



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Six candidates vying for three school seats

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Voters in the Colby School District will need to decide on three people to fill the at-large positions when they go to the polls on Tuesday, April 3. Wilburn Holloway, who is currently on the school board is running unopposed to fill the unexpired term vacated by Cindi Kriss.

The other three school board positions are at-large with six candidates vying for those three seats. Incumbents in the race are Gerald Fulwider and Gary Walker with John Cranston, Dale Herschberger, Tracy Rogers and Gary Seemann challenging for a po-



Cranston



Fulwider



Herschberger



Rogers



Seemann



Walker

sition as well.

The following information was provided to the *Colby Free Press* by each of the candidates.

**John Cranston**, 42, said he is seek-

ing a position on

the board because he believes he can be an asset. "I have no set agenda or ax to grind," Cranston said. "I will work to evaluate all issues since every issue

has merit and is important to all the people we represent.

"Our kids' education and development are important to all of us and

that's my primary reason for running," he said.

Cranston and his wife, Carla (Vohs), have been married 22 years and have four children: Jake, a junior at Kansas State University; Jodi, a senior at Colby High School; Jared, a sophomore at Colby High School; and Jordan, an eighth grader at Colby Middle School.

Cranston is a member of the Thomas County Fair Board, having served on various committees on that board for over five years. He has also been a leader in the Solomon Valley 4-H Club for 11 years and served two terms on the Thomas County Extension Pro-

gram Development Committee. Cranston was elected and served one term on the Thomas County Farm Service Agency board, coached baseball through the Colby Recreation Department for nine years, and served two three-year terms on the board of directors of the Kansas Livestock Association and is currently on the tax committee with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Other involvement has been in working with youth livestock shows.

For 16 years, he managed the Halford Cattle Company, which is a commercial feedyard in Thomas County and now operates Cranston Cattle Company, a commercial feedyard west of Colby. He is a bonded livestock dealer, buying cattle for numerous customers in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Cranston is a 1976 graduate of Brewster High School and has attended Colby Community College with studies in farm and ranch management. He has continued his education over the years in this area through workshops and seminars.

**Gerald Fulwider** said that in the past four years, the Colby School District has made bold investments in technology and changes in curriculum in an effort to enhance preparation of our students to enter an ever-changing workforce.

"It is important that these programs be maintained," he said, which is one of his primary reasons for continuing as a board member.

"I am asking you for your support in making sound decisions regarding our children, our most precious resource," he said.

"Financial decisions, although challenging, are not difficult, and we do the best with the resources we have. The difficult decisions regard policy that directly impacts students and staff. As such, some of these decisions result in misunderstandings that strain the relationship between our school and community. If elected, I will strive to improve communication with patrons and positive enhancement of community support for our school system," he said.

Fulwider and his wife, Lamoreaux, who is a 1970 graduate of Colby High School, have one son, Curtis, who is a fifth grade student at Colby Grade School.

Fulwider is the executive vice president of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Director of the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance. "This position pro-

## Discussion continues on growth

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Unfinished business will be the order of the day at the Colby School Board meeting on Monday night at the administration building, 175 S. Range, at 7 p.m. A proposal to place the old high school building, currently used as a grade school, on the national historic register, an update of a planned technology lab for the middle school and review of offers for school property head the list.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen will give the board the information on other school buildings in the state on the historic register. According to Nielsen, the ones he contacted were being used for purposes other than education.

The board will also look at the state ordinance governing historical buildings. Board member Gary Walker had been concerned at the last board meeting about the possibility of losing control of the building's use or updates, but county historical society representative Sue Taylor had assured the board the state ordinance gave them full control.

Also on the list are offers for school district property on the south side of the elementary and middle school campus that borders the neighboring homes.

About 35 feet is not needed for district use and the board decided to entertain offers by the neighboring property owners. Those offers will be reviewed.

Finally, Nielsen will give the board an update on the proposed technology lab in the middle school.

## Community bleachers arrive



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College assistant baseball coach Ray Nolan and members of the Trojan baseball squad installed new bleachers at Trojan Field on Thursday. The bleachers were provided by CBS Con-

struction in McCook, Neb. in return for community help in laying sod at Fairview Estates in Colby, and are portable, to be used for different activities.

## Brewster School District has three positions challenged

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

Three school board positions up for grabs in the Brewster School District will be decided at Tuesday's general election. Each position features two candidates.

The positions are: #4, Neal Rush and Leisha Carpenter; #5, Tony M. Horinek and Shane Benham; and #6, Carrie Starns and Roy E. Dixon.

**Neal Rush**, 45, and wife Jolene have five children and all are graduates of or are attending school at Brewster. Rush is a 1973 Brewster High School graduate, and in 1976 graduated from Bethany College. He has farmed since 1977 north and east of Brewster. He served on the Thomas County Soil Conservation District Board from 1982-1994, and also served a term on the school board. He was appointed to fill a vacancy two years ago and is currently on the school board.

