



College puts its president on notice

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby Community College board voted unanimously Wednesday not to extend President Lynn Kreider's contract past its June 30, 2012, term. The resolution also denied Kreider "any additional employment benefits."

In the resolution, board said they perceive the reputation of the college has declined in recent years and the rapport with the faculty and staff has deteriorated. It

said they were not pleased with the direction of the institution or the leadership and performance of Kreider.

"Because we have met with you individually and have taken into consideration the faculty and staff evaluations, we feel we have given you a fair resolution," Chairman Cindy Black said to Kreider at the meeting.

Board member Bill Shields made the motion to adopt the resolution.

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City uses money for sound system

By Andy Heintz
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A new sound system will soon be installed at the Colby Community Building main gym after the City Council voted to buy the system from Sound Innovations, a division of Midwest Music of

Salina, for \$52,758 at its meeting Tuesday.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said city workers will be doing the wiring, which will earn a substantial discount. The system will be paid for through the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund,

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John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Kindergartner Zach Griffin played John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt at Colby Grade School's "A Day in the Country" music program Thursday. Griffin began the song with a solo, then his

classmates joined in. In addition to the singing, some of the students, like Griffin, dressed up and played parts, including an old man and a dog in "This Old Man."



Alex Reinecke, an intern with the state treasurer's office, helped a Colby resident see if she had unclaimed property Wednesday at the Thomas County Office Complex. Treasurer Dennis McKinney and his staff have been touring the state, talking about unclaimed property and helping people search the database.

State treasurer has your money

By Kevin Bottrell
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Thomas County residents have more than \$200,000 in unclaimed money sitting in the state treasury, and state Treasurer Dennis McKinney wants to give it back.

During a stop in Colby on Wednesday, McKinney said 1,978 "unclaimed properties" listed as belonging to people in Thomas County, amount-

ing to \$207,322. Statewide, the office has more than \$200 million in unclaimed property.

McKinney has been touring the state letting people know about a service his office offers, allowing people to search and see if they or relatives have any unclaimed money — and helping people file claims to get it back. His crew set up shop at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce office on Range Avenue.

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Goodland woman running for Legislature

A Goodland woman plans to announce Monday that she is challenging State Rep. Jim Morrison for his seat in the Kansas House of Representatives.

Brenda McCants will announce her candidacy for the Republican primary election in August at 11:30 a.m. Monday at the City Limits Convention Center in Colby. She will hold events that day in Goodland, Hoxie and Hill City as well. McCants has already filed for the office with the Kansas Secretary of State's office.

McCants, who has lived in northwest Kansas for 16 years, is currently the director of development at

Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland.

In a press release about the announcement, McCants said she felt it is time for a new voice in Topeka.

"We need to preserve our rural communities and take a stand on issues that affect us," she said, "and I want our communities to have a voice."

The campaign has a Facebook page and Twitter account. For information, call Sue Evans, campaign treasurer, at 443-1149 or McCants at (785) 821-2754.

Time to file for August primary

By Vera Sloan
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Kansas voters head to the polls Tuesday, Aug. 3, for this year's primary election, and Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms said anyone who wants to file for public office must do so by noon Thursday, June 10.

Offices open for filings are in Thomas County are commissioner for District 1, register of deeds and township clerk in each township.

First District Commissioner Byron Sowers says he plans to file for a second term.

District 1 includes the territory east of K-25, including all of Wendell, Lacey, Smith, North Randall,

Menlo and South Randall townships plus all of Rovohol township north of Colby, west of K-25, and a part of West Morgan township which includes five or six houses in the El Chapparel subdivision.

The current register of deeds, Lora Volk, who took over the unexpired term of Maybelle Moore on Aug. 1, says she plans to file for a first full term.

Township clerks whose positions are up for the 2010 election are Barrett, Patrick Tinkham; Kingery, Don Cranston; North Randall, Linda Sowers; South Randall, Gary K. Ostmeier; Rovohol, Aronld Wehkamp; Smith, Vernon Vance; Lacey, Pete Ziegelmeier; Menlo, Loren Guill; Morgan, Shawn Fromholtz; Summers, De- lores Olson; Wendell, Kenneth

Johnston; neither East nor West Hale has a township clerk.

State law says a township must have three officers, a trustee, a clerk and a treasurer, but both East Hale and West Hale are operating without one. County commissioners could, at their discretion, legally close a township that operate without the required number of officers, said Harms.

Harms said candidates are needed to fill positions of precinct committee members, one man and one woman in each township or city ward in both the Democrat and Republican parties.

Candidates can file at the clerk's office up until the June 10 deadline. To file for county commis-

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Briefly

Clouds delay tornado siren test

Thomas County tornado sirens will sound at noon Monday. The monthly test had to be put off due to cloudy skies and a chance of thunderstorms this week. Sirens are normally tested the first Monday of every month. For information, call Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan at 460-4516.

Arbor Day celebration April 28

The Colby Tree Board invites everyone to come help celebrate Arbor Day at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, in Fike Park, where the board will be planting trees, weather permitting. Jim Strine, area forester with Kansas State University, will speak. For information, call Marvin Bickner at (785) 462-6692.

Landfill goes to summer hours

The Thomas County Landfill has changed to summer hours. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. For information, call 462-8139.

Win a vacation from Heartland

Heartland Christian School will hold a rock-paper-scissors tournament at 10 a.m., Saturday at the school. Tickets are \$20 per ticket or six for \$100. First prize is a five-day, four-night trip to Mexico. For information, call the school at 460-6419.

Sheriff to hold big auction

The Thomas County Sheriff's Office will hold an auction at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Law Enforcement Center on Court Avenue. For information, call the sheriff's office at 460-4570.

Church to hold conference

The Rexford Community Church will hold its an-

nual mission conference at the church Saturday and Sunday at the church. The theme is "Let the 'Son' Shine in 2010." For information, call Rex Carswell at (785) 687-4361.

Swim Club plans session Sunday

The Colby Swim Club will hold a parent meeting at 4 p.m. Sunday in room 809 of the Health Science Building at Colby Community College. A fun swim will follow at the college pool. For information, call Sondra Finley at 460-2955.

Commodity distribution Monday

U.S. Department of Agriculture surplus commodities will be distributed from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center. Distribution is first come, first served; people are asked not to show up at the

office before 12:30 p.m. For information, call 462-6744.

Kindergarten screenings coming

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center and the Colby School District will hold kindergarten screenings from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the Colby United Methodist Church. Parents of next year's kindergartners are encouraged to take advantage of the screenings, which include speech, sight, hearing and learning tests. For information, call school nurse Amy Hutfler, 460-5111.

