



COLBY FREE PRESS

Thursday

January 13, 2011
Volume 122, Number 7
Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages



TAMA UNGER/Citizens Medical Center

Nicholas and Karen Prochazka of Colby posed with their new born Friday, making her the first baby born in the county this year.

New Years baby born to Colby family

Annica Marie Prochazka became the first baby born in Thomas County in 2011 on Friday.

Annica was born at 4:59 a.m. Friday, Jan. 7, at Citizens Medical Center. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches.

She is the daughter of Nicholas and Karen Prochazka of Colby. Karen, a Colby native, is a secretary at Golden Plains Ag Tech, while her husband, originally from Atwood, works at Cornerstone Ag.

Karen said Annica is doing well, and sleeping almost six hours a night.

"She's just perfect," she said. "She's only 6 days old. How many 6-day-old babies sleep

that much?"

Karen said the baby came three weeks early, and so is a little small, but she is quite healthy.

Grandparents are Loyde and Connie Davis of Colby and James and Patricia Prochazka of Atwood.

Dr. Darren Matchell delivered the baby and Mandy Vaughn was the attending nurse.

As the first baby born in county in the new year, Annica is the winner of the *Colby Free Press*' New Year's Baby contest. She and her parents will receive a \$25 savings account from Farmers and Merchants Bank; a free 30-minute massage from Tina Harris Physical Therapy; a "Wood Wick" candle from In-

low Interiors; 50 percent off stain guard protection from MC Auto Outlet; a plush blanket from Goulash; a three-piece engraved baby set from Horlacher Jewelers; a free family night out at Colby Bowl; a \$25 gift card from Taco John's; \$10 from the Kansas Country Store; a \$10 gift card from Gambino's Pizza; a free newborn photo shoot from Laura Norris Photography; and a free one-year subscription to the *Free Press*.

The Citizens Foundation gave the family a \$100 savings bond and the hospital auxiliary gave her a silver spoon, silver rattle and a picture frame.

Filing open for school elections

By Kevin Bottrell

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April elections will determine who sits on six area school boards, the Colby college board and city councils, but the time to file for office is now, with the deadline in less than two weeks, Tuesday, Jan. 25.

A general election for school board members, as well as several Colby Community College trustees and city council members, will be Tuesday, April 5. Primaries, if needed, would be held Tuesday, March 1.

Four positions each are up for election on boards in Colby, Oakley, Grinnell, Brewster and Golden Plains and three seats in the Triplains district around Winona. All six districts cover parts of Thomas County.

Filing is open until noon on Jan. 25. Anyone who wants to run must file with the county clerk. There is a filing fee of \$5, or a candidate may present a petition signed by 50 registered voters from the district.

The four seats on the Colby board are "at-large," meaning they are voted on by all registered voters in the district, rather than being divided up by districts. The four candidates with the highest vote totals will win. Terms are four years.

The four seats are currently held by Kevan Taylor, Ed Geihlsler, Omar Weber and Stan Molstad.

Taylor, who has been on the board for eight years, said he is not running for re-election. Taylor said he has enjoyed his time on the board, but said it was time to step down.

"I'm still interested in what goes on in USD 315," he said, "but being that my kids are out of school now and I've been on for eight years, it's time to let someone else try."

Geihlsler has already filed for re-election. He was appointed by the board to fill Joel Powell's seat when he resigned in June. Geihlsler said his time on the board has been challenging because of the state budget crisis.

"It would be nice to come to a board meeting and hear 'we're rich,'" he said, "but the future is pretty grim."

Geihlsler said despite the budget crunch, the district has pulled together to get things done. He said his top priorities are communication, supporting the staff and putting kids first.

Geihlsler is a foreman at Ken Frahm Farms.

Weber said he will be running for re-election. He was first elected in 2007, and said he's pleased and proud to be a part of the board

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Mayor, four council seats will be on April ballots

By Andy Heintz

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Four council seats and the mayor's position will be up for grabs in the April 5 Colby city elections.

Voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at

the Community Building. If necessary, a primary will be held on March 1. Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms said people can start requesting advance ballots now for the primary. The clerk's office will start sending out mail ballots on Wednesday, Feb. 9, and be open for in-person voting starting Feb. 22.

