



State to revamp education standards

By Kevin Bottrell
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In the next few months, the Kansas Department of Education will be leaving the No Child Left Behind Act in the dust as it makes ready to apply for a waiver to get out of the act's strict requirements.

State Board of Education Member Sally Cauble told the Colby School Board last Monday that the state will be changing how districts, teachers and students are assessed between now and January

as part of the waiver application. If it is approved, the district will no longer be subject to No Child's requirement that 100 percent of students meet or exceed standards by 2014. Cauble is the board of education member for District 5, which includes most of western Kansas.

Cauble said the Senate has been ready to reauthorize a version of No Child Left Behind that is a more flexible system similar to what Kansas is planning, but the House wants to look at each piece of the law individually. This, plus delays caused by continuing fights over other legisla-

tion, prompted the president to offer the waivers.

Cauble said the Kansas Education Department was a big player in the final waiver proposal put out by the federal government, and many state programs already fulfill the waiver's conditions.

For example, the waiver requires that schools make sure students are ready for college and careers, a requirement fulfilled by the Common Core Standards, which the Colby district is transitioning to.

Kansas is also developing its own sys-

tem for assessment and accreditation, which will replace the Adequate Yearly Progress and Quality Performance Accreditation systems it has been using under No Child. Cauble said the new system will be an individualized growth model, taking stock of where each student is and then taking him or her as far as they can go.

Cauble said this will eliminate the problem of subgroups. Under Adequate Yearly Progress, subgroups are any socioeconomic, special education or other groups of more than 30 students. These

groups have been evaluated individually until now, but have been held to the same standards as the rest of the students. Many districts, including Colby, that have met or exceeded state standards have been put on improvement because one or more subgroups can't measure up.

The state will also be developing a system for teacher evaluations, she said, one that is based on more than just testing.

These new models will take effect in January, she said, so the state can apply

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Protesters unite over tax proposals

By John Milburn
The Associated Press

TOPEKA - Growing discontent is bringing together diverse groups in Kansas who share a common concern about the direction cities, the state and the national government is heading. While they may not share the same demographics, they share the belief that something must change.

In recent weeks, Americans have seen Occupy Wall Street and related movements move on to the front page over their concerns that 99 percent of the nation is being hurt by the wealthy 1 percent. It's a backlash at corporate America that is being blamed for the recession and the slow recovery that has followed.

There are other new voices on the Kansas horizon, too. They are asking to be heard by Topeka as Gov. Sam Brownback and his conservative Republican administration reshapes state government.

"We are concerned that our governor is meeting in secrecy on tax changes. Citizen input is critical," said Crystal McComas, co-organizers of Kansans United in Voice and Spirit. "The idea that citizens won't have input is feeding our movement."

Brownback insists there's nothing clandestine about his plans. In fact, the Republican says, he may be the best traveled governor in his efforts to get out among Kansas residents and hear from them on a range of ideas from tax policy to animal agriculture. Brownback says he's "walking" the concepts around the state as a soft opening to see where there may be friction.

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SHARON FRIEDLANDER/Colby Free Press

Catholic auction draws hundreds

About 250 people came to eat dinner and bid on hundreds of items at the annual Sacred Heart Parish Auction. 85 items were up for the live auction, including a New Holland pedal tractor, tickets to the 2012 Country Stampede, jewelry, an iPad and tickets to a January football game between the Denver Broncos and the Kansas City Chiefs. Father Jarett Konrade of Wilson donated dinner at his home. Steve Ostmeyer won the drawing for a trip to Disney World or Key West.



New chiropractor to set up shop in Colby in early November

By Vera Sloan
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"All roads lead to home," says Thomas County native Dr. Cynthia Duffey, who will soon join the roster of Colby businesses.

"The people of Thomas County and Northwest Kansas are just the salt of the earth," she added, "and it's a real joy to be back."

Duffey Chiropractic Care Inc. will open

Monday, Nov. 7, at 320 N. Lake Ave. For those unfamiliar with the address, Duffey said the location is a block east of the downtown stop light at Fourth and Franklin and a half block south, or just south of Lyle's Body Shop.

Office hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fridays.

Duffey grew up on a farm near Menlo, the daughter of Luella and the late Harold Duffey. She is a 1977 graduate of Golden

Plains High School.

She said her care will focus on the whole person with philosophical approaches being delivered through gentle, effective therapies. She said she wants to partner with her patients to improve their quality of life through treatment for a variety of health conditions. She has completed advanced acupuncture training and will offer needle or laser acupuncture treatment.

Duffey said she chose to provide the Sacro Occipital Technique - which focus-

es on the relationship between the back of the head and the base of the spine - as her primary treatment. As a student she had the opportunity to volunteer as a patient for the technique as a part of her observation. She said that when she realized how good the treatment made her feel and how effective it was, she knew it was the primary technique she wanted to provide to her patients.

Before pursuing a career in chiropractic care, Duffey worked for seven years as a vocational rehabilitation counselor

at the Social and Rehabilitation Services facility in Garden City. There, she worked with people with physical and mental disabilities to help them either enter the workforce for the first time or rejoin the workforce after some event in their life kept them from returning to their previous job.

"I gained a whole new appreciation for individuals with disabilities and the challenges they experience," she said.

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Fiddle and dance group to perform here

The Hunt family, who combine step dancing, fiddling and a family atmosphere, will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Colby Community College Cultural Arts Center.

The Hunt Family performs Celtic, bluegrass, inspirational and original music. In addition to fiddling and step dancing, the nine-member family also plays guitar, bass, keys, drums and mandolin.

The Hunts have performed from Scotland to Ireland to Canada and all over the United States. They have opened for the Virginia Symphony and performed for Queen Elizabeth during her most re-

cent visit to the United States.

They have played at performing arts centers, festivals and schools across the country, and entertained audiences for three years on four main stages at Busch Gardens Williamsburg. They have made multiple appearances at the World Championships of Irish Step Dancing in Scotland and Ireland and debuted on the Tony Danza show.

The Hunts offer educational workshops in strings, fiddle, guitar, songwriting and Irish step dance where they work to educate participants and promote the arts while instilling a passion for music, song and dance.

This family show performance is presented by Western Plains Arts Association. Admission is by season ticket or at the door: adults, \$20; students, K-12, \$10. Special group rates of \$5 per student are available for groups of 20 or more with prior arrangement.

The Hunts have produced and recorded five albums: "Table for Two," "Dance in the Field," "Be Thou My Vision," "Christmas with the Hunts" and "Hearts Held High." They have authored and published "101 Sizzling Tips for Excellence on the Violin and Fiddle Book" and they have produced "The Hunt Family" on video.

College students plan art show

Colby Community College art instructor Rebel Jay and her students will hold a Friday Nite Fall Art Festival from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

The works of art will be on display at the scale house south of Taxes and More on Franklin Avenue in Colby.

Artists exhibiting in the show include Marlene Carpenter, Doyle Saddler, Sarah Saddler, Gatlin Reichert, Jackie Shandy, Lana Johnson, Nate Schwarz, Rebel Jay and the late Clay Davis. Exhibits will also include works by members of the High Plains Art Club and community members enrolled in the college ceramics class.

"Refreshments will be served including hot apple cider and pumpkin cookies," said Jay. "There will be candy for the kids

so make sure they wear their costumes to the show."

All works will be fall themes, fall colors or have a Southwest twist.

Art from students in kindergarten through 12th grade from the public schools, Heartland Christian and Sacred Heart School will also be included.

Art work created by college students and instructor Rebel Jay will be on display through next Monday, Oct. 31, at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby.

For information, contact Jay at 460-5459.

