 60s. Sunday night...partly cloudy. Lows near 40. Monday...partly cloudy. Highs in the middle 70s.

**The numbers**  
Thursday's high, 42  
Low this morning, 25  
Soil temperature, 48  
Year ago, 72 and 27  
24-hour precipitation, trace  
Month's precipitation, 1.38  
Records, 88 in 1988 and 0 in 1899

