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Sacred Heart holds patriotic musical

Principal Laura Krejci (above) led kindergarten and first-grade students in each song Friday afternoon as the kids performed the musical "Patriotic Pals" at Sacred Heart School. Krejci helped preschooler Vance Dempewolf (right) off the risers after he introduced himself. Family members packed into the school that afternoon and evening as the children performed (below). Krejci said the school does a musical each year and decided on a patriotic theme this time.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



College president up for job

By Kayla Cornett
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Dr. Stephen Vacik, president of Colby Community College, has been named as a finalist for president of Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Vacik, who has led the college here for two years this month, is one of three finalists. He told college trustees and administrators about being a finalist on Monday because he had heard newspapers had run an article about it. The Associated Press posted an article on the subject at 5:31 a.m. Monday and the *Topeka-Capital Journal* reposted the same article at 6:17 a.m. Monday.

Vacik was not available for comment this morning.

Trustee Bill Shields said he has mixed emotions about the news, especially since Vacik has helped get the college here back on track.

"He's from that area. That's where his family is. That's home," Shields said. "It's an honor for him to be selected as a finalist there, but he came to Colby at a time when we needed somebody to step in and help get things back on track at the college."

"He's addressed some big challenges here, but I think we've made the corner on many."

Shields added that Vacik has been a guiding force in restoring the college's rapport with the community and faculty.

"I'd hate to see him go," he said. "Everybody's got an opinion, but he came into a challenging role and he's embraced it."

Trustee Kenton Krehbiel said he understands why Vacik would want to go to Shelton State since it's home for him and wishes him the best.

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Art instructor to redo gallery

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Colby Community College art instructor Rebel Jay received a consensus from college trustees Monday to move forward with renovation of the Cultural Arts Center on campus, which could serve as a gallery for regional and national art shows.

Jay said she thinks the center is outdated and the space does not work for walking through the building. She said that she would start the project by taking out a couple of walls and replacing the support structures. She would take the carpet off the walls and floors and put in rusticated wood floors, something that has already been used, and use plywood on the walls where needed.

Then she would then cover the walls in a burlap texture, which would keep people from seeing

nail holes, and paint over it with an earth tone.

Jay said they would take down the ceiling, pin up the wires and then paint everything black to give it a raised appearance. They would put in "black track" lighting and a large glass chandelier right inside the doors.

"I would like it to be something that is timeless," she added.

Jay said she also wants to have a security system and a way to lock the building.

All of this, she said, would be needed so the college could hold national shows, but still have an area to display the work of area artists and students.

"Once we get this all set up and get this going," Jay said, "it could function for dinner theater because there's no carpet on the floor..."

She said with shows such as

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Annual spring Art Walk includes new activities

Colby Community College art instructor Rebel Jay and her students are preparing for the annual Spring Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday in downtown Colby.

"This year's event include many new activities for the kids, lots of good food, works of art in downtown businesses and many performances including music by the Mama's Boys, flash-mob dances by Nicole's School of Dance and other surprise acts," said Jay. "There will truly be something for every age group."

Works of art by students from Colby Public Schools, Heartland Christian School and Sacred

Heart School will be displayed at the dance studio. Works from area high schools will be placed in the Scale House, next to the railroad tracks on Franklin Avenue.

Professional art will be on display in downtown businesses, while college students' work will be in the Creations Gallery.

"A new feature of this year's event is Art Bucks," said Jay. "Art Buck coupons will be given out in each downtown business. These may be used toward

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Legion convention comes here

By Sam Dieter
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At least a hundred people are expected in town this weekend for the annual convention for the

Kansas American Legion's 6th District.

"That encompasses all the American Legion posts from Salina to Colorado and from Interstate 70 to Nebraska," said Colby post Commander Monte Lewis, adding that the district includes 64 posts.

The convention is scheduled for Friday afternoon and all day Sat-

urday at the Legion Hall at 1850 W. Fourth St. The Sleep Inn has been designated as the convention hotel.

Lewis said he was not sure how many people, but hoped for 100 to 150.

"We're still receiving registra-

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Booked for Lunch



Nick Larmer, an emergency medical technician, spoke to a crowd in the basement of the Pioneer Memorial Library on Monday about "People Care," a book he got from his director over the holidays. He was there for the library's *Booked for Lunch*, going on all week, where community members talk about books they have read while listeners eat.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