For the general election, advance ballots will be mailed out on Wednesday, March 16, and the office will be open for voting Tuesday, March 29.

The city seats are currently held by Beverly Eicher, Ward II; Patrick Mallory, Ward I; council president Jim Brown, Ward III; Fred Taylor, Ward IV; and May-

or Ken Bieber, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said.

Ward I covers the northeast side of town, including Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and 10th streets.

Ward II covers everything else north of Fourth Street.

Ward III covers everything south of

Fifth Street to Walnut and Pine.

Ward IV covers the south end of town, from Walnut and Pine to the city limits.

Eicher and Taylor both said they won't be running for another term. Taylor said he was out of town too much to handle

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County reappoints department heads

By Vera Sloan

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Thomas County Commissioners spent their first meeting of the year approving appointments to various county departments, swearing in newly elected officials, naming members of the fair board and approving holidays for the year.

Laura Volk was sworn in as Thomas County Register of Deeds and Byron Sowers for a second term as commissioner from District I.

Commissioners elected Ken Christiansen to continue as chairman for another year, a position he has filled for the past four years.

Officials reappointed for 2011

include director of the county Health Department, Kasiah Rothchild; director of emergency management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Susan McMahan; coroner, Dr. Darren Matchell; director of noxious weed and prairie dog control and road supervisor, Clair Schrock; household hazardous waste and landfill supervisor, Larry Jumper; emergency medical services and 911 director, Ken Gatlin; emergency service medical advisor and county health officer, Dr. Steven Bear; and radiological officer, Scott Hilbrink.

Although each member of the Colby Fire Department and Emer-

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A weather-related delay



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The weekend snowstorm forced a brief halt in construction at Colby's new pool, but work resumed Thursday. Crews have already completed most of the exterior of the poolhouse and the front parking lot.

Briefly

Scouts selling spaghetti at game

Boy Scout Troop 141 will have a spaghetti supper at 5 p.m. Friday at the Community Building before the Colby High School girls basketball game against Ulysses. Proceeds will go to the troop. For information, call Alan Sager at 443-1625.

Brewster fund raiser Saturday

The Northwest Kansas Heritage Center Library and Museum of Brewster will have its annual meeting and potluck dinner at noon Saturday at Hunter Hall. The Brewster Grade School music department and the girls from Victory House will provide entertainment. For information, call the museum at 694-2891.

Soup benefit to help heart patient

A benefit soup supper for Alex Rosales will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday in the Sacred

Heart Catholic Church basement. Rosales had quadruple bypass surgery Nov. 26 and since has had two heart attacks. Money raised will help him pay medical and transport expenses. For information, call the church at 460-7167.

Chronic disease topic of series

Citizens Medical Center will hold the next sessions of the Kansas Optimizing Health Program, a six-week chronic disease support workshop, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Mondays from next week through Feb. 21, in the hospital's conference room. The free class will meet for 2 1/2 hours once a week. The hospital encourages a \$30 donation to cover materials. Enrollment is limited. To register, call dietitian Courtney McCarty at (785) 460-4849.

Commodities available Jan. 24

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will distribute

commodities from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program office at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park. Commodities are given according to income guidelines and distribution is first-come, first-served. Participants are asked to not arrive before 12:30 p.m. Commodities include canned pork, peanut butter, rice cereal, mixed vegetables, corn, juice, rotini, milk and fig pieces. For information, call the program office at 462-6744.

Conservation group to meet

The Local Work Group, experts who provide guidance to Kansas Technical Committee of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on conservation issues, will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, 915 W. Walnut St. For information, call Debbie Potter at the Thomas County Conservation District at 462-7482.

Scrapbook day Feb. 5 at school

Heartland Christian School will hold a scrapbooking party from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at the school. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students for a full day, and \$15 for adults and \$8 for students for half a day. Meals are included. To make a reservation, call Lucy Wood at (785) 460 2721 or the school at 460 6419. To preorder supplies, please call Sally Runnalls in the evenings at (785) 672-4910.

