



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Kansans blowing out 141 candles

By **PATTY DECKER**

*Free Press Editor*

Kansas is 141 years old today and many organizations have planned activities throughout the week in celebration.

For example, students at Colby Elementary School are learning how to churn butter, make ice-cream or experience the adventures of pioneers traveling across the old West.

The Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin Ave., is hosting a 'Kansas Box Social,' which began today and will continue on Wednesday and Thursday.

"The social begins at noon all three days," said Judy Kleinsorge, education director, "and videos with Kansas-related programs will be shown at 12:15 p.m."

Today's video was entitled, "The 34th Star," and is about a fictional family from Illinois enduring life in early Kansas. Highlights included prairie fire, the Bleeding Kansas era, the Civil War, cattle drives and grasshopper plagues.

Wednesday's video, which was developed by the Sue Taylor, museum director, focuses on a closer look at Colby's buildings and history. On Thursday, a double feature is planned with a tour of Kansas by two award-winning journalists, Larry Hatteberg and Steve Harper. The two short films include, "Faces and Places of Northwest Kansas," and "The Saga of Windwagon

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Judy Kleinsorge  
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Smith."

Museum officials are urging everyone to come out and enjoy these videos and fellowship.

"We thought the idea would be a fun way to acknowledge our state's birthday," Kleinsorge said.

In addition to local activities, state officials unveiled the more than 3,000 letters donated to the Kansas State Historical Society that were written on Oct. 11, 2001 as part of a statewide effort to describe a day in the life of Kansans.

"The letters range from one to over 50 pages and were written by individuals from Kansas communities — small and large," said Ron Thornburgh, secretary of state.

The collection of letters will soon be available for public research at the Center for Historical Research at the Kansas State Historical Society, he said. Kansas became the 34th state in 1861 and during the 1850s was known as "bleeding Kansas" because of the violence between hostile free-staters and proslavery settlers.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Students in Julie Ross' kindergarten class were among many today celebrating the state's 141st birthday by venturing west in oxen-driven wagons, similar to their counterparts more than a century ago. Pictured

in front (left to right) are Andrew Anderson and Abby Friesen; (second row) Page Summers, Page Armbruster, Madison Rogers and Connor Schwanke.

## Clark opposes any tax increase Tax bill on tobacco, alcohol stalled; budget cuts may be in trouble

TOPEKA (AP) — A bill to increase taxes on tobacco and alcohol lacks the votes to clear a Senate committee, and proposals to cut state spending immediately face heavy opposition in the full Senate.

At least seven of the 11 members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee said they aren't yet supporting the tax bill. It would raise an estimated \$87 million for the state during its 2003 budget year, which begins July 1. Republican committee members Stan Clark, of Oakley, and Ed Pugh, of Wamego, oppose

any tax increase. Les Donovan, R-Wichita, said the increases in the bill are too high for him.

Some said the \$87 million would not fix the state budget. Some oppose any tax increase, and others want to consider a different mix of revenue sources, including an expansion of legalized gambling.

Meanwhile, Republican leaders still planned Senate debate Wednesday for a bill cutting the current \$4.5 billion budget by \$54 million, or 1.2 percent. The bill would spare public schools but cut funds for higher education and social

services.

Democrats said they won't vote for the bill because of those cuts, and GOP support seemed shaky as well.

Majority Leader Lana Oleen, R-Manhattan, said if the bill fails Wednesday, the debate over cutting the current budget — legislators call it a rescission — probably will be over.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, added: "If you're going to do any kind of meaningful rescission, it should be done by now."

The state faces a projected \$426 million gap between expected revenues and spending commitments in fiscal 2003.

Gov. Bill Graves has proposed \$228 million in sales, cigarette and motor fuels tax and vehicle registration fee increases.

The \$87 million bill before the tax committee is an alternative to Graves' plan. Many legislators want to raise new revenues to avoid cutting aid to public schools.

