



Newcomers will fight for council spot

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Four seats on the Colby City Council are up for election this spring; while two people are running for two of the seats and two others filed for a third, the fourth is open to write-in candidates. All four councilmen whose four-year terms expire this year decided not to run again. Phil DeYoung served on the council representing Ward 1, Dave Voss Ward 2, Tim Hutfles Ward 3 and Mark Beringer Ward 4. Lance Bolyard filed as a candidate for DeYoung's seat in Ward 1 and Francis Britton for Beringer's in Ward 4. Bill Mariman and Joshua Faber both filed to run for

Voss's seat in Ward 2, but no one filed to take Hutfles' place in Ward 3. City Manager Tyson McGreer said the seat probably will go to a write-in candidate. If there are no write-ins, he said, the mayor may appoint someone to serve and the city council will need to approve the appointment. The appointee would serve the full term and be up for re-election just like the other council members, he added. Faber, a fourth-grade teacher at Colby elementary school, said he has some experience on governing bodies. He is starting his fourth term on the Republican Central Committee for Thomas County, and serves as county chairman. He

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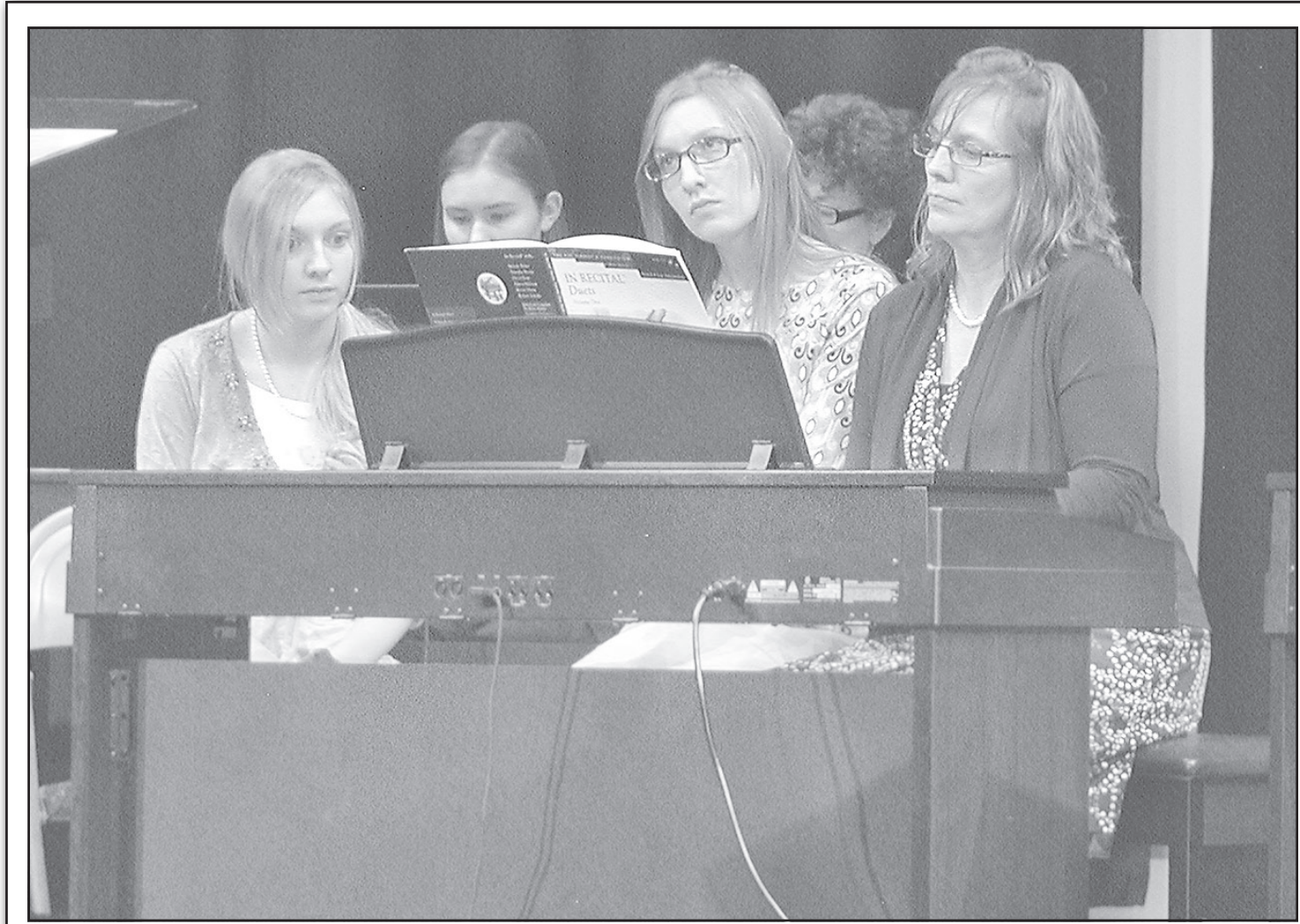
College board goes electronic