"I have always been committed to

providing Brewster students the highest quality education possible," Rush said. "With the possibility of reduced funding in the near future, I feel the challenge will be to maintain Brewster's educational standards in the face of declining budgets," he said.

**Leisha Carpenter**, 38, and husband Wayne are the parents of Jarrett, a freshman at Brewster High School, and Seth, a fourth-grader. The Carpenters have a farming and cattle operation. Leisha Carpenter has worked as an EMT for 15 years with the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services. She is a member of the Brewster Recreation Board, member of the Brewster Development Fund, volunteer for the Brewster summer recreation program and a volunteer for the 4-H program.

"I would like to be a part of a school system that focuses on the educational development of the children and youth of the community," she said. "My first concern is for the best interest of these

young people. I feel I have a broad background of experience and knowledge. I have the capability to learn the responsibilities of this office. I will also devote time needed to do this," she said.

The candidate added: "We must keep our curriculum up to date, one that meets the demands for success outside of high school. We need to have a vision for our district, and this vision must create an environment that will ensure all students the opportunity to attain their maximum potential. One of my concerns for our school is finance, without a school our community would suffer. I will strive for responsible spending. A positive interaction between the community and the school is important. I will strive for this positive interaction among the students, faculty, administration and the community. It is the board of education's responsibility to assure this happens. I look forward to working with other

board members to achieve these goals, and others."

**Tony M. Horinek**, and wife Anita have two children — Clint, 18 and Aaron, 13. Clint will graduate this year and Aaron will be an 8th grader. The Horineks have hosted three foreign exchange students and have been foster parents for a number of children over the past several years.

Horinek grew up in Page City, graduating from Triplains High School in Winona. He continued his education at Colby Community College, earning a degree in agri-business. He is a lifetime area resident, having worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service as a field technician for 10 years, and

is currently involved in operating a dryland farm.

He has served on various boards, including Sacred Heart School Council, Sacred Heart Parish Council and the Program Development Committee for the Thomas County Extension Service. He is currently on the Thomas County Farm Bureau Board and the Kansas Farm Bureau Natural Environment Resource Committee.

Horinek stated: "I am running for the school board position mainly due to encouragement from others. I feel we have a strong school system and community. I want students, parents, faculty, staff, administration and board members to be able to communicate openly and honestly. I like to make informed decisions, which means I investigate 'both sides of the story.' I make decisions by seeking out the facts, not relying on hearsay."

**Shane Benham**, 38, a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in ani-

mal science, said she really doesn't have an agenda if elected to the Brewster School Board. Shane and her husband have two boys: Joe, 12 and Jacob, 2. One of the reasons, she believes other people encouraged her to seek the school board position was because of her children's ages. "We have one in junior high and one coming through, which would mean that we would be involved in almost all areas to know what's going on within the district."

"I don't have an exact agenda of this and this," she said regarding what she would like to accomplish if elected. "I certainly want to gather up as much information and knowledge as possible to make wise decisions, which is not to say that the current board has made mistakes."

Benham said she just wants to make the best decisions, along with the rest of the board, to make sure that all of

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## Briefly

### Weather: How about the 70s?

Hold on for the mercury to climb into the 70s. That's the word today from the National Weather Service in its forecast for the Colby area. There are a couple of days to go before that happens, however. Here is the outlook: tonight, cloudy, 30 percent chance for rain (it might turn to light snow if the temperature gets low enough), northwest winds 20-30 mph and gusty, decreasing late, the low around 30; Saturday, partly sunny, highs in the mid to upper 40s and northwest winds 15-25 and gusty; Saturday night, partly cloudy, lows near 30; Sunday, dry, highs in the 60s; and Monday, dry, lows in the 30s and highs in the 70s. Colby's high Thursday was 61 and the overnight low this morning

was 27. The records for March 30: 91 in 1943 and -4 in 1987. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Free compost available

The Thomas County landfill has compost to give away free to whoever will come and get it. If there are any questions, call Larry Jumper, landfill director, at 462-8139.

### Army Field Band concert Saturday

The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus of Washington, D. C. will perform at 7:30 p.m. Satur-

day in the Colby Community Building. Ticket holders are asked to be seated no later than 7:15.

### Endowment auction Saturday

Doors open at 4:45 p.m., Saturday, March 31, for this year's Colby Community College Endowment auction. The event will be held at the Colby Comfort Inn Convention Center on S. Range and over 250 items will be offered via live or silent auction beginning at 7 p.m. The buffet dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and includes prime rib, grilled herb chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. All proceeds will be used to provide scholarships for Colby College students officials said. Admission is \$25 per

person or a table of eight may be purchased for \$150. For reservations, call (785) 462-4684.

### Grass clipping pickup near

The City of Colby will begin picking up grass clippings, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday starting Monday, April 2, according to Gerry Bieker, public works director. Grass clippings must be at curbside by 8 a.m. on the day it is to be picked up and must not be mixed with any solid waste, he said. Businesses using dumpsters must bag grass separately and place beside dumpsters. Municipal solid waste will continue to be picked up as regularly scheduled on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For questions, call 462-4420.



