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## Heartland students raise money for trip

By Evan Barnum  
Colby Free Press

History will come alive for nine Heartland Christian School students and their sponsors next spring.

Over the spring break, the entire junior and senior classes from the Colby school will go to Washington for a combination mission and field trip. Besides touring the sights of the nation's capital, they will help with service projects at an inner-city Christian school.

To raise money for the trip, the students are conducting several fund raisers, including a garage sale last Saturday. Tammy Higerd, secondary science and history teacher at the school, said this sale raised about \$1,200. Together with the \$8,000 already in hand, the group still has to raise \$6,800 of the \$14,500 total needed.

Future projects include candy sales, a frozen bread sale and another garage sale early next year.

"We hope to raise the entire amount through group effort," said Higerd, "so no family has to come up with their own funds."

Every other year, Higerd said, she takes the two classes to Washington. On the off-years, the seventh and eighth grade classes follow the Oregon Trail through Nebraska and Wyoming.



EVAN BARNUM/Colby Free Press

Flo Rodriguez (above) looked over items for her grandchildren at a Heartland Christian School garage sale on Saturday to raise money for a field trip to Washington by the junior and senior classes. Other attendees (right) browsed through items spread out on tables at the fund raiser.



## Nominations being accepted for conservation awards

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
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Do you know anyone who has always been a good steward of the land? If you do, you can help tell the world by nominating them for a Conservation Award.

"The program is mainly to recognize people for continuing conservation practices," said Thomas County Extension Agent Clint Milliman.

This year, he said, the program has six categories where people can be nominated for an award: energy conservation, water

quality, water conservation, soil conservation, windbreaks and wildlife habitat.

The awards are sponsored by the Kansas Bankers Association. The habitat award is co-sponsored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

In all, Milliman said, 200 people were recognized for their conservation practices in in Kansas last year.

Milliman said anyone in the county may be nominated for an award before Nov. 1. The winners will receive a certificate and a metal sign that recognizes them as someone who practices conservation, he said.

The Thomas County Conservation District and the extension office will choose the farmers selected to be candidates for the awards.

He said soil conservation is the category that usually receives the most nominations, while windbreaks usually received the second most.

Milliman said no-till farming techniques are an example of soil conservation practices. With no-till, farmers leave crop residue to hold the soil, then plant seeds without plowing. This prevents soil erosion and requires less fuel than conventional tillage, he said.

Milliman said the windbreaks awards go to people who plant trees and shrubs close together so they can shelter livestock, homes and fields from the cold and wind. He said a person has to have been nurturing windbreaks for at least three years to be nominated.

This is only the second year awards have been given out for energy conservation and water conservation, the agent said.

The awards will be given out at a banquet in the second or third week in February. The *Colby Free Press* produces a special edition to highlight the winners.

He said conservation practices might start to become more popular since costs are going up for farmers. Milliman said conservation techniques can be less costly to farmers than conventional methods. He said no-till farming practices would become more attractive because conventional tillage requires more fuel at today's high prices. In traditional tillage, farmers plow or till the soil before planting.

Nominations can be sent to the County Extension Agricultural Agent at 350 S. Range, Suite 16, Colby, Kan., 67701. For information, call Milliman at (785) 460-4582.

## Stakes high as Obama, McCain head for final debate tonight

By Christopher Wills  
Associated Press Writer  
TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Republican John McCain is looking to turnaround his fortunes in the final presidential debate with Democrat Barack Obama, a forum focused on pocketbook issues and domestic policy at 8 p.m. tonight.

Both candidates released proposals this week designed to boost the economy as financial institutions wobble and voters feel the pinch of a faltering economy. The

debate is at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., with the candidates seated at a table with moderator Bob Schieffer of CBS.

With the economic crisis fueling public unease, Obama has built leads nationally and in key states as the turmoil has returned the nation's focus to the policies of the unpopular President Bush. The burden now is on McCain to try to reverse his slide.

