

City, college, school elections set for Tuesday

By Andy Heintz
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Colby city and school elections will take place Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Colby Community Center.

Six candidates are running for three at-large positions on the Colby School Board.

Seeking a seat on the board are J.C. Carter, an assistant Cub Scout leader; Janice Frahm, who works on the family farm; Gerald Fulwider, a former Thomas County economic development director; Susan McLemore, a assistant occupational therapist for Aegis Therapies; Tracy Rogers, who works in inventory control at Frontier Ag.; and Dale Vap; owner of Vap Distributing.

Fulwider, Rogers and Frahm are all running for re-election.

Three candidates and one write-in will be running unopposed for four at-large positions on the Colby City Council.

Seeking election are Tim Hutfles, owner of Hutfles Excavating; Mark Beringer, owner of Beringer Hardware and Beringer Communication; David G. Voss, senior network education representative

at Wellpoint Inc./Unicare Health-plan; and write-in candidate Omar Weber, a sales representative for Lang Diesel.

Hutfles and Beringer are running for re-elections in Ward III and IV. Voss and Weber are running for spots in Ward II and Ward I. Board member Phil DeYoung didn't file for re-election in Ward I.

Voters can only cast their ballots for the candidate in their ward, said County Assistant Deputy Clerk Kristi Mann.

Six candidates will be running for three at large positions on the Colby Community College Board.

Seeding election to the board are Bill Shields, area Manager for Crop Sales Production Services; Vernon Wranosky, a former teacher at the college; Shad Metcalf, who works for Crop Production Services; Kenton Krehbiel, Colby's postmaster; Robert Renner, a farmer and rancher in Mingo; and Cindy Black, the owner of High Plains Printing.

Krehbiel and Black are both running for re-election. The third at-large position was previously held by Cleona Flipse, who de-

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Six vie for seats on Oakley council

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Six candidates are running for the Oakley City Council and one for mayor this year.

All voting will be at the Logan County Emergency Medical Services Building. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Jerry Robben is running for mayor while Frank Munk, Shawna M. Allison, Roger Boyd, Russ Kahle, Anna Pentico and Butch Burris are running for two open seats on the council.

Candidates answered some questions about their background and also gave their perspective about what they felt were important challenges facing the city.

Frank Munk did not seek re-elected as mayor this year. Instead, he is running for a spot on the council.

Munk, 62, works with 5M Truck Repair in Oakley. He and his wife Lona have three children: Steve, 40; Rod, 38; and Darrin, 36.

Street repair and building a new waste water treatment plant are some of the most important things facing the city, said Munk. Voters can contact him at (785) 671-3980.

Shawna M. Allison and her husband Steve have two girls, Danielle, 6, and Daysha, 3. Allison, 35, is executive director of the Logan County Healthcare Foundation.

She said keeping the budget acceptable will be one of the biggest challenges she will face if she is re-elected to the council.

She said the council will have to decide what spending is necessary and what spending can be held off.

"We have to make responsible choices," she said.

Allison said she felt like she has learned a lot during the year and a half she has been on the city council.

"I have learned so much and I feel like I can keep improving on being a better city council person," said Allison.

Jerry Robben and his wife Maxine have two children, Bridget, 19, and Andrew, 15.

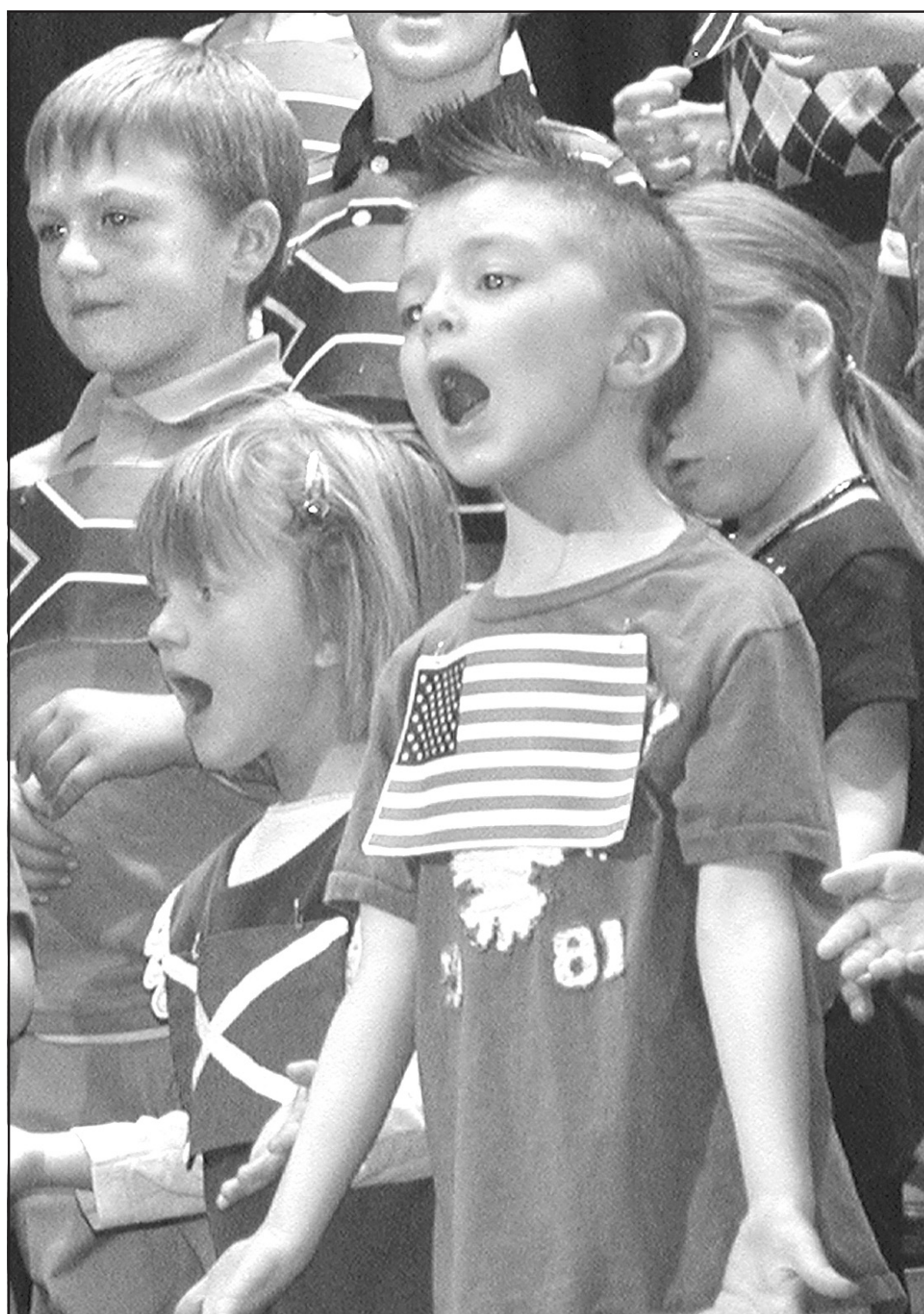
He is a loan officer at Farmers State Bank. Robben said its important for the council to get the younger generation involved in making Oakley a good place to live.

