



Get pumped up for test taking



Colby Middle School students got pumped up for their upcoming state assessment tests at a pep rally Monday afternoon.

The rally included skits and a performance by the middle school band.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

34 candidates on ballots this Tuesday

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
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Polls will open at 7 a.m. sharp at the Colby Community Building for Tuesday's municipal and school elections.

Voters can still fill out an advance ballot at the county clerk's office in the Thomas County courthouse from 8 a.m. to noon Monday. At noon, the office will close so the staff can run final voting rosters and set up the polling equipment at the Community Building.

Thirty-four candidates are seeking election or re-election to positions on school boards and city councils.

Six candidates are seeking three seats on the Colby Community College board: Dinah Charles, a sales associate at Farm Bureau Financial; Dale Herschberger, a broker with ZEZ Commodities; Arlen Leiker, an incumbent and a driver for UPS; Susan McManhan, Thomas County Emergency

Management director; Angie Rogers, an environmental scientist for Milco in Colby; and Nick Wells, College Endowment Foundation director.

A seventh candidate, Larry McDonald, a salesman for Woofter Construction and a former board member, missed the filing deadline and is running as a write-in candidate.

For the Colby City Council, only the Ward II seat is contested. The race is between Josh Faber and Mike Hake. Ward II is north of Fourth Street, excluding an area north of Sixth, and around the baseball fields. That is Ward I, where Councilman Pat Mallory is running for re-election.

Stan Schmidt is running for Ward III councilman. Ward III includes everything south of Fourth to Pine and Walnut Streets. Councilman Fred Taylor is running for re-election in Ward IV, which covers the south end of town.

Three candidates are campaign-

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Community garden expanding this season

By Vera Sloan

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The only community garden in northwest Kansas is about to embark on its second season with a larger plot, some space set aside for individuals and a special project for kids.

The success of last year's garden, tended by more than 30 volunteers, prompted the Kansas State University Research Station on the west edge of Colby to double the amount of land for the garden this

year.

"We just have a regular 'Little House on the Prairie' sort of thing going right here in our own community," said Orvella Romine, who helps head up the project.

"It's actually a part of the community projects in the Thomas County Coalition organization. The coalition's goal is to strive for better and more healthful life styles for the residents of Thomas County."

To join the garden project as a volunteer, whose reward is a portion of the produce, takes just a phone call to Romine at

(785) 460-8177.

She noted that something new has been added this year: 18 individual plots available for lease to anyone who want their own space.

The plots are 18 foot square, she said. The lease price is \$20 each for the entire season.

Romine said she believes the plots will be popular, adding that one family has already spoken for two. Those wanting to have their own plot must agree to keep and tend their garden, following community garden rules.

"All money generated from the leases will be given to Genesis food bank," Romine said. "They have cash needs as well as food needs, and this will help them with some of the things they are needing that they don't get in donations."

Romine said a quarter of all the produce in the community plot will again be given to Genesis. Last year's volunteers donated 368 pounds of fresh produce, and this year's projection is for more.

The 12,000-square-foot area is to be tilled sometime around the end of April, depending on weather. After it's tilled,

Romine said, it will be marked and staked. Planting will begin as soon as the ground is warm enough.

Clint Milliman, agriculture and natural resources agent with Thomas County Extension, said it will take at least 40 to 50 volunteers this year to man the bigger plot. People leasing the plots will be responsible for their own weeds and watering. Water will be available, he said, but gardeners are encouraged to be frugal when they water their own gardens.

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Sled-dog champ speaks



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Dog sled racer Duane Halverson showed a group of Colby Middle School students an award he won for saving a man's life during the Iditarod, an annual cross-country race in Alaska. Halverson brought along one of his dogs, a sled and the clothing he wears while racing.

Forensics team claims top spot in area league

The Colby Eagles won the first Great West Activity League Forensics Championship on Thursday in Hugoton, beating Scott City High by 82 points.

Colby ended the day with 317 points to Scott City's 235. Holcomb came in third with 139. Other schools competing were Ulysses, Hugoton, Rolla and Moscow.

