



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

75¢

Thursday

December 13, 2012
Volume 123, Number 194
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Commissioner attends second meeting

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkanas.com

Thomas County Commissioner Byron Sowers attended his second meeting Monday since suffering from a ruptured aneurysm about six months ago, although he has often participated in meetings via conference



Byron Sowers

call. His wife, Linda, accompanied him since he is not yet able to drive. He also attended the last November meeting, on Friday, Nov. 30. "His recovery is nothing short of a miracle," said his wife, "and it has been overwhelming to receive such good encouragement from people here. We've gotten

lots of support. Visits to the hospital were especially helpful for him to see familiar faces. "The cards and the prayers have been helpful, too. And it's just so great to be back home." Mrs. Sowers said he spent about four months at various hospitals and rehabilitation centers in Denver, then spent a month in Hays before being transferred home Oct. 24.

He continues to do physical therapy and rehabilitation about three times a week. "We've been told that the odds of living through an aneurysm are low," she said, "and that if it happens, the quality of life isn't very good. Byron is speaking, walking, eating and living. It really is a miracle, and he is recovering better than anyone ever thought." She and her husband said their two sons have been managing their farm since

they've been gone and two of their granddaughters have pitched in to take care of their lawn and sale barn. "I don't remember most of it," he said, "and I didn't realize I was in that bad of shape. We are thankful for everyone who has helped, and I'm so glad to be back in my routine. "It is much better to be at meetings than to listen on the phone."



Fourth graders sing carols for program

About 40 Colby Grade School fourth graders (above) sang carols last week in the program "Forever Christmas" held in the school auditorium. The performance included a half dozen Christmas carolers, with some kids dressing up as Christmas characters, including Nathan Hurst as Frosty the Snowman (right), and others singing solos. Billy Bradley dressed up as Santa (below).

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press



'Lincoln' leads Golden Globe nominations

By David Germain
AP Movie Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Steven Spielberg's Civil War epic "Lincoln" led the Golden Globes today with seven nominations, among them best drama, best director for Spielberg and acting honors for Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field and Tommy Lee Jones.

Tied for second-place with five nominations each, including best drama are Ben Affleck's Iran hostage-crisis thriller "Argo" and

Quentin Tarantino's slave-turned-bounty-hunter tale "Django Unchained." Other best-drama nominees put forward by The Hollywood Foreign Press Association are Ang Lee's shipwreck story "Life of Pi" and Kathryn Bigelow's Osama bin Laden manhunt thriller "Zero Dark Thirty." Nominated for best musical or comedy were: the British retiree adventure "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"; the Victor Hugo musical "Les Miserables"; the first-love tale "Moonrise Kingdom"; the fishing romance "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen"; and the

lost-soul romance "Silver Linings Playbook." Globe attention can give contenders a boost for Hollywood's top honors, the Academy Awards, whose nominations come out Jan. 10, three days before the Globe ceremony. The directing lineup came entirely from dramatic films, with Affleck, Bigelow, Lee, Spielberg and Tarantino all in the running. "It's very gratifying to get this many nominations from the HFPA for a film I worked so hard on and am so passionate about. I look forward to having fun at the Golden Globes with my cast mates and

fellow nominees," Tarantino said in a statement. Filmmakers behind best musical or comedy nominees were shut out for director, including Tom Hooper for "Les Miserables" and David O. Russell for "Silver Linings Playbook." Along with Day-Lewis as Abraham Lincoln in Spielberg's epic, best dramatic actor contenders are Richard Gere as a deceitful Wall Streeter in "Arbitrage"; John Hawkes as a polio victim trying to lose his virginity in "The Sessions"; Joaquin Phoenix as a Navy

See "LINCOLN," Page 2

Colby College won't leave its conference

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
kcornett@nwkanas.com

The Colby Community College president and athletic director updated the trustees about an ongoing situation in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference during the board meeting last month. President Stephen Vacik said he was on a conference call in late November with representatives of some schools interested in leaving the conference. Those involved were Dodge City, Garden City, Coffeyville, Colby, Cloud County, Cowley County and Pratt community colleges and the Northwest Kansas Technical College. Barton County did not participate in the call, although officials had said they were planning to, and Seward County declined. Vacik said he wanted to listen in on the call because many of the schools around Colby were considering this course, so he wanted to know what was going on. He said three or four of these

schools appeared to be genuinely interested in leaving the conference and want to live under the rules of the National Junior College Athletic Association, which is not as limiting on scholarships, out-of-state students and other things. Vacik said he thinks that could be a problem for Colby because the college would have to put more and more into sports programs to remain competitive. "I'm of the opinion that we should stay put with what we have," he said. "I am, at this point, not inclined to proceed any further." At the Nov. 26 board meeting, Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy and trustee Cindy Black agreed with Vacik, and this week, Sturdy said he still thinks Colby should stay put. "I haven't personally talked to the schools interested in leaving," he said, "but as far as I'm concerned, I think it's to our advantage to stay in the conference." During the meeting, Sturdy said

See "COLLEGE," Page 2

Accidents send three to hospital

By Sam Dieter
Colby Free Press
sdieter@nwkanas.com

Four people went to the hospital Sunday after two accidents near Colby, including one on Interstate 70 in which a semi-trailer rig rear-ended another semi while moving down the freeway. The semis collided at 2:35 a.m. about a mile west of the Thomas-Sherman County line near Brewster. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Stanley Knott, 44, of Oklahoma City was eastbound when his trailer was hit from behind by an eastbound rig driven by Gretchen Hagedorn, 50, Thornton, Colo. The collision sent Stanley Knott and a passenger, Barbara G. Knott, 44, to Goodland Regional Medical Center. Hagedorn did not go to the hospital, but her passenger, Jeffrey L. Gallahar, 55, of Wood-

land Park, Colo., did. Both drivers were wearing seat belts, the patrol said, but their passengers were in the sleeper cabs and were thrown around by the impact. Officials at the hospital said they couldn't talk about their conditions. About 8:15 p.m., Trooper Andy Schippers reported, Joseph Buster, 32, of Goodland was driving south on Thomas County Road 26 and lost control of his pickup near Road K, about a mile east of the Mingo interchange on I-70. The 2001 Chevrolet Silverado slid and went into the west ditch sideways, the report says, rolling 1 1/2 times before coming to rest on its top facing northwest. The location is about seven miles east of Colby and eight miles south of U.S. 24. Buster, who was wearing a seatbelt, was treated at Citizen's Medical Center, then released.

New Senate leaders ponder rules panel

TOPEKA (AP) — The Kansas Senate's new Republican leaders are weighing changes in how the chamber settles disputes over its rules. Incoming Senate President Susan Wagle said Wednesday one possibility is forming a rules committee, similar to one in the House. New Majority Leader Terry Bruce of Hutchinson said another possibility is appointing a parliamentarian.

In the House, when questions arise, rules committee members have impromptu meetings in the chamber, and the chairman makes a finding. However, the House can vote to overrule the decision. In the Senate, the member presiding over debates or votes makes a decision, subject to being overridden by the chamber. Any changes in that practice would be considered after the 2013 session opens in January.