To that end, the Arizona senator took a new approach this week,

positioning himself as a fighter for the American middle class and easing off his most direct attacks on Obama, an Illinois senator. McCain also took pains to separate himself from Bush.

"We cannot spend the next four years as we have spent much of the last eight: waiting for our luck to change. ... As president I intend to act, quickly and decisively," McCain said Tuesday in Pennsylvania.

He announced a \$52.5 billion economic plan Tuesday that calls

for halving the tax rate on capital gains and reducing the tax on withdrawals from retirement accounts, among other measures. A day earlier, Obama unveiled a \$60 billion proposal that includes an extension of unemployment benefits, a 90-day freeze on home foreclosures, penalty-free withdrawals from retirement funds and a \$3,000 tax credit for each new job.

Both candidates call for doing away with the tax on unemployment benefits.

McCain has suggested that he is likely to bring up Obama's links to William Ayers, a radical during the Vietnam War era. Ayers was a member of the violent Weather Underground group but later became a university professor in Chicago and an expert on education. He and Obama both worked with some of the same charity foundations in Chicago, and Ayers hosted a reception for Obama when he first ran for the Illinois state Senate.

"We're always prepared for him to be hyperaggressive in his attacks," Obama campaign aide Robert Gibbs said of McCain. "I just think that doesn't work in an environment where so many people are concerned about the issues in front of them, not scare tactics they don't see as helping to pay the bills."

He said Obama will try to project an aura of calm leadership during the debate, which Gibbs said he achieved in two previous debates with McCain.

## Briefly

### Four days left to register

Anyone who did not vote in the last two state and national elections and anyone who has moved or changed their name needs to register in order to vote in November. Thomas County voters can register or re-register at the clerk's office at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday through Monday. Voters also may register while renewing a driver's license or go online to the Thomas County web site at [thomascountyks.com](http://thomascountyks.com), which has links to the Kansas secretary of state's office.

### School plans Scrapbook Day

Heartland Christian School will hold its eighth annual Scrapbooking Day fund raiser from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$30 for the day or

\$15 for any six hours, including three meals. Come and paste away. Contact Tonya Winger at 462-3677 or [twinger@st-tel.net](mailto:twinger@st-tel.net) to register.

### Ballet will dance to 'Reverie'

The New York Theatre Ballet will offer "He Loves/She Loves: A Radio Reverie" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Cultural Arts Center. The ballet is described as a frolic as The Radio Lady listens to her favorite program and dreams of how life could have been. Admission is by Western Plains Arts season ticket or at the door, \$15 for adults and \$8 for students.

### Scouts to collect food for Genesis

The Colby Girl Scouts plan their annual "Trick or Treat So

Others Can Eat" campaign from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Scouts and members of other organizations will go door to door collecting nonperishables for the Genesis Food Bank. If you are going to be gone, leave a bag of canned goods on your porch. If the weather is bad, the drive will be put off to Sunday, Oct. 26.

### FFA members sell fruit, meat

The Colby FFA is conducting its annual Rivestar fund raiser, selling fruit and smoked meats though Monday, Nov. 10. Delivery will be Wednesday, Dec. 10. To order, contact an FFA member or advisor Shawna Howell at (785) 460-5320 or [showell@colbyeagles.org](mailto:showell@colbyeagles.org).

### City looking for referees

The city Recreation Department needs officials for

Mens Basketball League, which start on Saturday, Nov. 8, and run on Sunday afternoons through February. Call (785) 460-4440 to sign up.

### Flu shots scheduled

The Thomas County Health Department will be at the Colby schools to offer flu shots to students and staff next Wednesday. A consent form will be sent home with elementary and middle school children, and be available at the high school office. It must be returned to the school office by Tuesday. For questions, call Amy Hutfles at 460-5111.

The department will be offering flu shots at the office on Range from 1-4 p.m. Monday and from 9 a.m. to noon and at various businesses from 1 to 4 p.m. next Wednesday; at the office on Range Tuesday, Nov. 4; and Monday, Nov. 10. The cost is \$25. No reservations are needed.