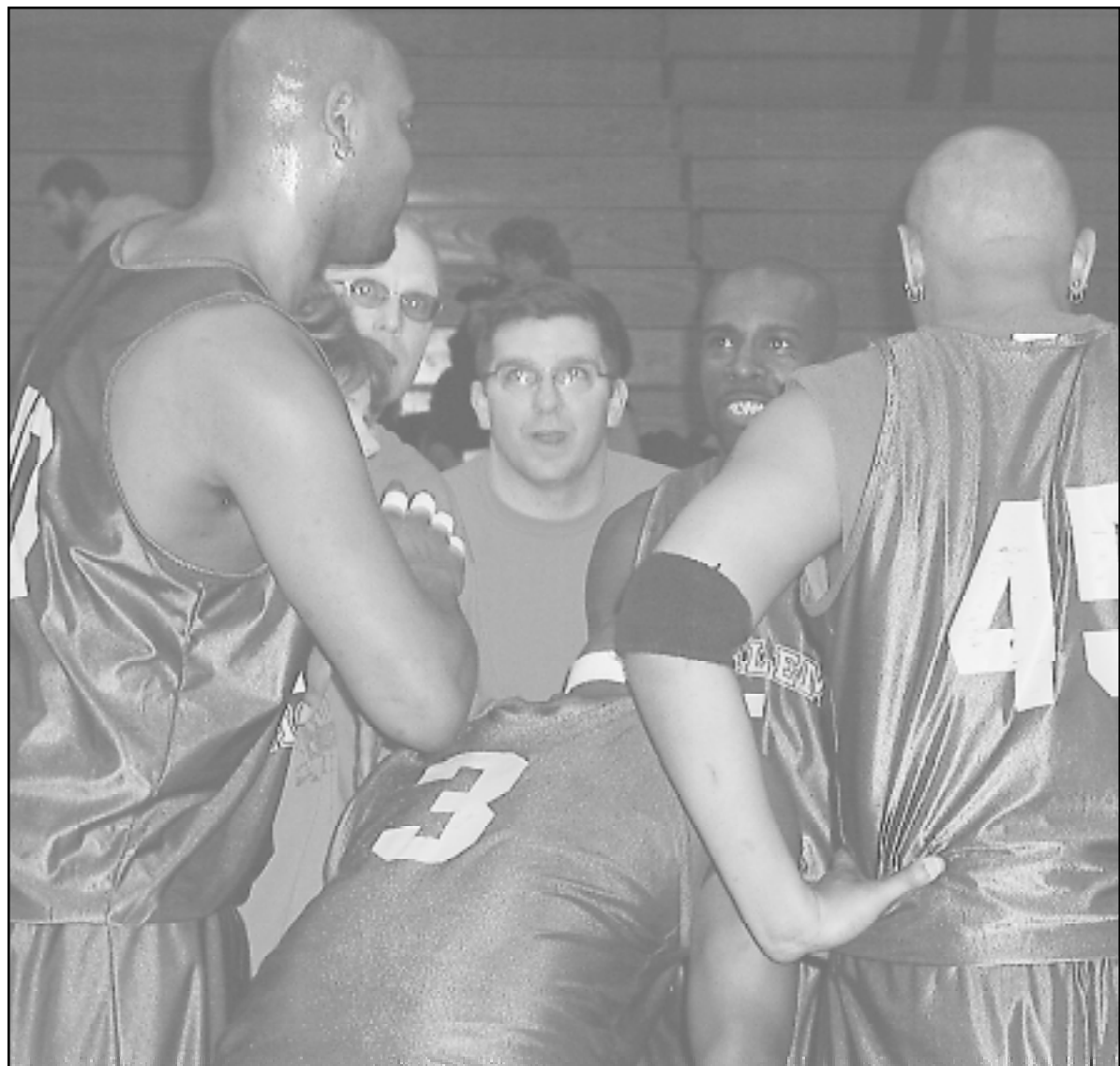
"People cannot say no to certain groups in this building," said Tax Chairman David

Corbin, R-Towanda, who proposed the \$87 million in tax increases. "When they can't, it becomes evident you have to find new revenues."

