



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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## Colby council has four seats up for vote

By Andy Heintz

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Four seats on the Colby City Council will be up for grabs in city elections on Tuesday, April 7.

If enough candidates file, a primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3.

The positions are currently held by Phil

DeYoung, Tom Waldschmidt, Tim Huffles and Mark Beringer. So far, Beringer is the only one to file at the City Hall, officials said.

City elections are held the same days as school board balloting.

In Rexford, council positions currently held by Betty Nichols and Mike Johnson will be up for election. In Oakley, three seats, held by Mayor Frank Munk and city council members Jason Moses and

Shawna Allison, will be open.

Positions currently held by John Eicher, Rex Jamison, and Dwayne Randolph will be up for grabs in Brewster.

The mayor and all city council positions in Menlo will be open. The positions are currently held by Mayor Troy Staats and Richard and Dixie Fields, Robbie Meyer, Brandon Beckman and Brent Beckman.

City positions up for re-election in Gem are held by Margaret Flanagan, Larry Hig-

erd and Monica Bugbee.

Anyone who wants to be a candidate for these positions must file before noon on Tuesday, Jan. 27, with either their city clerk or the county clerk. Candidates must pay a \$5 fee or have a petition signed by 50 registered voters in their city, said Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms.

Whether a primary is needed depends whether more than three candidates file for each position, Harms said. If there is

one job open in a race, than at least four candidates must be running for the seat in order to force a primary. In a race where there are two positions open, there must be seven to have a primary — one more than three for each open seat.

If a city has three open seats, then at least 10 people must enter the race to need a primary. With four positions, the number is 13; with five positions, 16; and six jobs, 19.



Colby's Amy Wilson, Miss Rodeo America for 2008, (above) spent some time with a young cowgirl during an appearance in New Mexico last year. Wilson (right) rode in waving at the crowd during a rodeo in Bremerton, Wash.

## Colby cowgirl gives up crown

By Andy Heintz

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Colby native Amy Wilson finished her year as Miss Rodeo America on Dec. 31 after a whirlwind year of airports, rodeos, appearances and visits, where she rode a new horse each week, sat atop an alligator, swam with

dolphins and met a lot of great people.

She plans to attend Highlands College in Las Vegas, N.M., on a \$14,000 rodeo scholarship. Wilson said she will be majoring in communications; her goal is to be a professional rodeo announcer someday.

While she enjoyed her stint as Miss Rodeo America, she said she

is ready to move on with her life. The thing she will miss the most, she said, is all the friends she made while serving as queen.

"I really did love it," said Wilson, 22. "It was such a huge blessing to have that opportunity. I felt I really grew as a person.

"There are things I'm going to miss, but I'm ready to see what

the Lord has planned for the rest of my life."

Amy is the daughter of Lonnie and Lori Wilson, one of six children in the family. Her brothers and sisters include Kayla, 25; Brenda, 20; Sally, 16; Dana, 13; and Brent, 11.

Wilson said she has been riding since she was a little girl working

on the family ranch with her dad. She said she loves horses and everything else to do with life on the ranch and working with cattle.

Faith has always played an important part her life, she said. While living in Colby she attended the Levant Community

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## Expert to talk on evolution

Denver researcher first lecturer of series

Dr. Jeffrey Kieft will open the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College with a lecture on "Teaching Evolutionary Theory: Why it Matters" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center.

Raised in a conservative Christian household but curious and drawn to science from a very early age, Dr. Kieft says has never found a conflict between his faith and evolution theory. In recent years, he has become more active in promoting the rigorous and undiluted teaching of evolutionary theory, lecturing at churches in the Denver area.

In his lecture, Dr. Kieft says he will tackle the subject head-on, addressing questions such as: What is evolutionary theory and why is it important? Is evolution really anti-God? How can we re-define the discussion to embrace a society that desperately needs science, but respects religion? How does evolutionary theory fit into science in general, and what should we be teaching our kids?

"In the last few years, we have witnessed a growing anti-science movement that is undercutting the ability of educators and scientists to prepare our children to compete," said Dr. Kieft. "Nowhere is this better exemplified than in the anti-evolution/creation movement that has gained footholds in many communities.

The debate is ... rancorous and angry, but fundamentally misguided and self-destructive."

Dr. Kieft graduated in 1990 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served in Germany with the 1st Armored Division. Later, he earned a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley and did research at Yale.

His research focuses on understanding the structural basis for viral RNA manipulation of host cellular machinery using biophysical, biochemical and structural methods. He has written many articles and publications, including several describing his work on understanding parts of the hepatitis C virus infection cycle.

The public is invited to the free lecture. Cost of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series are paid each year by anonymous donors.

For information, call Linda Davis-Stephens at the college at (785) 460-5528.

## County workers get 4 percent

By Andy Heintz

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The Thomas County commissioners approved a 4 percent salary increase for all county employees except two in the sheriff's department at first meeting of the new year.

Former Sheriff Mike Baughn gave Sheri Lee and Amber Lamble raises with the December payroll, commissioners said. New employees who are still on their six-month probationary period will not be given salary increases. The county has about 60 employees, said County Clerk Shelly Harms, adding that the raises had been figured into the budget.

