



Instructor selected by association

Colby Community College piano instructor Pat Ziegelmeier has been selected as the Northwest Kansas Music Educators Association's 2012 College Music Educator of the Year.



P. Ziegelmeier

She will receive her award on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Fort Hays State University during the Honor High School Concert.

Ziegelmeier began at the college in 1989 after completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Wyoming and a master's in educational administration at Fort Hays State University. She teaches piano, keyboard skills, harmony and fundamentals of music classes. In addition, she is the accompanist for the college concert choir and Sunflower Sing-

ers. In addition to her other awards and achievements, Ziegelmeier was honored during the Colby Community College Commencement held in May 2011 as the recipient of the Tange-man Award for Teaching Excellence.

Criteria for the Tange-man Award include service to the institution and to the community, professional activities and excellent teaching practices with satisfactory results.

As well as teaching, Ziegelmeier plays the piano and organ at a number of public events each year and is very active in the Western Plains Arts Association.

She and her husband Carl have five adult children. They are all graduates of Colby Community College.

Candidates set for final weeks

By Ben Feller and Steve Peoples

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rumbling into its final four weeks, the presidential campaign is playing out on both coasts and multiple fronts, with Republican Mitt Romney seeking stature on foreign affairs and President Barack Obama raising political cash by the millions.

Negative ads, charges of dishonesty and dwindling time are all setting the tone.

Joining celebrities for fundraising in Los Angeles on Sunday, Obama for the first time needed himself over a poor debate performance. But he declared he had the right focus and "I intend to win."

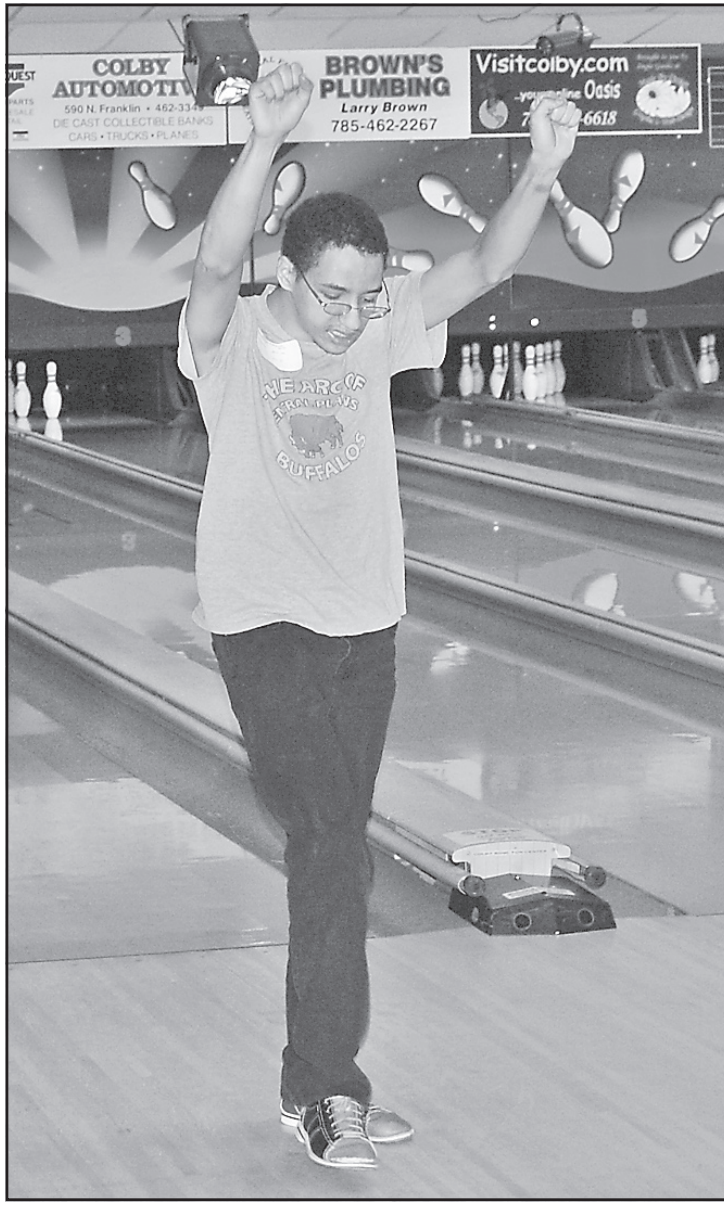
Romney was in Virginia, trying to bury the memories of his fum-

bled trip abroad this summer and knock Obama back on national security. "Hope is not a strategy," he said in excerpts of a speech today at the Virginia Military Institute.

The campaigns also were eyeing the next debate, the sole faceoff between Vice President Joe Biden and the GOP running mate, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, which will grab even more attention as the Thursday night event nears. Ryan's challenge is to overcome his lack foreign policy expertise or national debate experience against Biden, who has extensive experience on both fronts.

Ryan said voters are paying closer attention as Election Day approaches and accused the Democratic ticket of distorting the

See "RACE," Page 2



Special Olympics holds bowling event

Special Olympics athletes (above) from across western Kansas came to a regional Kansas Special Olympics bowling tournament Saturday morning. About 50 Special Olympics athletes showed up (left) to participate in the games, starting at 9:45 a.m. at Colby Bowl and Fun Center. Thomas County Visitor's Bureau Director Leilani Thomas (below left) showed up at the bowling alley to congratulate Special Olympics volunteer Denise Mentlick, who was honored with a certificate for her work for Kansas Special Olympics just before the start of the tournament.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Time to say goodbye



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Former county employee Francis Britton (left) shook hands with Clair Schrock, head of the county's Road and Bridge Department, at his retirement party Friday afternoon in the courthouse. Britton had worked for the department since 1999.

Marijuana, cash found on suspects

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press sdieter@nwkansas.com

A traffic stop last Monday resulted in two men who had been driving with a stash of money and drugs being jailed.

James Allen Lingo and Fernando Navarro were arrested at 11:19 a.m. Monday after a routine traffic stop. Undersheriff Marc Finley pulled the two over in the Walmart parking lot and began to feel something was off while talking to them.

"Through their general con-

versation during the traffic stop I became suspicious of their activities," Finley said.

That suspicion led him to ask to search the car. After getting consent to do so, he found \$15,000 in cash and "a little bit" of marijuana inside. Both the narcotics and cash were seized by the Thomas County Sheriff's Office.

Navarro and Lingo were both arrested for possession and distribution of drugs and money laundering. They were released from the Thomas County Jail with charges pending.

Commissioner in rehab

Thomas County Commissioner Byron Sowers is hoping to be back in Colby soon after suffering from a ruptured aneurysm earlier this year, his wife Linda said Thursday.

Linda Sowers said her husband was moved from Denver to rehab at Hays Medical Center about a week ago and he should be out in about three more weeks. She has been staying in a hotel in Hays while Byron has a room at the center.

"I'm sure he'll try to get back as soon as he can," she said. How long until he can start

working again after getting back to Colby is uncertain, Linda said. He was hospitalized in Denver for four months before going to Hays, but he has often participated in conference calls. Sowers has been a commissioner since 2007.

"I just really want to let people know that we appreciated all of the cards, the visits, the prayers and thought that they had for Byron and I," she said, "it means a lot."

