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Board elections coming up for county

By Sam Dieter

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coming up in Thomas County, with a total the elections. of 23 seats open for elections set for Tuesday, April 2.

Candidates must file by noon Tuesday to get on the ballot for the elections. If too many candidates file in any district, a withdrawn after the deadline. primary will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

ty College board and six school districts Brewster, Triplains (Winona), Oakley and with land in Thomas County.

As of Thursday afternoon, only four College and school board elections are candidates, all incumbents, had filed for four school board positions open, while

> To file, a candidate must pay the county election officer - County Clerk Shelly

The elections cover the Colby Communiare Colby Public Schools, Golden Plains, filed for Golden Plains.

Grinnell.

Triplains and Golden Plains both have the other school districts and the college board all have three.

Harms – \$5 or have a petition signed by hbiel has filed for the college election, 50 voters in their district. No filing can be board Vice President Tracy Rogers has terms are: Terry Moss and Teri Brantley at a board with three open positions, 10 or filed for the Colby board, and board mem-The six school districts in this county bers Matt Cheney and Todd Schwarz has

School Board, said she plans to file, but board member Susan McLemore said she will not. Scott Maurath, president of the Oakley School Board, says he's retiring. Duane Vollbracht, a member of the Grin-College board member Kenton Kre- nell board, said he does not plan to file.

Other board members with expiring Golden Plains; Stuart Schmidt, Ed Acker- more candidates must file, Harms said. man and Nicolas Schroeder at Brewster; For a board with four open positions, Anita Gabel and Debbie Runnalls at Oak- there will be a primary if 13 or more file.

Janice Frahm, president of the Colby ley; Mark Hanson, board president, Molly Lamb, Shawn Plummer and Dathan Nichols at Triplains and Loren Stephens and Marcie Wolf at Grinnell.

Harms said that school board and college board members both have four-year

For there to be a primary election for

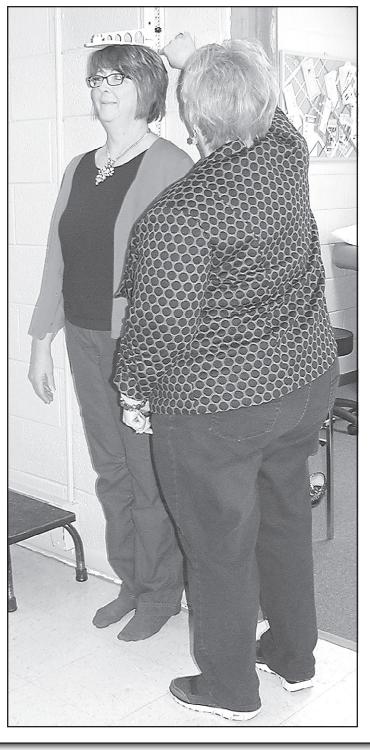


People weigh in for county challenge

Julie Barnes (above) had her blood pressure taken Tuesday at the "weigh in" for the Thomas County Wellness Challenge. People like Donna Henry (right) came to the Thomas County Health Department all day to get measurements of their height, blood pressure and waistline. The last measurement was weight, which Lori Weinman (below, left) learned with the help of Monique Cheatum, a nurse at the department.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press





County fights ferret releases by state service

By Christina Beringer

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Thomas County commissioners expressed opposition to an agreement among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 12 western states and four other federal agencies on them to be removed from the enfuture releases of black-footed ferrets, an endangered species that feeds on prairie dogs, In Washington on Thursday,

Rep. Tim Huelskamp said the service had granted a one-month extension on the comment period for the agreement, with comments now due by Sunday, Feb. 17. Commissioners drafted a let-

ter stating their opposition during their meeting Monday, approved and signed it. According to material sent by

the Fish and Wildlife Service, the agreement would govern future releases of the ferrets, similar to two in Logan County a few years ago. See "COUNTY," Page 2

Landowners would get a promise that no additional restrictions would be placed on their property.

One goal would be to increase the number of the animals in the wild from about 500 today to 3,000 over 10 years, allowing dangered list and management to go from federal control back to the state wildlife agencies. Kansas is among the states in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which helped write the agreement.

Action came after Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock told commissioners of an e-mail he received regarding the release. Linda Sowers said she and her husband, Commissioner Byron Sowers, had received the same information. She has been attending meetings with Sowers since his

Offices, banks close for holiday

be celebrated Monday, but about closed. the only things that will shut down for the holiday will be state and federal offices and banks.

The K-State Research and Extension office will be closed Monday, as will the state driver's license office and Veterans Affairs Also closed that day will be all

Conservation Service offices in Colby.

shut down except the Farmers state agency, will be closed. and Merchants branch at Dillons. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day.

People's State Bank, Sunflower have classes.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day will Bank and The Bank will all be

Most local government offices. however, will be open. City Hall will be open regular hours along with the Public Works office and the Thomas County Courthouse. The Thomas County landfill will be open and city trash trucks will run their regular routes.

The Thomas County Office post offices and the U.S. Depart- Complex and Pioneer Memorial ment of Agriculture Farm Service Library will also be open regular Agency and Natural Resources hours. The Senior Progress Center will remain open, too. However, the district court office in the All of the banks in town will courthouse, which is considered a

Other businesses that are usually open on Mondays will remain open for the holiday. All schools The main location, Bankwest, and the community college will

Seminar will help people make changes

A seminar is being offered at health-based lifestyle choices Colby Community College next like stopping smoking or losing week to help people make better lifestyle choices.

The free seminar, "Lasting Health Behavior Changes for 2013," will begin at 7 p.m. Tuesday in room 711 of the Bedker Memorial Complex.

ary because of the whole new

who organized the seminar. Hale, who teaches sports psychology and works as a counsel- hour and 15 minutes, he said. or, said the seminar is based on the "seven precursors to change"

model used in counseling. The idea is to help people make weight, but could be used for any type of change in habits, he said. There are seven areas, such as

knowing that a change is needed, in which people may falter when trying to change habits, Hale said

"We just look at the differ-"We wanted to offer it in Janu- ent areas where people may be strong, people may be weak," he year's resolution thing," said Ryan said, "there's usually something Hale, an instructor at the college in these seven precursors, where you know, they need help.'

The seminar will last about an

