



COLBY  
FREE PRESS

First baby arrives

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Thomas County saw its first “baby of the year,” born at Citizens Medical Center during the afternoon on Saturday, Jan. 4, hospital officials said today.

The parents, Mark and Jill Hanson, of Wallace said that along with being happy to have a daughter, they were also excited to learn that their little girl, Brianna, who weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz., and was 19 1/2” in length, was the first born in 2003.

“It’s nice to be here at Citizen’s Medical Center,” Jill said today, “and Dr. (Victor) Hildyard has been wonderful, along with the nurses.”

“We also want to thank all the merchants from Colby for the great gifts and they are much appreciated,” she said.

It is the couple’s third child, and Brianna’s older brothers, DJ, who is 13, and Skylar, 4, are proud of their new baby sister.

“DJ wanted a girl, so he was just ecstatic,” Jill said. “Skylar originally wanted a brother, but after his sister arrived, he was thrilled to have a girl.”

Along with being a mother of three, Jill and her husband are ranchers in southern Logan County and their children go to school in Winona.

Jill said she was admitted into the Colby hospital on Saturday morning around 9 a.m. and



Jill and Mark Hanson, Wallace, prior to leaving Citizens Medical Center today, took time to show others their newborn, Brianna, who was this year’s first baby of the year in Thomas County.

Brianna was born at 3:05 p.m. on Saturday.

Grandparents are Carl and Gloria Hanson of Wallace and Earl (deceased) and Ev Manning of Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Businesses participating in this year’s first baby of the year event included Citizens Medical Center, Inc., Colby Photo, Gambino’s Pizza, Thomas County Health Department, Wark’s Em-

broidery and Gifts, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Bankwest of Kansas, Pizza Hut, Dillons, First National Bank, Village Inn, Colby Bowl and the Colby Free Press.

One teenager dead; others injured in crash

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

A one-vehicle accident just inside the Gove County line resulted in at least one teenager dead and others seriously injured, said Allan Weber, sheriff.

Although details were sketchy at press time today, Weber did say that Cody Wilson, 17, of Oakley died from his injuries and another teenager in the car was flown to Wichita with a broken neck.

Other than Wilson; however, none of the other five teenagers in

the vehicle were named.

Weber did not have all the details as to the cause of the accident, which is still under investigation, but he said it happened at approximately 4 a.m., Sunday morning on a gravel road one-quarter mile east of County Road 10 on County Road South.

The location is about 11 miles south and 3 3/4 east of Oakley, he said.

More details about the accident will appear in a later edition of the Free Press.

Colby technology students plan event to raise needed funds

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Two Colby Public School organizations will be teaming up on Saturday, Jan. 18 to present the annual “Sports Mystery Dinner,” said Valerie Donelan, one of the coordinators of the event.

Both the Colby High School and Colby Middle School Technology Student Association Chapters are inviting everyone to attend the fundraising event at 6:30 p.m. in the high school commons area.

“In addition to the dinner, the Kansas Technology Student Association’s State Officer Advisor Carolyn Cole, will be speaking about the organization and some of

its benefits to students,” Donelan said. The cost of the dinner will be free will donation with all proceeds going to help defray expenses when the two groups attend state and national conferences and competitions.

Donelan said the state conference and competition will be held on March 5, 6 and 7 in Emporia and the national conference and competition this year is in Orlando, Fla. on June 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29.

For information on the dinner or to make a reservation by Friday, Jan. 10, Donelan said people should call either Don Balluch at 465-5300 or Lamoreaux Fulwider at 465-5200.

Sebelius, GOP leaders headed for fight over education budget

TOPEKA (AP) — Democratic Gov.-elect Kathleen Sebelius and Republican legislative leaders are headed toward a clash over education spending.

Sebelius has promised to reject cuts in aid to public schools despite the state’s serious financial problems.

GOP leaders are equally adamant that cuts in school aid must be considered as legislators deal with the budget.

The looming conflict has its roots in the gubernatorial campaign, when Sebelius accused Republican

nominee Tim Shallenburger of being willing to cut school spending.

Her victory showed that voters want schools protected, she said in a recent interview.

“I thought it was pretty clear,” she said. “I thought that was one of the defining issues between my campaign and the campaign of my opponent.”

But Republican leaders have been skeptical of Sebelius’ promise on education spending, especially given other statements suggesting she would not support tax increases.

“I don’t think you can leave edu-

cation alone — it’s impossible,” said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Steve Morris, R-Hugoton. “The hole’s too big.”

Neither Sebelius nor legislative leaders doubt the seriousness of the budget crisis they will begin tackling Jan. 13, when the session convenes and Sebelius takes office.

For the current budget year, which ends June 30, Gov. Bill Graves averted a projected \$312 million deficit with cuts and withholdings, including about \$17 million sliced from education spending. As much as \$800 million

separates projected revenue and promised spending in the 2004 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Schools are now set to receive \$3,863 per pupil from the state under the current budget. Including funding for special education, buildings, transportation and programs for poor children, state aid to school districts totals about \$2.3 billion.

That is slightly more than half the money appropriated from the general fund, which holds most of the state’s tax revenue. Republican leaders argue the already difficult

financial situation becomes twice as hard to solve if aid to public schools isn’t cut. If public schools are protected, then social services and higher education will absorb deeper reductions.

