



COLBY FREE PRESS

Election 2007 coverage

College board candidates have vision for future

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

One term is not enough for Colby Community College board of trustee member Larry McDonald.

McDonald, 49, is one of two incumbent candidates for the college board of trustees. McDonald is facing Arlen Leiker, Bill Biel and the other incumbent, Mark Winger. Three will be elected Tuesday to serve four-year terms.

"We have a good college," McDonald said. "I am the only one running who has been part of the positive changes. For me, I'd like to do more," he said. "I'm finishing my first term. One term is not enough. You take a couple of years to know what's going on. With my experience, I learned a lot."

One of those changes McDonald likes is the new president Dr. Lynn Kreider. He started in July. Kreider was part of the college administration that spearheaded the proposal for a new gymnasium and well-



McDonald



Winger



Leiker



Biel

ness center, both on campus, priced at \$15 million. That, too, will be decided by voters Tuesday.

"I support the center," he said. "It's not all about sports. It's also academics."

The college plans to use environmentally-friendly technology should the center be built. Included in the plans are for a wind turbine. McDonald said the college should be able to acquire a grant to pay for the turbine.

To coincide with the turbine, McDonald said the college will create a course on al-

ternative energy management — the first of its kind in Kansas. Although Cloud County Community College in Concordia already has a class related to alternative energy, McDonald said Colby's class will be more in-depth.

McDonald said the center will get the attention from potential students. He said he knows of students from Kansas City, Chicago and Wisconsin who have enjoyed their time here.

"They love the people and they know Colby has a lot to offer," he said.

McDonald said he is thrilled with the performance and results of the teachers throughout the college.

According to information from the six regent universities in Kansas, students who have transferred from Colby Community College to any of those schools are academically better than the students who started at those schools.

McDonald said Colby Community College's student-athletes also perform in the classroom. According to the Jayhawk Conference, which Colby is a member of, 11 Trojan teams were in the top five in grade point average during the 2005-2006 school year. Colby led in baseball, women's basketball and wrestling.

The Jayhawk Conference has 19 sports including ones both men and women play, like cross country and golf.

McDonald said the college's importance to the town and Thomas County can't be given price tag, although he said it generates \$13 million a year and employees 147 people.

"We have got to do something to keep up," he said.

Mark Winger

Mark Winger wants a term of his own on the board.

Winger, 41, was appointed to the board in February 2006 to finish the term of Larry Arehart who resigned.

"I like being able to do something in support of Colby Community College," he said. "It is a vital part of the economy. I want to keep it growing and going."

The vitality of the college is important to Colby, Winger said.

"It's a good employer. It produces jobs and new money. It keeps money in the area, keeps it from escaping even from the students," he said.

Winger was a student at the college in the mid-1980s.

He said the wellness center proposal will add to the strengths of the college and the appeal to Thomas County and Colby.

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Brewster's school board has five seats open, four running

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Four incumbents from the Brewster School District are running for re-election Tuesday.

There are seven members on the Brewster board; Carrie Starns, Leisha Carpenter, Rod Gilley, Bonnie Holm, Don Allen, Lonnie Selby and Willard Crumrine.

Gilley, Holm, Allen and Crumrine are seeking re-election as their terms expire this year.

Selby did not file for re-election. The terms of Starns and Carpenter are not up yet.

Holm is ending her second term on the board.

Holm said she ran because of an interest in the school and its future. She has two children in school —

one in high school and another in grade school.

"The school's small class size, quality teachers and a good administrator are its strengths," she said. "Declining enrollment is a concern."

Allen is also seeking re-election. He is finishing his first four-year term. He said he ran four years ago because he was asked.

"I've got a pretty large investment in the school," he said.

He and his wife Colleen have four children, all who attend the Brewster school.

"It is vital for the community that the school stay open," he said.

He said the district's strength is its small class size and ratio to teachers. However, the small size is also a detriment. Allen said declining en-

rollment is a concern.

"I would like to change the direction of enrollment, if at all possible," he said. "We need to show people we can provide a good education."

Crumrine was appointed to the board two years ago. He is running again because he wants to help the school. He said the community of Brewster is the biggest strength for

the district.

But like many other western Kansas districts, it is losing students. Crumrine said they need to do something about its decreasing enrollment.

He and his wife Marla have been married 25 years and have two children.

Gilley was not available for comment.

Two men protest Iraq war support

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Ire over the Iraq war came to Colby Tuesday afternoon.

Raymond Schwab of Denver, Colo., and Elliott Nesch of Fort Collins, Colo., are walking from Denver to Washington, D.C. in protest of the evangelical churches' support of the Iraq war.

They were at the corner of Fourth Street and Franklin Avenue with signs, and yelling scripture from the Bible.

"We are not protesting the war. It's an unjust war," Schwab said. "It's a crusade of another name. The war in itself contradicts the teachings of the Bible."

They left Denver March 1, and plan to be in Washington, D.C., by Sept. 11. Along the way, the two are stopping and talking to people, preaching and spreading their message.

