



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Five Colby College candidates vying for three seats

By **Patty Decker**  
*Free Press Editor*

Thomas County voters will have to choose three of the five candidates running for a seat on the Colby Community College Board of Trustees.

Kenton Krehbiel, Cleona Flipse and Curt Stephens, are seeking another term and two challengers, Cindy Black and Rich Epp, are hoping to unseat two of those three board members.

In order to assist voters in making an informed decision, each of the five candidates spoke about issues and their reasons for either running or looking at another term.

Kenton Krehbiel said he has been on the Colby College board for 16 years and believes the college is one of the greatest assets in northwest Kansas and for Colby.

"I have enjoyed the past 16 years and want to continue," he said. "We have made great strides."

Krehbiel said his years of experience is an advantage in that he knows how the budget and funding works, along with general issues as a long-time member.

In addition to his position on the college board, Krehbiel has been with the Colby Kiwanis Club since 1974; the Kansas Kiwanis Foundation as its secretary and treasurer; the Thomas County Leadership board; a member of the Retired Volunteer Senior Program and a community leader in the Tumbleweed 4-H Club for 15 years.

He and his wife, Sheila, have two children: Sharon, 35, and Brenda, 31. They also have two grandchildren: Jacob, 2 1/2, and Avery, 5 months.

Krehbiel has been a member of the Colby community for 32 years and currently serves as the Colby postmaster, having worked for the postal service 30 years.

"The college is on a positive track," he said, "and I want to continue to be a part of it."

Another incumbent, Cleona Flipse, has 12 years experience on the board, adding "it's been a good 12 years."

Her reason for seeking another term is simple. "I like working in education," she said. "I want to try and keep the college in as good of

fiscal shape as possible." She also said she will continue to do whatever she can in keeping enrollment up or constant.

"Enrollment remained static at about 1,350 students even when area high schools were seeing a 9 percent loss," Flipse said. "It's amazing to me the college was able keep the numbers steady — but then, the faculty is always looking for ways to attract student."

"Between the uncertainty in state funding and health insurance, the budget is difficult and the biggest thing is trying not to raise the mill levy," she said. "I think the current board has been fiscally responsible even after losing the 10 percent of state funding since 911."

Flipse is an attorney in Colby and a member of the Thomas County and Kansas bar associations in addition to serving on judge appointed boards such as the multi-disciplinary child protection team and drug endangered children team.

She is also a board member with Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Prevention Center. Although her hometown is Wichita, she said,

Colby has been her home since 1968.

Flipse and her husband, Bruce, have six children: Toni Wieland, Great Bend; Conne Brown, Meeker, Colo.; Jon Horton, Kansas City, Mo.; Brad Flipse, Overland Park; Brent Flipse, Kansas City, Kan.; and Kelly Roldan, Colorado Springs.

"I hope for a good voter turnout," she said, "and regardless of who the voters vote for, they should vote — it (voting) is a privilege."

Curt Stephens is also looking for another term as a trustee saying that he feels qualified for the position having been an effective and valuable member of the board for the last four years.

"I have a strong desire to see our community college thrive and my past experience on various local and state boards has served me well in this position," he said. "I feel it is



C. Stephens



C. Flipse



K. Krehbiel



Cindy Black



R. Epp

very important to maintain some continuity on the board and I believe I have a great deal of experience that benefits the organization on many levels."

Stephens said he will work to see the college continue to be an attractive option to both the college-bound high school as well as non-traditional student.

"I feel that it will obviously be important to continue working toward excellence of staff and students, but more importantly to work toward getting the word out that Colby College is the best kept secret in this part of the state," he said.

The new wellness center will be a tremendous asset to the college as

well as the community too. "We should be proud of that and spread the word," he said.

Stephens said he has basically lived in Colby all his life. He and his wife, Jackie, have four children, ages 7 to 16, and who all attend Colby schools.

Cindy Black said she would be dedicated in making a difference if elected as a college trustee. She said she knows the issues, challenges and opportunities faced each day in Thomas County and she would try to give back to the community that has given to her.

See "COLLEGE," page 5

## Colby school board has no contested races

By **Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

Colby voters will have three candidates to choose from for the Colby School Board in Tuesday's election. Incumbents Tracy Rogers and Gerry Fulwider are joined by Janice Frahm seeking at-large seats. Incumbent board member John Cranston declined to seek another term.

Frahm said she has the necessary experience for the position because she served 12 years on the Southwestern College board in Winfield. Also, she and her husband have one son that's been through the Colby school system and another attending Colby Grade School. She said she is running partly because of her younger son, who is in special education.

"We've been very happy with the support we have gotten for him," Frahm said, adding serving on the board would be a way to give time back to the community.

Her husband, Bruce, is from Colby and she came to the community after graduate school at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The family farms, growing wheat.

Frahm is a member of Colby United Methodist Church and also the Kansas Association for Community and Family Education of which she was the former northwest area director. Rogers is finishing his first term on the board. He said he ran four years ago because he wanted to be a part of his children's education and ensure the district maintains its traditions while using new innovations to deliver education.

Rogers said he's qualified because he's already completed one term on the board.

"It definitely is an advantage to have four year's experience now," he said. "I've always valued education."

Rogers said it's easier to know now how decisions are made and how Topeka affects the rest of the state. He said it will be important for the district to keep evolving.

"If we stay the same we're going to fall behind," Rogers said.

School finance is also an important issue and he would like to see the district continue spending its money wisely. He is a graduate of Colby High School. He attended Colby Community College for one year and is a graduate of Kansas State University.

He and his wife Robyn have been married 15 years and have two children, Garrett, 13 and Madison, 9.

