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Voters leave council write-in close

By Andy Heintz

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Colby voters elected three City Council candidates who were on the ballot unopposed in voting Tuesday, but left the race in Ward 1 in doubt until county commissioners certify the vote on Monday as a retiring councilman got nearly as many votes at the announced candidate.

Candidate Raymond "Omar" Weber

ballots. In all, 152 write-in votes were cast in the ward.

Weber's 12-vote lead appeared good, but the outcome could change when county commissioners count the provisional ballots — those challenged at the polls for some reason — on Monday. That is when they plan to canvass, or review, the vote and certify the winners.

Councilmen Mark Beringer and Tim

led outgoing member Phil DeYoung, who Hutfles were both re-elected while run- run for re-election. had decided not to run, 52-40 in write in ning unopposed in Ward 3 and Ward 4 respectively. Beringer received 148 votes, facing the city are a declining population or about 93 percent of the vote, and Hutfles had 190 votes, a little over 94 percent of the vote. Write-in candidates accounted for the rest of the votes.

In Ward 2, Dave Voss, who works at Wellpoint/Unicare Healthplan of Kansas, got 168 votes or about 90 percent, while running unopposed. Voss will replace

Weber said today that the key issues money. and the declining tax dollars coming from the state due to budget cuts. He said the city must maintain a cost-effective budget while keeping Colby the "Oasis" it is.

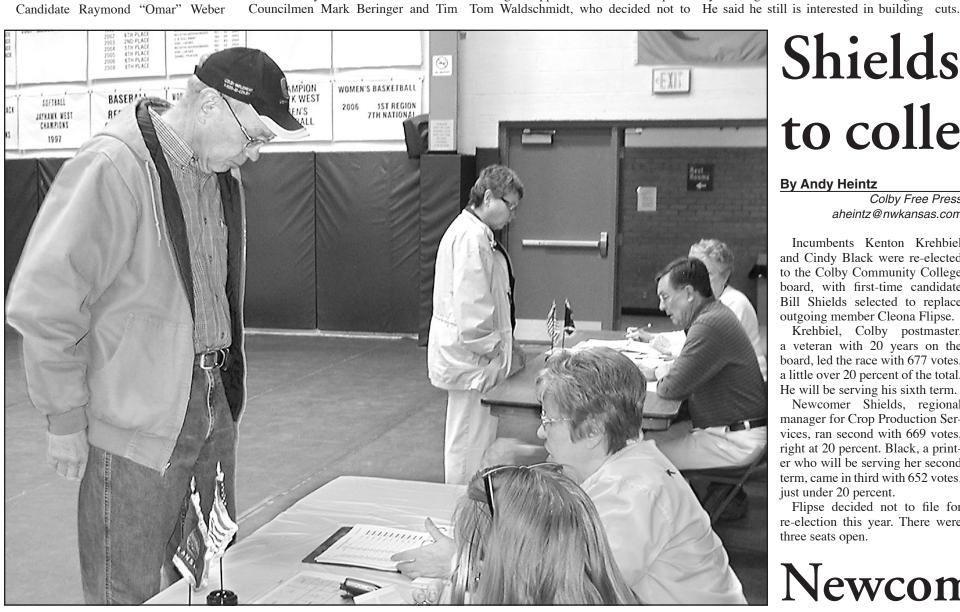
Hutfles said he would not know what direction the city needs to head in until the council learns how the impending cuts by the Legislature will affect the budget.

bike paths in Colby if the city can find the

Beringer said it will be difficult staying within the budget after the state cuts.

"We need to continue keeping the city clean and moving forward," he said. "If you stay stagnant, you're going back-

ward." Voss said the council will have to scrutinize expenditures and spend money wisely, given the coming state budget



Shields elected to college post

By Andy Heintz

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Incumbents Kenton Krehbiel and Cindy Black were re-elected to the Colby Community College board, with first-time candidate Bill Shields selected to replace outgoing member Cleona Flipse.

Krehbiel, Colby postmaster, a veteran with 20 years on the board, led the race with 677 votes, a little over 20 percent of the total. He will be serving his sixth term.

Newcomer Shields, regional manager for Crop Production Services, ran second with 669 votes, right at 20 percent. Black, a printer who will be serving her second just under 20 percent.

re-election this year. There were ed cuts. three seats open.

The results are unofficial until Colby Free Press the canvass by county commissioners on Monday, but with the difference in the totals, were not expected to change.

Robert Renner came in fourth with 541 votes, a little over 16 percent of the vote. Vernon Wranosky got 465 votes or about 14 percent, and Shad Metcalf tallied 324, about 10 percent.

Krehbiel said financial issues are the No. 1 priority for the board, given the threat of state budget cuts. He said Alan Waites, vice president of fiscal affairs at the college, is looking for ways that the school could find more of its own revenue.