Commissioners also appointed people to jobs and

boards at the meeting, when traditionally they reorganize and send their schedule. They elected Commissioner Ken Christiansen as chairman for the year. The Colby Free Press was designated as the official county newspaper.

Appointments included Kasiah Rothchild, finance administrator; Ken Gatlin, emergency medical director; Susan McMahon; emergency management director; Dr. LaDonna Regier, emergency medical services medical advisor; Clair Shrock, director of noxious weed and prairie dog control and road supervisor; Dr. Gary Slavens, county health officer; J.L. Ellis, radiological officer; Connie Walden, health administrator; Ken Gatlin, 911 director; Susan McMa-

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## Four teens hurt in crash south of town

Three Winona teens were taken to hospitals Wednesday night after the car they were in went out of control during light snow and hit a culvert south of Colby on K-25.

The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Rachael Smith, 17, was driving a 2001 Ford Taurus southbound at 8:30 p.m. about 16 miles south of Colby. Trooper Hileman

reported that the car went into the west ditch, hit a culvert, went airborne and landed on its wheels in an access road.

Rebecca Smith, 16; Seth Smith, 12; and Heather Martin, 16; were passengers.

Rachael Smith was taken to the Logan County Hospital. Rebecca Smith and Martin were taken by

a Colby ambulance to Citizens Medical Center. Seth Smith was not taken to a hospital.

The patrol said the driver and Martin were wearing seat belts. Rebecca Smith was not, and the trooper did not know about Seth Smith. The car was towed by Mc B's.

## Paper's comics page gets new look, column

The Free Press comics and features page has a new look this week, with more content for readers and a couple of comics that have been missing.

"We decided the space on the page wasn't being used too wisely," said Publisher Steve Haynes. "The Sudoku puzzle was four times the size other papers print it, but we weren't running some columns."

The page has been reorganized with the Sudoku puzzle the same size as the crossword puzzle at the bottom of the page. The Cryptoquip moved up, allowing room for one more comic panel on the left each day. All the comics were increased slightly in size.

"We wanted to give readers the Tuesday and Saturday strips for Sally Forth, since it's a story strip," Haynes said. "We decided to do the same with Zits

because people seem to like it."

The "extra" strips will alternate each day, he said. The priority was to have a better comics page and make all the comics more readable, he said. At the same time, space opened up for two columns the paper has been paying for but not using. Ask Dr. Brothers and Hints from Heloise.

Those columns also will alternate, Mr. Haynes said. The Becker Bridge column remains at the bottom of the page, but in more readable type.

"We hope readers will let us know what they think about the change," he said. "We might also change the comics around some. One thought is to replace Todd the Dinosaur with something more interesting."

"We'd like to know if people like Todd, or would rather see a replacement. And if so, what?"

## Briefly

### Conservation meeting Feb. 16

The Thomas County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Jan. 30. Call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482, extension 303.

### City offices to close Thursday

Colby City Hall will be closed next Thursday, Jan. 22, for staff training. Report any utility emergency that day to the police department at 460-4460.

### College offers free fitness

Colby Community College will waive all costs for community members who enroll in a cardio and strengthening class beginning Tuesday. The

one-credit-hour class, taught by Linda Pitner, will be held in the Cultural Arts Center. Classes will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through May 21. Call the college Admissions Office to enroll.

### Dance team fixing soup, chili

The Colby High School dance team plans a soup-and-chili supper from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday at the Colby Community Building before the Eagles' basketball games. Donations will be taken for the team.

### Hospital offers blood tests

As part of the 2009 Wellness Event, though there will be no health fair this year, Citizens Medical Center will be drawing blood for lab tests from

6 to 9 a.m. each day through Saturday. A complete blood count and comprehensive chemistry profile, including a lipid panel, will cost \$25. The thyroid stimulating hormone test is \$20, the prostate specific antigen test is \$25 and the hemoglobin A1C, which shows peak blood sugar for diabetics, is \$20. The tests are open to everyone, not just those enrolled in the Wise Up and Count Down Thomas County program, hospital officials said.

### Heartland having barbecue

Heartland Christian School invites everyone to their annual barbecue pork dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday at the school, 1995 W. Fourth St., The menu includes pork, corn, salad, baked potato and dessert. Donation for the school will be accepted.

### Knights plan free-throw event

The Colby Knight of Columbus will hold their an-

nual free-throw contest at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Grade School gym. For information, call Dewey Augustine at 443-1548.

### Expert to detail ancient sites

Dan Busse will talk about archeological sites at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. This talk is co-sponsored by the High Plains Chapter of the Kansas Anthropological Association and the museum. Refreshments will be served and there will be a chapter meeting after the talk. For information, call Nancy Arendt at 460-6653.

### Church to hold life seminar

A "Life Overflowing" seminar will be presented by DVD with a brown bag lunch on Saturday at Redeeming Love Ministry, 345 N. Franklin. Bible College credit is available. For questions or reservations, call (785) 650-2375.