After some research, Schwab realized the public was lied to about Sept. 11. He also looked into legislation, such as the Patriot Act.

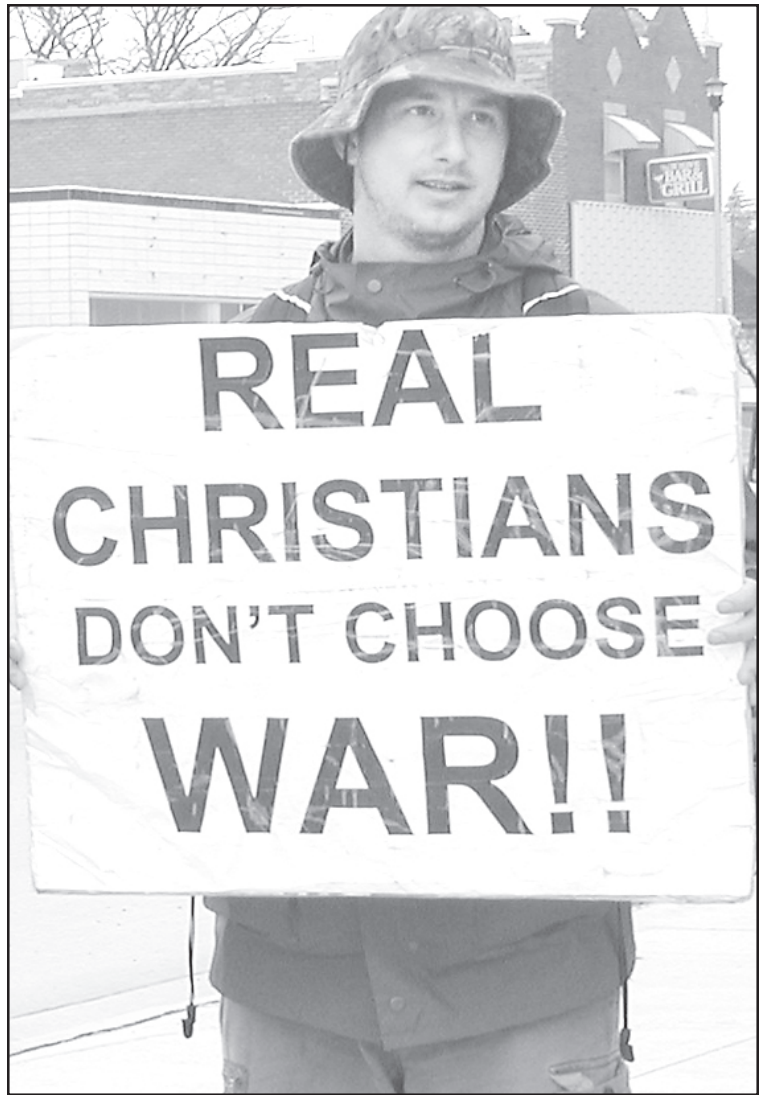
"Legislation coming out of the White House was very scary," he said.

He said civil liberties are being attacked, and as Americans, people need to realize that. He said a recent poll showed 70 percent of evangelical Christians support the war.

"It's almost a Christian war," Schwab said.

Schwab was attending Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colo., and after protesting outside the school, he was later suspended.

After prayer, he was called to walk across the country to get churches and the nation to repent. Nesch said Schwab came up with the idea for the trip, and asked him to come along.



Raymond Schwab, left, and Elliott Ness of Colorado protested the evangelical churches' support of the Iraq war at the corner of Fourth

They both fasted and prayed to make sure going was the right thing to do. Nesch said he had a prophetic dream that judgment is coming and he is walking to warn people to turn to Jesus.

"9/11 was just a warning," he said.

Nesch hopes people will at least give their message a chance.

"Either they love it or they have it," he said.

They have made two documentaries, "9/11: The Birth of Treason" and "Iraq: The Death of Reason," and also have a Web site, www.beitshalomministries.org documenting their trip.

Schwab said he hopes that people will listen, and that the government will re-open its investigation into the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Visits with the police along the way have been part of the journey so far.

"We have had so much police contact it's insane," Schwab said. "We want to remind them this is America."

