



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Council has openings in four seats

By Sam Dieter

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Four seats on the Colby City Council are open in the coming spring election, and it seems as if all four incumbents may leave their seats up for grabs.

The terms for Councilmen Phil DeYoung, Dave Voss, Tim Hutfles and Mark Beringer are all expiring this year. The election will be Tuesday, April 2, with a primary on Tuesday, Feb. 26, if enough candidates file.

The deadline to file for the seats is noon Tuesday. As of this morning, no one had filed for two of the seats, in Wards 1 and 3, and there was only one candidate each in two others, Wards 4 and 2.

DeYoung, in Ward 1, the only candidate who was not sure if he was going to run, said this morning that "I'm probably leaning towards not filing."

He originally joined the council in May to take the place of Omar Weber, who left to become the city's public works director. He said that while he finished out Weber's term and helped the city find a new manager, he had been considering running one more time.

DeYoung is the technology coordinator for the Colby School District.

Beringer, in Ward 4; Hutfles in

Ward 3; and Voss in Ward 2 all said they would not run.

"I've done two terms," Hutfles said, "and it's been fun, but it's time for somebody else to step up, I guess."

Beringer said simply that he is retiring.

Francis Britton, a former county employee, said he will run for that seat. Britton recently retired from the county road and bridge department. He said he was on the council from 1991 to 2001.

"I just wanted to do it again because it's a very interesting job," Britton said.

Bill Mariman, a current employee of the road and bridge department, said that he is running for Voss's seat, originally thinking that he would have to run against him.

"Nothing against Dave," he added.

Mariman is the highway foreman for the department, a job he held for about 10 years. He said he started there as an equipment operator.

"I've been working for the county for 21 years and I kind of know streets and asphalt and equipment," Mariman said.

He said that this was a good time in his life to run for the council, since he just turned 50 and his

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## City OKs tour to sleep in park

By Sam Dieter

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The Colby City Council gave a charity bike tour permission to have riders sleep in Fike Park this summer on its way across the country.

"I know sleeping in the park is not normally accepted," City Manager Tyson McGreer said before the council voted.

He said the Sea to Sea 2013 Bike Tour will stop in Colby on Wednesday, July 17, on its way from Los Angeles to New York. Organizers asked the city to allow the riders to sleep in the park in one-man tents and use the restrooms and showers at the Community Building.

A website says the tour was set up to raise money and awareness for people living in poverty worldwide. The cyclists will spend nine weeks on the 3,900-mile cross-country trip and are asked to raise \$10,000 each for the cause. The

Christian Reformed Church is putting the tour on for the third time since 2005. In 2008, the site says, it sent \$1.5 million to agencies fighting poverty.

McGreer said he thought the cyclists would rather sleep in the park, but could stay in the Community Building if the weather is bad.

In other business, the council:

- Awarded a \$39,980 bid to Money Chevrolet of Hill City to replace a condemned dump truck with a newer vehicle. McGreer said there was only one other bid, which did not come close to the city's specifications. Finance Director Debbie Zerr said the street department has set aside \$25,000 for a truck and the department will cover the difference out of its operating budget.

- Discussed how well snow had been removed after recent storms. Weber said that since both blizzards happened over the holidays,

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## Wreck sends man to Denver hospital

A Park man had to be flown to a Denver hospital after being tossed from his car during a wreck Friday night in Grinnell.

The report from the Kansas Highway Patrol identified the victim as Edmund J. McDonald, 34. The patrol reported McDonald was driving east on K-216 through Grinnell at 8:45 p.m. Friday when he apparently lost control of his 2010 Ford pickup. The pickup went through the south ditch and flew into the air after striking an embankment. It

finally came to rest on its top after rolling about two times, but McDonald, who was not wearing a seat belt, was thrown out.

The highway also is known as Old U.S. 40 in Grinnell.

The report said that McDonald was flown to Swedish Medical Center in Denver after being taken to Oakley Medical Center. At Swedish, his condition had been listed as critical over the weekend, but this morning, a spokesman at the hospital said she'd have to check on him.



## High school gives crowd performances

The Colby High dancers and cheerleaders (above) collaborated on a routine Thursday for the Orange and Black Basketball Classic at the Community Building. The crowd was full (left) for the first Colby games of the tournament and fans cheered as the players were announced. The dance team recruited junior dancers (below), who performed for the crowd during halftime of the varsity girls' game.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press



## Kansas congressman meets opposition

By John Hanna

AP Political Writer



T. Huelskamp

**COTTONWOOD FALLS** – The town hall meeting inside the historic Chase County Courthouse should have been a homecoming for Kansas Congressman Tim Huelskamp, in friendly Republican territory, far away from his headline-making confrontations with leaders in his own party over the fiscal cliff and his opposition to House Speaker John Boehner.

Instead he got an earful from an audience member, who stood to challenge him on budget issues. The result was a combative back-and-forth about reducing the federal deficit and Huelskamp's refusal to brook any proposal to raise taxes. So much for a gathering that Huelskamp insisted is an example of "the best part of my job."

Such spats are becoming old hat for Huelskamp, who since his 2010 election to the U.S. House has be-

come a congressional spokesman for the tea party, angering fellow Republicans along the way and raising questions about his effectiveness representing the state. He's undeterred, and he opened his event in Cottonwood Falls by showing off a blown-up copy of his House voting card.

Huelskamp's high-profile tussle with Boehner and other GOP leaders has proven costly to him and his home state. They've stripped Huelskamp of a plum assignment on the House Budget Committee and what has been for decades Kansas' automatic seat on the

Agriculture Committee. There's been speculation for months about whether a much-sought, \$1.14 billion federal biosecurity lab planned near Kansas State University will have additional problems getting funded. Huelskamp's conflicts fit snugly into the arc of the political career that's taken the western Kansas farmer and rancher to Washington. He'd scrapped

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