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## Three trustee spots open for election

By Andy Heintz

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April elections will determine three spots on the Colby Community College board.

The general election for the college trustees, as well as elections for six area school boards and four City Council members, will be Tuesday, April 5. Primaries would be Tuesday, March 1, if needed.

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

The positions on the college board that will be voted on are held by Mark Winger, senior vice president of administration at Farm Credit of western Kansas; Dale Herschberger, a commodity broker for ZEZ Commodities; and Arlen Leiker, a driver for United Postal Service.

Winger said today he didn't want to comment as to whether he will be running again. Herschberger and Leiker could not be reached this morning.

The deadline to file for office is Tuesday, Jan. 25. Anyone who wants to run must file with Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms, or for city election, with the city clerk. The filing fee is \$5, or a candidate may present a petition signed by

50 registered voters from the district or city.

The college board has a lot on its plate these days. It is searching for a new president to replace Lynn Kreider, who resigned in September. The board had voted not to renew his contract in April.

The board hired Dr. Max Heim as interim president in early October. Heim, a retired college professor and school superintendent, is helping the college search for a permanent president.

The trustees must develop ways to deal with the college's shaky budget situation. Colby is expected to fall \$400,000 short of the \$12.76 million budget for the current year. Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, said the shortfall stems from a 7.5 percent decline in credit hours taken last year and having 50 fewer students living in the dorms than expected. He said the college will likely run "in the red" some \$300,000 to \$400,000, which will deplete cash reserves.

Waites said the school could face a bigger crisis in the 2011-2012 school year, adding that he recommends next year's budget be based on \$1.2 million to \$1.4 million less revenue. The college will not be able to cut the budget by a million without affecting "people costs," Waites said.

Ideas that were thrown out

See "TRUSTEE," Page 3

## Few will close for King holiday

Only a few area offices and business will be closed Monday for Martin Luther King Day.

Federal offices, including the Farm Service Agency and post offices, will close and there will be no mail delivery.

State offices will be closed, including the Colby Workforce Center and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The Department of Revenue driver's license station is always closed Mondays.

Banks, including the Farmers and Merchants Dillon's branch, will be closed.

County and city offices will be open, however, and trash trucks will follow regular routes.

All area schools except for Triplains in Winona will have classes Monday. Heartland Christian School students have been creating Martin Luther King-themed art projects to hang on the walls.

## Governor faces questions, criticism over consolidation plan

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer

TOPEKA — Gov. Sam Brownback disclosed Thursday that he wants to abolish the agency that runs Medicaid in Kansas and have another department absorb the massive program as part of a series of changes to make state government more efficient.

The governor also plans to close a state hospital for the developmentally disabled and turn over the state Parole Board's responsibilities to the prison system, according to his proposed budget plan. His

administration argued that the changes would save about \$9.2 million during the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Interest groups and legislators quickly questioned his ideas, with some of the criticism coming from Brownback's fellow Republicans. Senate Vice President John Vratil, a Leawood Republican, questioned whether the savings — in a budget of \$13.9 billion — would be worth the political trouble.

"It is insignificant in the big picture," Vratil said of the savings. "That's what we've known for years, is that, yeah, we could consolidate state government and

reorganize, but there's a heavy political price to pay for very few dollars."

Under the governor's plan, six state agencies would be eliminated and their programs or duties would be sent to existing agencies. Brownback also wants to convert the Kansas Arts Commission from a government agency into a private, nonprofit group and put the Human Rights Commission under the attorney general's office, instead of keeping it as a free-standing group.

Some ideas Brownback is pursuing have been floating around the Statehouse for several years, but the state needs to

close a \$550 million budget shortfall projected for the next fiscal year.

"I think we're in the budget situation now where we have the window to really see these efficiencies in state government," said Landon Fulmer, the governor's policy director.

Also tucked into Brownback's proposed budget, in six terse sentences amid several hundred pages of text and tables, is a plan to close the Kansas Neurological Institute by 2014. It's the state hospital for the developmentally disabled in Topeka, and Brownback spokeswoman Sherriene Jones-Sontag said the goal is to start

a conversation about how best to care for the residents.