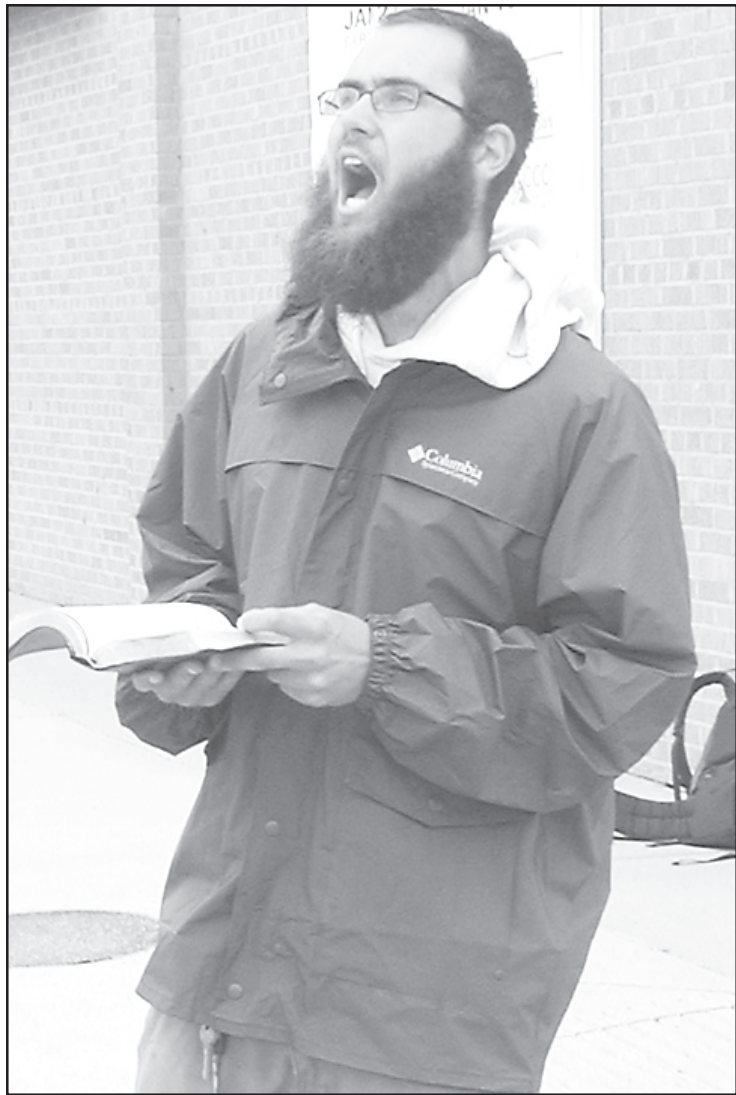
He knows the police want to protect the citizens in their towns, and they respect that.

"We're losing our liberties day by day," he said. "There isn't a Constitution anymore."

In Flagler, Colo., they weren't in town five minutes before the police showed up. They were told they were making the residents "nervous," but after talking with the police, they were allowed to continue.

"Tyranny is a gradual process. What happened in Russia, with people being detained, is starting to happen here, with the detainees at Guantanamo Bay," Schwab said.

He said what is being considered terrorism really doesn't fit the definition anymore.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Street and Franklin Avenue Tuesday. They are walking from Denver to Washington, D.C. as part of their protest.

Because they are following the route of Interstate 70, Hays is their next stop. Schwab grew up in Manhattan, and a stop is planned there.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones talked with the two briefly to find out what they were doing. Because they were on the corner of a busy intersection with signs and yelling, Jones said there was the possibility they could be a distraction to drivers.

"My concern is they could be disruptive and cause an accident," he said. "They can't interfere with traffic. No one can do that."

If there had been an accident, the two would have been listed as the cause.

No city ordinances exist, that he knows of, that prohibit public protests.

Jones said when there are sidewalk sales or other similar events, the city council is usually informed.

He said, if anyone is going to protest, they should at least stop by the Law Enforcement Center to let officials know. If anyone does protest, the only way they would be cited is if they violated a city or state ordinance.

"They can't infringe on your rights," Jones said.

For example, because they were on a public sidewalk, the would not be allowed to hinder someone going down the street, or stop them.

Jones said there was an incident where someone argued with them over their views, but there has been nothing else.

"People need to ignore them," he said. "Ignore them and they'll go away."

Jones said the last significant protest in Colby was in the late 1970s or early 1980s when people protested tractors on roadways.

Sheridan hospital has three vacancies

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Who will fill three seats on the seven-member elected hospital board in Sheridan County may not be determined Tuesday.

Only incumbent board member Allen Neal has officially thrown his hat in the ring for one of three open seats.

Those seats are currently filled by Craig Cooper, Mary Karnes and Neal.

Cooper and Karnes did not file for re-election.

"Ronnie Kauk informed me last week of her intentions to run as a write-in candidate for one of the other two positions," Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser said.

"However, there is still one additional position that no one has declared their intent."

Bielser said if no one conducts a write-in campaign for the third seat, someone will have to be appointed.

"Say there are only two people who receive votes on April 3, Allen and Ronnie, and no others, then the duly elected hospital board of trustees now seated will fill the vacancy," Bielser said.

Bielser said if there are several write-in votes for more than the two candidates who have declared their intent, then the three people receiving the most votes will fill the positions.

Besides Cooper, Karnes and Neal, the Sheridan County Health Complex board of trustees includes Richard Krannawitter, Randy Farber, Charles Schwarz and Shirley Slover.

Slover has announced her intent to leave the board in May when she moves to Topeka.

The other board members will have to appoint someone to replace her at that time.