"We need to get them involved in city government a little more," he said.

Robben said it would be important for the council to make budget choices in these difficult times. He said a little further down the road, the council would have to focus on getting the city's infrastructure in shape.

Robben said a council member should listen to everyone's views

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Students go global for songs

Kelby Garrett (above) sang out loud and strong at the Colby Grade School kindergarten program, "Teach the World to Sing," on Thursday. London Bridge was a stop on the musical world tour. Dev Patel and Reagan Geihlsler (right) were the bridge builders. The group (below) made a stop in Japan to sing "Sakura," a Japanese folk song.



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Banquet to honor seniors

A Colby couple will receive the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award from the University of Kansas at a dinner in Goodland on Wednesday honoring the top students from 15 area high schools.

Forty-four seniors from schools in nine northwest Kansas counties will be recognized for their academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at the dinner, set for 7:30 p.m. (Central Time) at the Elk Lodge.

The Kansas Honors Program, sponsored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and Endowment, began in 1971. The top 10 percent of each high school senior class is invited, regardless of their higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Heath Peterson, director of Kansas programs for the alumni association.

In addition, Peterson will present Paul and Sharon Steele of Colby, both KU graduates, with the Clodfelter Award for their years of service on behalf of the university. Paul Steele is a Thomas County commissioner and a retired accountant. The Steeles have been volunteers for KU in the Colby area since 1963, and are the Kansas Honors Program coordinators for Thomas and Wallace counties. Sharon is a past math instructor at

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Italy suffers quake

L'AQUILA, Italy (AP) — A powerful earthquake in mountainous central Italy knocked down whole blocks of buildings early Monday as residents slept, killing at least 91 people in the country's deadliest quake in nearly three decades. Tens of thousands were homeless and 1,500 were injured.

Ambulances screamed through the medieval city of L'Aquila as firefighters with dogs and a crane worked feverishly to reach people trapped in fallen buildings, including a university dormitory where half a dozen students were believed still inside.

Outside the half-collapsed building, part of the University of L'Aquila, fearful young people huddled together, wrapped in blankets, some still in their slippers after being roused from sleep by the quake. Dozens managed to escape as the dorm walls fell around them but hours after the quake, a body of a male student was pulled from the rubble.

"We managed to come down with other students but we had to sneak through a hole in the stairs

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Briefly

Meeting to cover hazard plans

Thomas County officials plan a "town hall" meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Law Enforcement Training Center, 360 N. Franklin, to explain the process for writing a hazard mitigation plan for the county, including all cities and school districts. Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan said the plan will cover preparation for any likely emergency and ways to avoid damage or losses. For questions, call McMahan at 450-4516.

Films give tour of Bible lands

A film series on archaeological digs in Israel which retraces some of the early sites where Bible characters such as Abraham lived and walked continues at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the College Drive Assembly of God church, with installments at the same time through Wednesday, April 29. The public is invited.

Kindergarten screening set

Free kindergarten screening for incoming students, which had been scheduled for last week, will continue Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Areas to be screened include vision, hearing, speech, language, motor and cognitive development. To make an appointment, call school nurse Amy Hutfles at 460-5111 or 460-5100.

Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has several dogs available for adoption, including a male chocolate lab about a year old, a 6-year-old neutered male corgi mix and a 2-year-old female golden mix with medium hair. Lost or strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

Prevention group to meet

The Thomas County Coalition, an alliance of civic organizations interested in fighting drug and alcohol abuse, will meet at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Pioneer Memorial Library. The coalition is affiliated with the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center. For information, call 460-8177.

Free tax help offered at library

Free tax help will be available for low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those 60 and older, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays through mid-April at the Pioneer Memorial Library. Call 460-2645 for information.

Assembly plans big Egg hunt

The College Drive Assembly of God, 245 W. College Drive, plans a huge Easter egg hunt for kids 10

and younger from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Saturday. Registration will open at 12:45 p.m. Organizers plan a coloring contest with prizes for the winners, games, songs and more prizes to give away. Come join the fun. For questions, call Michelle Hillery, 443-1395.

Application deadline extended

The cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program applications in Kansas to be considered for fiscal year 2009 money has been extended to Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. For information, stop by the county office or call (785) 462-7671.