Krehbiel said if the college addterm, came in third with 652 votes, ed an extra 50 students next year, it would come close to covering Flipse decided not to file for the shortfall caused by the expect-

Voters do duty at polls

Colby citizen Ken Frahm (above) went through the voting process with election judge Frances Ryan on Tuesday morning. Kenton Krehbiel and Arlen Leiker (right) looked over the first results from Tuesday night's ballot count at the courthouse. Krehbiel, a 20 year incumbent, retained his seat on the Colby Community College board.

ANDY HEINTZ and VERA SLOAN



Newcomer leads city school vote

By Andy Heintz

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First-time candidate Susan Mc-Lemore and incumbents Tracy Rogers and Janice Frahm were the top vote getters for three seats on the Colby School Board in elections Tuesday.

McLemore led the balloting, receiving 780 votes, or a little more than 28 percent. Rogers had 724, about 26 percent, and Frahm 488, nearly 18 percent.

Trailing the winners were firsttime candidates Dale Vap with 250 votes, about 9 percent, and J.C. Carter with 240 votes, 8.75 percent, and incumbent Gerald Fulwider with 234, 8.5 percent. Fulwider first had said he wouldn't run, then changed his mind.

All the tallies are unofficial until the county commissioners meet Monday to canvas the vote and county provisional ballots, those contested at the polls for some reason. With the wide spread between candidates, however, the school board results were not expected to change.

McLemore said making responsible budget cuts would be one of the key issues that the board will have to deal with this year.

"We need to do wise budgeting in light of the future budget cuts, said McLemore.

She said the board should also concentrate on attracting, maintaining and promoting a good school staff. Rogers said the board needs to

See "SCHOOL," Page 3

Board president leads ballot for Golden Plains School Board

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press

colby.society@nwkansas.com Incumbent board President Teri Brantley led the voting in Golden Plains School Board elections with an unofficial total of 78 votes.

Coming in with a close second was Todd Schwarz

grabs was Terry L. Moss with 69 votes. Ten candidates filed for three seats on the board, but the total was cut to nine in a primary election last month

Other candidates were Brandi Wark with 60, Matt Vogler 58, Don Koerperich 52, Kim Moss 38, Ben Hoeting 32 and David Gould 17.

The vote will not become official until Thomas with 75 votes, and filling the third position up for and Sheridan county commissioners have canvassed

the vote, counted provisional ballots and certified the sioners will certify the vote after their canvasses. winners.

Incumbent Ed Ackerman easily held his position on the **Brewster School Board**, garnering 124 votes to lead newcomers Ron Ribordy with 78 and Leisha Carpenter with 77. Forty votes went to various writeins. While the three appeared to have claimed three open seats, Sherman and Thomas county commis-

Rex Jamison, manager of the Brewster Agronomy Center for co-op CHS, and a 12-year veteran of the Brewster City Council, collected 64 votes to keep his spot for another term. Only one vote separated the next two contenders, John L. Horney with 57 and Dwayne Randolph with 56 to fill the three seats.

See "BALLOTS," Page 3

Briefly

Come to school, have a ball

The Thomas County Academy plans an adult game night from 7 to 10 p.m. tonight at Colby Middle School. It'll be a virtual experience – dancing, bowling, aerobics, whatever you like – on the Wii, Wii Fit, PS2, DDR and X-Box. Come to the rear entrance. Donations will be accepted for academy programs. A Middle School game night is planned from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday. Admittance is \$3. For questions, call Diana Wieland at 460-5005.

Prevention coalition will meet

The Thomas County Coalition, an alliance of civic organizations interested in fighting drug and alcohol abuse, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The coalition is affiliated with the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center. For information, call 460-8177.

Assembly plans egg hunt The College Drive Assembly of God, 245 W. Col-

lege Drive, plans a huge Easter egg hunt for kids 10 and younger from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday. Registration will open at 12:45 p.m. Organizers plan a coloring contest with prizes for the winners, games, songs and more prizes to give away. Come join the fun. For questions, call Michelle Hillery, 443-1395.

Free tax help offered at library

Free tax help is available for low- and middleincome taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older, from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The program is sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons. Call 460-2645 for information.

Lifeguards can renew skills

A review class for lifeguards on cardio-pulmonary

resuscitation and using an automatic external defibrillator for professional rescue will be held at 9 a.m. Friday and at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, at the Colby Community College pool. Call the Thomas County Red Cross at 462-7161 for information or to

Federal deadline pushed back

The cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program applications in Kansas to be considered for fiscal year 2009 money has been extended to Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. For information, stop by the county office or call 462-7671.

Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck dinner for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or have a partner in a nursing

homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages will be provided. The building is handicapped accessible, with an elevator by the east doors. For information, call the church at 462-6342.

Come to library for lunch, talks The Pioneer Memorial Library plans book reviews,

talks by authors and lunch at noon each day for National Library Week, April 13-17. The library plans book reviews each day, with authors for three and two by local reviewers. A free lunch (really!) will be served at noon. (Participants can give a donation if they wish.) Book reviews begin at 12:15.