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The Colby Community College trustees last Monday approved the use of electronic board packets for all their meetings. "As you can see, the information is out of hand," Chairman Arlen Leiker told the board, gesturing to the packets in front of him. "And our sister institutions already went this route...." He said some places use a program called BoardDocs, including the Kansas Association of School Boards, which allows the board members to access information from home and then at the meeting with a laptop or tablet computer. Leiker said it will save time and paper when preparing for the meetings. Lisa Failla, administra-

tive assistant to the president, said it had taken about nine reams of paper to prepare for the meeting that night. He added that some agencies even provide the members with a computer to make it easier, but the trustees decided that each member should be responsible for their own hardware. Trustees Dale Herschberger and Kenton Krehbiel both said they don't have a laptop or tablet. Joyce Washburn, dean of academic affairs, suggested checking out laptops from the library. Krehbiel asked if sending the information would be similar to how Alan Waites, vice president of business affairs, sends the business office's information now, and

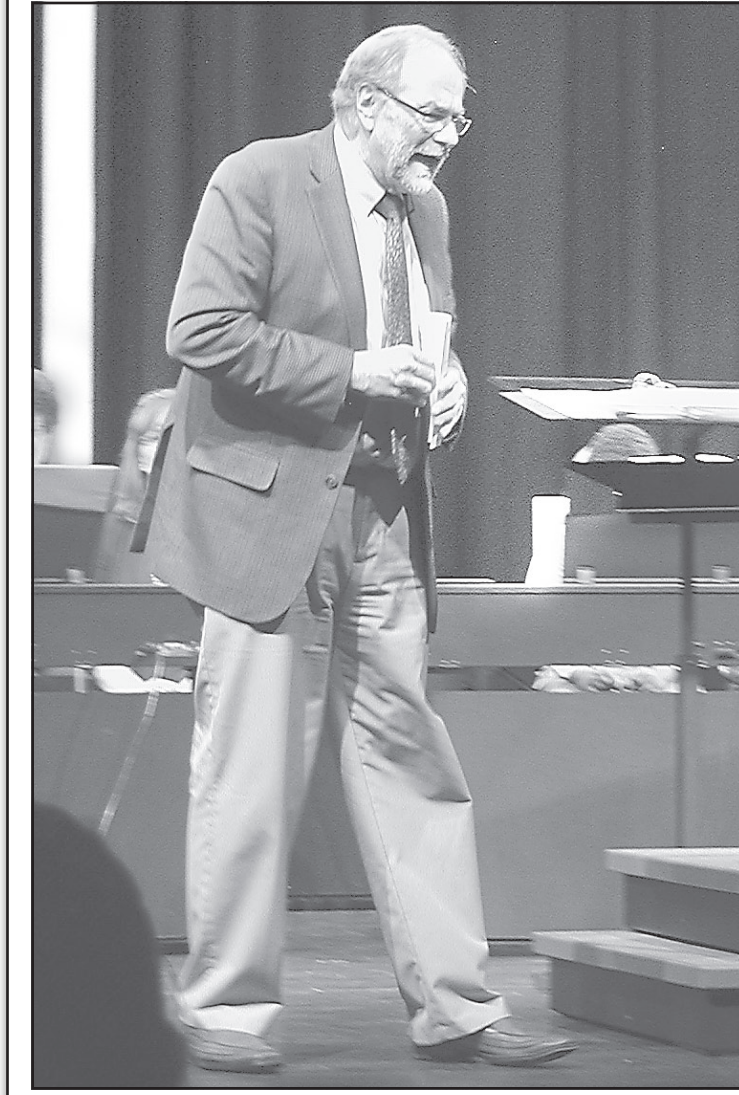
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Colby college holds piano concert