During a hearing Monday, lobbyists for merchants and the liquor and tobacco industries suggested the bill would reduce sales and send Kansans across state lines for their products.

With at least four of eight tax committee Republicans opposing the bill, supporters need the votes of two of the three Democrats. They have none.

### 'Night' of fun



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Steve Juenemann and Troy Rall, part of the Colby band parents and faculty team playing the Harlem Nights in a fund-raiser for the Colby High School band, apparently discussed surrender terms Monday night at the Community Building with 15 seconds left on the clock. Talks broke down and the Nights, an exhibition team of former college players, beat the teachers and parents 93-91 after spotting them 45-points.

## Bush to touch all bases in address

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush plans to condemn corporate irresponsibility in his State of the Union address tonight (8 p.m. CST), moving to distance himself from Enron Corp. and the political fallout of its collapse.

The carefully measured remarks in drafts of Bush's speech reflect increasing concern at the White House that voters view Bush and Republicans as more sympathetic to big business than to average Americans.

A new poll suggests Americans are more suspicious of congressional Democrats than of Bush. In the USA Today/CNN/Gallup survey, 29 percent said Bush believed he would owe Enron executives special policy treatment in return for campaign contributions; 55 percent believe congressional

Democrats felt that way.

The pitch for good corporate citizenship, a staple of Bush's presidential campaign, is part of his State of the Union push for pension law revamping and the disclosure of more corporate financial information, said aides who spoke on condition of anonymity.

As part of a broad call for community activism, Bush also plans to propose expanding a national service program started by former President Clinton, and open it to churches and other faith-based institutions, aides said.

Bush rehearsed the speech in the White House theater on Monday and met with lawmakers to discuss changes in Medicare.

He outlined his address for congress-

sional leaders over breakfast this morning.

Leaving that meeting, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle made clear that whatever Bush says on war with terrorists is a guaranteed applause-winner from both parties.

"There's been a great deal of bipartisan support for the effort he's undertaken," said Daschle, D-S.D.

Buoyed by record-high approval ratings, the commander in chief will devote most of his time to what aides call three great goals: The war against terrorism, domestic defense and the economy.

He has already proposed adding nearly \$50 billion to the Pentagon budget, the largest increase in military spending in 20 years.

## Briefly

### Weather: 2-4 inches of snow

Snow chances for Colby have increased to nearly 100 percent for Wednesday and Wednesday night, with anywhere from 2 to 4 inches or more of snow expected, advises the National Weather Service.

The highs Wednesday will be in the 20s with north winds at 10 mph, and in the middle teens Wednesday night with northeast winds at 10 mph. Snow could become heavy overnight Wednesday and into early Thursday morning. Thursday will see some clearing with highs in the middle 20s. Friday will be sunny, with lows +10 and highs in the middle 30s.

Tonight, look for cloudy conditions, with a 30 percent chance for snow showers developing, lows in the teens and northeast winds 10 mph. Colby's high Monday was 33 and the overnight low this morning was 8. So far this month, Thomas County has recorded no more than a trace of precipitation. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 33 degrees.

The records for Jan. 29: 72 in 1920 and —13 in 1951. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided

by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Feed scheduled Saturday

The annual Odd Fellows and Rebekahs pancake and sausage feed will be held Saturday, from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Colby Community Building.

Proceeds will be used for Thomas County freshman or sophomore scholarships. Everyone is invited. Admission is \$3 per person.

### Soup supper to benefit school

Kappa Upsilon, a local sorority, is sponsoring a soup supper from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8 at the Colby Community Building during the Colby/Quinter basketball game. All proceeds from the event will benefit Puddle Duck Preschool, said Bonnie Dinkel, one of the organizers. On the menu will be chili, chicken-noodle and vegetable soup with free-will donations accepted.

For questions or information, call Dinkel at 462-7247 or Amy Jennings, director of Puddle Duck at 462-8388.