“I think everything — everything — is on the table,” said incoming House Speaker Doug Mays, R-Topeka. “I don’t think we can afford to hold anything harmless.”

Legislators could follow last year’s \$252 million tax increase with another tax increase. But Republican leaders see little enthusiasm for the idea and have said taxes

will be raised only with a push from Sebelius — which she isn’t preparing to do.

“I am always conscious of the fact that there are people in a lot of areas in Kansas in real economic trouble,” Sebelius said.

“I think there’s a sense of we have to tighten our belts.

“We have to make this government as efficient and effective as possible.”

But Sebelius won’t include public schools in the belt-tightening in part because she’s confined by her campaign rhetoric.

Weather Watch  
Colby-Oakley area

**The numbers**  
Saturday’s high: 53  
Sunday’s high: 51  
Low Sunday morning: 21  
Low this morning: 15  
Temperature at 1 p.m. today: 52  
Soil temperature, 36

**The forecast**  
Tonight...Mostly clear and mild. Lows 25 to 30. Southwest wind around 10 mph. On Tuesday, mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the upper 50s. West wind around 10 mph. Tuesday night, clear and mild.

Lows in the upper 20s. Wednesday, sunny and warmer. Highs in the mid 60s.

Wednesday night, mostly clear and breezy. Lows in the mid 20s. The extended forecast for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday is calling for partly cloudy, windy and cooler temperatures on Thursday with highs in the upper 40s.

On Friday, mostly clear and cooler. Lows 15 to 20 and highs in the mid 30s. Saturday could be mostly clear and breezy. Lows near 20 and highs in the upper 30s, and on Sunday, the prediction is for mostly clear skies and windy conditions.

Man faces deportation under 1996 immigration law

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Pablo Ureta has not known freedom since the day he walked into Kansas City’s District Immigration and Naturalization Office in May to renew his green card.

Now, he faces deportation to Uruguay, a country where he hasn’t set foot since he was 8, where he has no family and where he no longer

speaks the language.

Ureta was jailed in May under a 1996 immigration law that cracked down on foreigners who commit crimes. As a teenager, Ureta was a mule, carrying marijuana for others to sell.

After he served 14 months in prison for his crime two years ago, the 26-year-old resident of Colum-

bia, Mo., thought he had paid his debt to society.

Like many immigrants, he was unaware of the 1996 law and its implications for his life.

“I made a mistake,” said Ureta, who is in the Shawnee County Jail at Topeka, Kan. “I was a dumb kid when I was 18, 19. I didn’t even make any money doing it.”

In 1996, Congress strengthened existing immigration laws, expanding which crimes would be considered aggravated felonies. In some cases, it could include shoplifting.

The law made deportation mandatory for any immigrant receiving more than 364 days in a sentence, whether it was served or suspended.

Ureta, who immigrated with his

mother from Uruguay when he was 8 years old, kept his Uruguayan citizenship as a tribute to his father, who died of cancer when Ureta was 5.

The case will not be heard until later this month. By that time, it’s likely Ureta will have been deported.

His appeals have ended.

Briefly

Medieval life to be showcased

The Society for Creative Anachronism will be hosting a demonstration of Medieval life on Friday, Jan. 10, in gymnasium at Colby High School. This group of people share information and skills with others all across the nation in reacting the life of Medieval Europe. Such items as armor, arts, sciences, chain mail, and medieval weaponry shall be on display from 10 a.m. in the morning until the end of school, or about 3:15 p.m. There will also be a demonstration of medieval armed combat in the Colby High School auditorium at 10:30 a.m. The members of the society would like to invite everyone to see the event and learn something new in a fun filled day of journeying to the past.

Progress Center annual meeting set

The Colby Senior Progress Center will have its annual meeting at 1 p.m., Monday, Jan. 13, said Donna Schlieke, director. The annual meeting will also be the time for re-election of officers and there are four members whose terms expire. Those people are: Mary Sonnenfield, Glenn Weber,

Bonnie Fleckenstein and Don Siefert. According to Schlieke, Siefert replaced Ralph Jones before his term expired; however, he, along with Weber and Fleckenstein are willing to serve another term. “We do need a replacement for Mary Sonnenfield,” Schlieke said, “and those interested in volunteering can call 462-2901 for information.”

Genesis annual meeting Jan. 16

The Genesis-Thomas County, Inc. annual meeting will be held Jan. 16, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex meeting room. The January meeting fill follow immediately after the annual meeting.

Share sign up begins today

Share sign up for January will be held Monday through Friday, Jan. 6-10 at State Farm Insurance Company, 905 E. 4th St., Colby. For information or questions, call Anna Fyfe, coordinator, 462-3733.

Food bank schedule noted

Rosalie Seemann, president of the Genesis Food Bank,

wanted to remind those will be open its regular hours on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., said Rosalie Seemann, president of Genesis.

CPR class planned this month

The American Red Cross will be sponsoring a CPR Class on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the Colby Community College Student Union. To register or for information, call Mary Smith, Red Cross Chapter manager at 462-7161.

Wellness Fair blood work Saturday

With the Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate. The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the student union on the Colby Community College campus. Blood work will be done one last Saturday, Jan. 11. The registration fee is \$5, with the addition fees for some of the tests. For more information about business coupons for the Wellness Fair call Wanda Davis at (785) 462-4797.