An advisory commission proposed closing KNI in 2009, and moving patients to community programs and the state's other hospital for the developmentally disabled in Parsons. But former Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson blocked the plan, after Topeka officials and legislators protested.

Brownback's proposed budget assumes a \$659,000 reduction in KNI's budget for the next fiscal year, as residents start mov-

See "GOVERNOR," Page 3

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has a 1-year-old female, black-and-white lab mix available for adoption. 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.

### 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 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 Kansans 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. 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 on 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, call Sally Runnalls in the evenings at (785) 672 4910.

### Hospital offers blood-sugar class

Because of the snow, Citizens Medical Center has postponed Journey for Control, a class about monitoring blood sugar for diabetics which had been scheduled for Tuesday, until Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the hospital. For information or to register, call dietitian Courtney McCarty at (785) 460-4849.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

World War II Veteran Dale Deaver (left) examined a display of military memorabilia at the Prairie Museum of Art and History on Thursday. Museum Registrar Chris Griffin (below) helped set up the display along with a traveling Anne Frank exhibit.

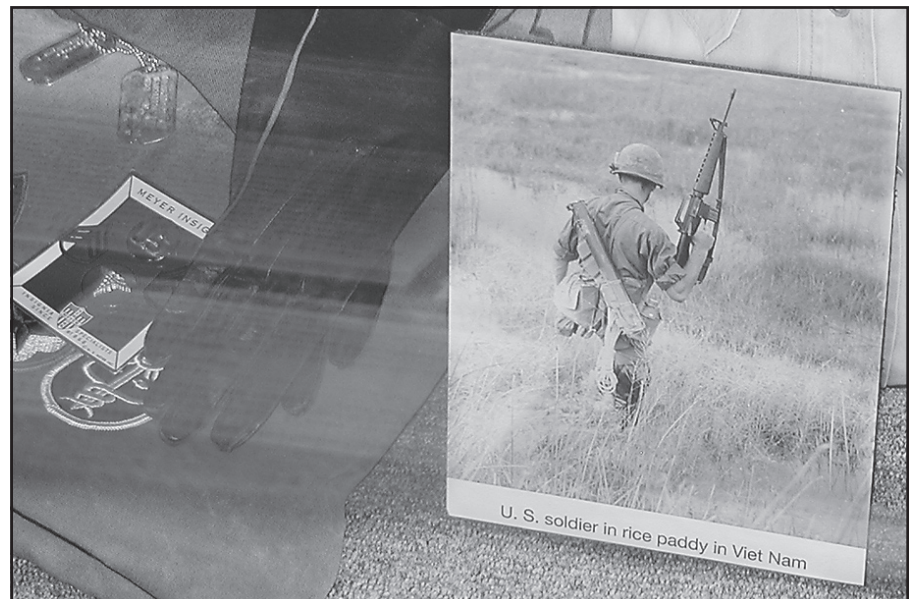
## Slices of History

Although they are not set to open until Tuesday, the two new exhibits at the Prairie Museum of Art and History are up and ready for viewing.

"Over Here! Over There" is a collection of uniforms, weapons, pictures and other war souvenirs donated by area veterans. The exhibit includes 63 uniforms, from World War I to Desert Storm, said Director Sue Taylor, so many that the museum doesn't have room to display them all at once. Registrar Chris Griffin said the exhibit is intended to be permanent, but the uniforms will rotate on display.

A traveling exhibit from the Anne Frank Center occupies the museum's main floor. Thirty-four panels chronicle the life of Frank, a Jewish German teenage who went into hiding in Amsterdam during the Holocaust. Education Director Ann Minor said that, in addition to telling Frank's story, the panels relate the Holocaust to modern-day human-rights issues.

The museum is planning a Business After Five event with the Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Jan. 26, to showcase the new exhibits.



The military exhibit includes duty uniforms and dress uniforms from World War II (left) donated by area veterans. It also has several photos taken in Vietnam (above) by Rich Hawkins of Colby.

## Briefly



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