Individual placings:

Prose: Gabby Browne, first; Amanda Barnum, second.

Poetry: Chace McNinch, first; Hannah Matchell, third.

Serious Solo Acting: Browne, fourth; Cameron McLaughlin, fifth; Paige Roopchan, sixth.

Humorous Solo Acting: Tomi Miller, first; Matchell, second; Jennifer Schwanke, third.

Duet Acting: Christina Ostmeier and Madison Tubbs, first; Madison Gawith and Blake McNinch, third.

Original Oration: Bailey Koerperich, first; Mi-

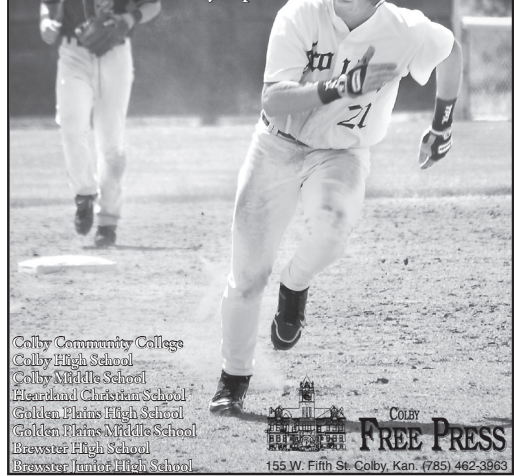
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Spring Sports 2011

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Spring Sports 2011

Friday, April 1



Colby Community College
Colby High School
Colby Middle School
Hugoton Christian School
Garden Home High School
Garden Home Middle School
Garden Home High School
Garden Home High School
155 W. Fifth St. Colby, Kan. (785) 462-3885

Briefly

Dance team tryouts Monday

The Colby High School dance team tryouts at 6:30 p.m. Monday and next Thursday have been moved to the grade school gym. Tryout packets for the 2011-2012 squad are available in the middle and high school offices. For information, call sponsor Denita Rodgers at 460-1325.

Hospital plans birth classes

Citizens Medical Center will offer a four weeks of childbirth classes from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursdays starting next week. Women due to deliver before August should attend with their labor support partner. The next classes will begin July 7. For information or to register, call Jeanene Brown at the hospital Education Department, (785) 460-4850.

'Rolling Thunder' of prayer soon

For the second year, Operation Rolling Thunder

will call people to prayer for the 30 days leading up to the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5. Anyone in northwest Kansas, individuals, groups or churches, interested in participating in a prayer team from Tuesday through May 5 should contact Marsha Berens at 462-0388.

Scouts invite girls to bowl

All girls in fourth through sixth grades are invited to spend tonight with area Girl Scouts at Girls Go Extreme - Bowling from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Colby Bowl and Fun Center, 1175 S. Range. Girls will join in bowling, games, dancing and pizza. Parents are welcome, too. Cost is \$5. For information, call Becky Ayers, membership services manager, at (785) 259-6743.

Pilots to talk safety Saturday

The Federal Aviation Administration will spon-

sor the 2011 National Safety Stand Down, a full day of discussion for pilots on accident factors and approach-landing reviews, starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the Colby Municipal Airport. For information, call Mark Ostmeier at 460-4438.

Supper, auction to help man

Help raise money for John Morgan at a benefit supper and silent auction from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday in the Colby High School commons. The proceeds will help with medical bills from a motorcycle accident Feb. 16. For information, or to donate, call Mandy Focke at 462-2120.

Church offers concert on video

The Colby Berean Church will have a free Gaither Homecoming video concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at the church, featuring a group called Alaskan Homecoming. For information, call the church at 460-2863.

School plans scrapbooking day

Heartland Christian School is planning a free scrapbooking day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in the school commons. Supplies won't be available, so buy them ahead of time. For information, or to reserve a table, call Lucy Wood at 460-2721.

Class focuses on health

A six-week class on self management of chronic disease will be offered Mondays from 2 to 4:30 p.m. beginning next week at Fairview Estates, 1630 Sewell Ave. Sessions will address healthful behavior and improving health status. Call Jeanene Brown at Citizens Medical Center at (785) 460-4850.



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