



Vote canvass does not change results

By Sam Dieter
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The canvass of votes Monday for the April 2 city council, school board and Colby Community College board elections did not change the results of any races, but it did reveal which write-in candidates won many lesser offices.

include the vote for write-in candidates. On Monday, county commissioners officially approved election results, with no change in the winners. Only one provisional ballot was counted.

The number of votes counted for the Colby City Council was the same after the canvass, but the recheck did confirm that write-in candidate Margaret Tole will take an open seat in Ward 3 with 80 votes. No one filed to run for that seat.

Bill Mariman won a race with Joshua Faber for the council seat in Ward 2, with a 87-60 vote while Lance Bolyard and Francis Britton took seats in Wards 1 and 4 with no opposition.

All the mayoral and city council seats in Menlo and Oakley went to candidates who had not filed by the deadline. Brewster, Rexford and Gem did not have enough candidates file. County Clerk Shelly Harms, who serves as the county

election officer, said all the council seats had been filled.

In Menlo, Richard Fields, Robbie Myers, Kyle Spesser, Dixie Fields and Jeff Munk won the five open seats and Troy Staats was elected mayor.

Frank Munk and incumbent Shawna Allison won the two open seats on the Oakley City Council, with 202 and 287 votes, respectively, in Thomas and Logan counties together. Ron Clark got 184

votes and Jim Kellor 129. Councilman Charles C. Beamer took the open mayor's seat with 230 votes to Coralee Park's 118. Beamer will have to appoint a council member to take his place, but said he is not sure when.

"I've got somebody thinking about it, but they haven't decided yet," he added.

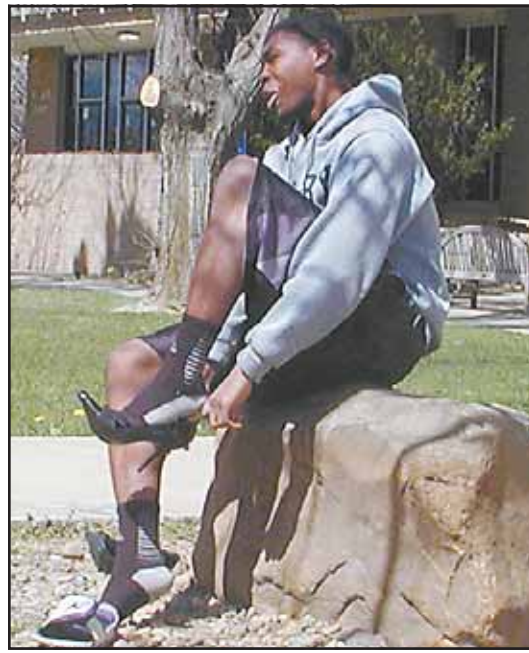
Margaret Flanagan, the only one to

See "CANVASS," Page 2

Men walk in her shoes

The Student Government Association at Colby Community College sponsored a "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event Sunday. Four brave men (right) were willing to show off their high heels: (from left) Robert Monticone, Student Government Association vice president; Keenan Williams; Gunnar Hays; and Charles Keefer, director of residence and campus life. It took some convincing for Williams to try on the high heels (below right), but he and the other three eventually took a long walk around the campus (below). The association had T-shirts for sale (bottom) and the money from those and business donations will be donated to Options Sexual and Domestic Violence Services of Hays, which has an outreach operation in Colby. The event was scheduled as part of Violence Prevention Week at the college.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



No action from county on alcohol sales

By Heather Alwin
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The Thomas County commissioners took no action Monday on a request to allow alcohol sales during races at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, leaving the county's current no-alcohol policy as stands.

Jeff and Kassie Carney, who manage the summer races at the fairgrounds, had asked the county to waive the alcohol ban to allow controlled sales during races.

Kassie Carney presented her plan to the commissioners, which included issuing wristbands to adults who show proof of age and increased security. Staff members would check drinkers' identification, issue them a wristband and keep track of their drink purchases on the band, she said. Anyone who showed signs of intoxication would lose their wristband and be unable to buy more.

Instead of taking action with a vote, the commissioners failed to

come up with a motion on the issue. Basically, they had nothing to vote on.

Carney said she is not sure what the future holds for the track if they cannot serve alcohol at races. They lost money last year, she said, and many of the promotions they would like to use require the ability to sell alcohol.

She said she and Jeff probably will not run the races again next year if they cannot make a profit this year.

In other business, the commissioners

- Approved a request from Kasia Rothchild, director of the Thomas County Health Department, to transfer the remaining money from an Achieve grant to the Thomas County Healthy Communities Coalition for management.

- Approved purchase of three new heating and air conditioning units from McKee Inc. for \$4,800, to be used at the Health Department.

See "COUNTY," Page 2

Obama proposes money for project

By John Milburn
The Associated Press

TOPEKA — President Barack Obama's budget proposal sent to Congress today includes \$714 million to build a new federal biosecurity lab in Kansas, the largest proposed federal expenditure for the project to date.

Republican Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas said the recommendation signals the administration's support for building the \$1.15 billion lab, which will study large animal diseases and develop measures to protect the nation's food supply.

The Department of Homeland Security would build the lab at Kansas State University to replace a facility at Plum Island, N.Y.

The recommendation comes amid federal budget debates over reducing the nation's spending levels and controlling debt, which had prompted some discussion about scaling back the project's size and scope or possibly keeping the current research lab in New York.

Roberts said spending and debt issues haven't changed, nor have federal across-the-board cuts of some \$85 billion, but he was confident the administration was behind getting the new lab built.

Roberts said the proposal will require additional financial commitments from Kansas, which will be worked out by Republican Gov. Sam Brownback and legislators.

Strong snow storm shuts down interstate

Snow and driving wind shut down Interstate 70 from Goodland to Burlington, Colo., last night and into the morning today. Other area roads were reported slick in spots, but highway crews were out treating danger spots with salt and some sand.

The Colby Police, Thomas County Sheriff and Kansas Highway Patrol reported no accidents near town as a result of the storm.

The Kansas Department of Transportation shut down the interstate at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday because of blowing snow. With a construction project underway east of the state line, the pavement of the eastbound lanes is being re-

moved. Traffic in the westbound lanes is "head-to-head," with east and westbound vehicles sharing the single pavement. Kristen Brands, regional spokesman for the department in Norton, said the highway was open again about 6:30 a.m.

Jerry Killingsworth, a meteorologist with the Goodland Weather Station, said one inch of snow was reported near Colby. Little precipitation, and generally clear skies are predicted for the rest of the week.