Young pianists from around northwest Kansas (above), played a concert Saturday afternoon in Frahm Theatre at Colby Community College. Dr. Timothy Shook (left) directed the concert, which took place after a day-long clinic coordinated by college music instructor Pat Ziegelmeier. The concert consisted of five separate performances, as about 50 students and a half-dozen adults, including Cheryl Metcalf and Brett Janssen (below) took turns playing nine keyboards.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Adding on to Love's



MARIAN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

A construction worker set up the frame for an addition to Love's Country Store on Fourth Street on Tuesday. By the weekend, they had built a wall covered with bricks for the expansion, which employees said will be used for storage and cooler space.

School board hears report on student computer use

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The Colby School Board heard last Monday how students have been using computers to post homework assignments instead of Facebook statuses, make their own movies and even create books. Andrea Schuette, a sixth-grade language teacher; Debra Collins, a sixth-grade math teacher; Sherry Kinderknecht, a seventh-grade math teacher; Todd Murdock, seventh- and eighth-grade social studies and communications teacher; Troy Rall, a seventh-grade science teacher; and Jason Ostmeyer, a third-grade teacher were joined by Teresa Morgan, extended learning program director for the district. Schuette and Kinderknecht said they both use a website called "edmodo," which has a layout similar

to Facebook, but is designed for education. Kids have their own accounts, but post homework assignments instead of random comments. Teachers can decide whether or not to allow students into a group. "This is not for bff and it's not for lol's," Schuette said. "When you get older, you're going to have to present yourself online." Schuette said she also uses edmodo, and recently took a survey to earn \$50 for a series of new "applications" on the site, used for typing and studying different subjects. The site allows teachers to record photos and videos of teachers and kids working on certain lessons, she said. Kinderknecht added that if kids miss a class, "they don't want to read the math book, they actually want to listen to what's going on in class."

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Barge hits Mississippi River bridge

VICKSBURG, Miss. (AP) - Cleanup crews with booms skimmed a slick from the Mississippi River a day after a barge with more than 80,000 gallons of oil struck a railroad bridge near Vicksburg, spreading a sheen of light crude that kept part of the waterway shut to traffic today. It remained unclear this morning how much oil had leaked into the river, said the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers. The spill backed up at least 24 tugboats, barges and other vessels

on the normally bustling river, said Kavanaugh Breazeale, spokesman for the Corps in Vicksburg. Breazeale said the damaged barges had eight tanks and each could hold 80,000 gallons of oil. He said the investigation had shown that one was pierced above the water line. "It's not leaking that much oil," Breazeale said, adding that the exact amount was not known. Also uncertain was how long the river would remain closed. Coast Guard spokesman Jona-

than Lally said crews are skimming oil that is contained in a boom but that he, too, was unsure much had leaked. Tugs were holding the barge near shore on the Louisiana side of the river, south of the bridge it hit and directly across from Vicksburg's Riverwalk Casino. An orange containment boom

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