

Three file, one candidate asks for write-in votes

From "ELECTION," Page 1

Tim Hutfles, 51, is councilman for Ward III. He has served on the council since 2005. He and his wife Amy have four children: Joseph, 19; Jacob, 17; Julia, 15; and Seth, 8.

He said the most important thing he wants to do if re-elected is hold the line on expenditures, while attempting to improve the quality of life in Colby. Hutfles said one of the challenges of his job is addressing the city's declining population and reliance on state aid.

One of the changes he said he would make if he's re-elected is getting more public input and interest in the budget process.

"Colby is a great place to live and raise a family, retire or locate a business," said Hutfles, who owns Hutfles Electric. "There are abundant opportunities for the city to do more for its citizens. I believe we have an obligation to provide better sidewalks, perhaps even some bike paths; also, a better municipal pool would be nice. However these things require money, commitment and public involvement."

Hutfles said he encouraged citizens to get involved in the decision-making process of their city and community.

To contact Hutfles, call (785) 460-4344 or (785) 443-0291 or e-mail tahutfles@st-tel.net.

Mark Beringer, the Ward IV, councilman, has been a member of the City Council since 1997. He said he is happy with some of the council's accomplishments over the years.

"We upgraded the water system, installed a new sewer system, we are building a new fire station, we helped get Bosselman Truck Center to come to Colby and we played a big role in bringing Embark Healthcare to Colby."

He said the most important things he wants to do if he's re-elected is keep the city in good financial shape and make sure the town is cleaned up.

"We have to keep the town looking presentable," said Beringer.

"In order to continue growing, the council will need the continued support of Colby residents."

Beringer owns Beringer Hardware and Beringer Communication. He and his wife Ardath have two children, Curt, 23, and Jessica Lovelady, 34.

Contact him at (785) 443-1099 or beringer_m@yahoo.com.

David Voss, a 50-year-old senior network education representative at Wellpoint/Unicare Healthplan of Kansas, said the most important thing he wants to do if he is elected is learn to do a good job. He explained the challenges he will face if elected in three words.

"Budget, budget, budget," said Voss, adding that he would make sure to evaluate all spending.

Voss said he has been happy with how the city council has been performing. He is a candidate for the Ward 2 seat.

Voss has three children Megan, 23; David, 21; and Jordan, 17.

To contact Voss, call (785) 443-1000 or 462-7171 or e-mail dvoss@yahoo.com.

Raymond Weber is asking people to write in his name as a candidate for Ward I. He had not provided the *Free Press* with any information by deadline. His information will be published when it's available.

Schools could be exempt from state budget cuts

From "SCHOOLS," Page 1

Means Committee Chairman Jay Emler, a Lindsborg Republican. "It just is devastating when you only consider cutting half your budget and not all of it."

Legislators are facing a projected deficit in the budget. They and Sebelius attacked it with a mix of spending cuts and accounting changes, and Republican leaders and the Democratic governor had their first dustup over school aid.

Schools had been promised \$3.78 billion in aid in the fiscal 2009 budget approved last year, and the Legislature trimmed it back by \$32 million, or a little less than 1 percent. Sebelius used her line-item veto power to whittle the reduction down to \$7 million.

But a bigger problem loomed. Legislative researchers project that if the state tried to duplicate its current budget, it would end up with a deficit of \$682 million, absent those stimulus dollars.

Sebelius proposed targeted spending cuts, withholding aid to cities and counties, making accounting changes, restructuring state bonds and canceling some planned business tax cuts. But her plan relies on \$585 million in federal stimulus funds, including \$192 million for public schools.

The governor and fellow Democrats want no further cuts in school aid.

For many Republicans, the sense that school need to sacrifice a little was reinforced by the proposals the House and Senate budget committees were endorsing for other agencies.

Some administrative agencies

not only took a haircut in 2009 but are facing a further 10 percent reduction in 2010.

"I don't think Kansans want to see us let violent prisoners out and take poor and disabled people off of services in order to keep education spending at record high levels," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kevin Yoder, an Overland Park Republican.

Sebelius' administration officials note that Kansas must apply for the education dollars and would have to explain why cutting

education funding makes sense, when one goal of the stimulus law is to protect schools.

But several Republicans noted last week that legislators have opinions from their own staff, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Council of State Governments saying that a cut would be acceptable under the stimulus law.

Yoder said their conclusion is that states just can't make schools their main target.

"I don't think there's one fed-

eral congressman or senator that, when they voted for this, was encouraging states to decimate their public safety, let prisoners out, take handicapped and poor people and deprive them of services but keep education spending intact at the '09 level," Yoder said. "That just doesn't make sense."

Yet, do Republicans like Yoder have much chance of prevailing?

Emler's committee didn't consider a cut in aid to public schools. Even if GOP leaders shepherd one through the Legislature, Sebelius

is likely to veto it, given her past record and her statements about the stimulus law. And if Democrats stick together, they can prevent a veto override.

Of course, there's no telling how pressure will build on Sebelius and legislators if the state's financial picture deteriorates even more.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Associated Press Political Writer John Hanna has covered state politics and government since 1987.

Weather Corner



National Weather Service

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Snow likely, mainly after 1 pm. Cloudy, with a high near 35. Windy, with a northeast wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow likely and widespread blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around 20. Windy, with a north wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Friday: Widespread blowing snow and a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 31. Windy, with a north wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Friday Night: Areas of blowing snow and a slight chance of snow before 1am. Partly cloudy and blustery, with a low around 20. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 49.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Monday: A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 51. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 48.

Monday: High, 62; Low 28

Tuesday: High, 52; Low 26

Precip: Monday .Trace

Tuesday .Trace

Month: 0.00 inches

Year: 0.64 inches

Normal: 2.15 inches

(K-State Experiment Station)

College president says school will do just fine

From "COLLEGE," Page 1

Kreider praised the Trojans' wrestling team for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Award. The team's grade average was 3.49, the highest in the award's history, while the wrestlers placed fourth at the national junior college tournament.

The president said he was proud of four volleyball players who were named to the Kansas Jayhawks Community College Conference all-academic team. The four had a grade average of 3.56, said Kreider. Three women and two men from the cross country team were also named to the conference all-academic team, he said.

Other athletic achievements Kreider mentioned included Lady Trojans volleyball player Priscilla Sena making the all-region and all-conference teams, freshman men's basketball player Shamar Acuay making the all-conference team and freshman women's basketball player Danisha Cole receiving honorable mention.

The college had 107 students on the honor roll this fall and 63 of those earned a 4.0, or straight A, average, said Kreider.

Students have been working out in the community, said Kreider, citing the students who collected \$2,500 worth of items for Genesis-Thomas County Food Bank and the baseball team helping set up Santa City.

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