Board member Gerry Fulwider said he's running again because he views his position on the board as an extension of his job as director of the Thomas County Economic Development Alliance.

"The children are our future," he said. "The educational opportunities we provide them today will insure a brighter future for all of us tomorrow."

He said he's qualified for the school board because he has "a deep respect for the educational process" and is committed to providing educational opportunities for all the students in the district.

He said there are no changes he would make but he would like to continue to see the staff and administration plan and implement new academic programs and opportunities for students. Fulwider added they have his support. He and his wife Lamoreaux have one son, Curtis.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Jackie Stephens (foreground) was one of more than 200 people attending this year's Colby Community College Endowment Association banquet and auction held Saturday at the Comfort

Inn Convention Center. Standing in the background is Nick Wells, director. Although the official numbers have not been released, organizers believe this year will be the best yet.

## Brieflys, weather find new home on page 3

The front page of today's *Free Press* might look a bit different.

Two longtime features — Briefly and Weather — have set up house-keeping in a new location: page 3.

Tom Dreiling, the newspaper's publisher, said today that moving those two popular columns inside will free up the front page for more

stories and photo opportunities.

"We sometimes had to hold stories from the front page because of a lack of space," he said.

"Then the light went on. Why not make the weather and the brieflys the lead items on the Area/State Page (page 3)?

"That would enable us to use

more briefly items, something we were not always able to do on the front page, thanks to space limitations," he said.

"I feel the readers will appreciate the move, especially those who would call to remind us that we forgot to get their briefly in.

"We really didn't forget, we just

simply didn't have the space," Dreiling said.

"Page 3, incidentally, is building in popularity," Dreiling said.

"It contains state items and stories from our immediate area — including Oakley and Hoxie, and of course right here in Thomas County."

## Rexford Council has two seeking same position; four unopposed

By **Tisha Cox**  
*Colby Free Press*

Rexford residents will have to decide a contested race Tuesday for city council.

Nancy Dahl and Dennis Allison are competing for the open fifth seat on the council while four incumbents are seeking re-election. They are David Williams, Dwight Williams, Michael Johnson and Vernon Vance.

Allison is running for council because he had people call him and asked if he would run.

He said there are no major issues he would like to tackle if elected and he said it's running smooth.

Allison lived in the area since 1989 when he moved there and helped re-start the criminal justice program at Colby Community College.

He is a graduate of McPherson College, Wichita State University and LaSalle University, Philadel-

phia. Allison has a doctorate in criminal justice administration.

He and his wife Vicki have been married five years and she has four children. Allison is also a candidate for the Rexford school board. He said the most important issue is school finance.

Council candidate Nancy Dahl said she would like to be part of making some changes on the council. Dahl has lived in Rexford most of her life and has been an emergency medical technician for 21 years and works as one in Rexford. She is also a member of the Rexford Pride Committee.

She said she's running for office because she knows the community and its people.

Dahl and her husband Jay have one son, two daughters and nine grandchildren.

On the incumbent side, David Williams is looking to win his second term. He said he ran for council

cil originally because he was asked and he said it's also a civic duty that has to be done. Williams said he's a good choice because of past experience. He knows the town and the people and also has a business in Rexford, Dave's Auto Supply.

He's lived in the community 35 years. Williams is a graduate of Pratt High School and Friends University.

As far as changes are concerned, he said he would like to see the community stay "nice and clean" and for people to continue to get along. Williams said things are going fine in Rexford.

Keeping it in the family, his nephew Dwight is also seeking re-election on the council. He said because he lives in the community, it's a good reason to try to make it better.

Dwight lived the past seven years in Rexford, having also lived in Selden and Sharon Springs. He's a

graduate of Golden Plains High School. Dwight said he wouldn't make any major changes because he said things in the community are going fine, but he would like to continue keeping the peace between residents.

He added he has no personal agenda for running for council and wants to provide a voice so people can be heard.

Incumbent Michael Johnson has served two terms on council. He said he originally ran because he was asked. He and his wife Evelyn have lived in Rexford for the past seven years. The two have been married 22 years and have three sons, Andy, 20, Kenny, 19 and Danny, 17.

Johnson said he wouldn't make any major changes if elected for a third term but he said just like any other city, there are things that need to be worked on.

Vernon Vance didn't want to

comment when called but he has served for many years on the council.

Mayor William Dible is also running unopposed. Dible said he's been mayor of Rexford since 1976.

He and his wife, Donna, have lived in Rexford most of their lives. They have one son, four daughters, and 11 grandchildren.

On the Rexford school board, incumbents Lane Purcell and Teri Brantley are hoping to retain their seats. Allison is running for the open board position.

Lane Purcell is looking to serve his second stint on the Golden Plains school board. Purcell, the pastor at Rexford Community Church, first ran for the board when he as asked. He used to work at the Shepherd's Staff in Rexford.

"I've enjoyed learning the ins and outs of the school," he said.

Two of his concerns are the moral fabric of education and the other

academic excellence.

Purcell said he enjoys being part of the community and to help by being part of the board. Purcell is a 1970 graduate of Arnold High School in Arnold, Neb. He was ordained through New Tribes Missions International. He and is wife Patricia have lived in Rexford since 1996. They have three children, Julia, Elizabeth and David.

If selected for another term, he said he would make no big changes but would hope the district continues to use money wisely.

Teri Brantley, the other incumbent running for re-election, is seeking her second term on the board. She said she's running again because she wants to continue dealing with some issues the school district is in the middle of. Brantley said there are some preschool and kindergarten matters as well as school finance she would like to see through.

