



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Bulldog send-off Thursday

A send-off is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, for the Golden Plains boys' basketball team as they head for the first round of 1A State Tournament action at Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University.

Everyone is invited to cheer on the Bulldogs in the school gymnasium at Rexford, said school officials.

This is the first time in 10 years that the Bulldogs have made it to state.

## Federal grand jury at Wichita indicts former resident

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

A former Colby woman has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Wichita on charges of mail fraud in connection with embezzling funds from tax clients during the 1990s.

The indictment was handed down last week alleging that Betty Ann Bremenkamp, 51, a tax preparer, misled her customers by telling them they owed more than their tax obligations really were.

According to information from the U.S. Attorney's office in Wichita, Bremenkamp then is alleged to have gotten checks from these clients to pay for the taxes due, but then altered the checks or asked

they be made payable to her.

The indictment further alleged that Bremenkamp then used the money for her personal benefit and also used the United States Postal Service to carry out the fraud.

In its decision, the grand jury indicted her on two counts of mail fraud.

If convicted, Bremenkamp could face a minimum of five years in federal prison without parole on each count.

Prior to the indictment, the case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service criminal investigation department.

Bremenkamp had worked in Colby as a tax preparer during the 1990s before moving to Scott City.

## Library computers filter plan debated

TOPEKA (AP) — A proposal to require that public libraries install computer filters to shield minors from Internet pornography would be costly and ineffective, opponents told a House committee Tuesday.

The testimony before the Federal and State Affairs Committee came one day after proponents spoke for the measure.

Among the supporters was a Topeka woman who said the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library was not policing its computers and their use by minors.

Robert Banks, the Topeka library's deputy operations director, denied the woman's assertion. He said the library staff monitors the computer activities of children and adults and expels those who violate a posted policy on proper use.

"We have had people arrested in the past and will do so in the future," Banks said.

Some legislators agreed with opponents who said the bill was unnecessary. "It seems like the only problem — if there is a problem — is in Topeka," said Rep. Todd Novascone, R-Wichita.

Novascone's observation was based on comments from representatives from Wichita, Dodge City, Alma and Pottawatomie County who said their libraries already had either Internet filters or policies on computer use or both.

Rosanne Goble, executive director of the Kansas Library Association, said Internet filters would cost an \$150 per computer and would take time and resources away from serving the public.

## Hail, hail, the gang's all here!



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

A pep rally was held this morning at Colby High School to send off the boys and girls basketball teams to the 4A State Tournament at Salina, and also recognized were the pep band and the drill team. This is the first time Colby will be sending both a boys and girls team to state since 1987. The boys will play tonight at

the Bicentennial Center at 6:30 p.m. against Andale. The girls will play Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. against Meriden-Jefferson West. Athletic Director Jeff Quenzer encouraged the players, students, parents and fans to support the teams with good sportsmanship and to focus on a season with three games still left to play.

## Dr. Jennings scholarship to be awarded

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

Citizens Foundation, which is the fund raising arm of Citizens Medical Center, Inc., will be awarding the first scholarship this May from its endowed scholarship fund, said Tama Unger, director.

"The Foundation board of directors decided that the Dr. Jeff Jennings scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be given in May of 2003," she said.

The scholarship is open to any-

one who has ever graduated from a Thomas County high school to include Golden Plains, Brewster and Colby, she said.

"Through education, the future is bright for those seeking to further themselves and be of aide to their community," Unger said on behalf of the board members.

Another major requirement for receiving this first scholarship award is that the person must be seeking to begin or further their medical career in rural medicine.

"Positions considered for award need to be those who will be involved in the day-to-day operations and hands on care giving within a medical facility," she said.

The scholarship committee is particularly interested in people with a desire to succeed and practice their medical skills in rural settings and who are committed to their community, Unger said.

For questions or for an application, call Unger at 462-1214 or write to Citizens Foundation, 100 E.

College Dr., Colby, Kan. 67701.

All applications must be received by 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, she said. The Dr. Jeff Jennings Scholarship will be awarded annually through the Foundation.

Dr. Jennings was a graduate of Colby High School, Colby Community College and the University of Kansas, joining the medical team of Colby Medical and Surgical Center in August of 2001.

He died on Dec. 22, 2001 at the age of 29.

## Airlines looking to government for \$9 billion in help

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major airlines say they need government's help — \$9 billion in tax cuts — to withstand the decline in air travel and rising fuel costs that could re-

sult from a war in Iraq.

The Air Transport Association, which represents major airlines, predicted on Tuesday that a war in Iraq would result in passenger traf-

fic falling more sharply than in the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Airlines would lose \$10.7 billion, nearly 10 percent of daily flights would be canceled and 70,000 air-

line jobs would be cut, the association said. "We're in a crisis," said James May, the association's president. He said the airlines weren't asking for a bailout, but for help.

## Senate Education Committee Illegal immigrant tuition measure brings mixed reaction

TOPEKA (AP) — Supporters of a bill allowing illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition at Board of Regents schools say Kansas would gain a more educated work force, but an opponent said it would reward criminal behavior.

Testifying before the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, Wichita school counselor Kim Voth held back tears as she said the bill was the only way some of her stu-

dents would be able to attend college.

Her students could not afford to pay the higher out-of-state tuition, and did not even know they were illegal immigrants, Voth said.

"Many of the high school students that I work with have been in the United States ever since they can remember. They consider Kansas to be their home," Voth said.

The legislation would apply to

Kansas' public universities, community colleges and vocational-technical schools.

The committee took no action on the proposal, which passed the House in late February.

Under the bill, illegal immigrants would pay in-state tuition if they had attended at least three years at an accredited Kansas high school or earned a General Educational Development certificate in Kansas. In

either case, such students would have to meet regular college acceptance requirements.

Also Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on a House-passed bill allowing illegal immigrants to obtain temporary-resident driver's licenses. Currently, immigrants seeking driver's licenses must prove they are in the United States legally. The committee took no action.

The tuition and driver's license bills are both intended to grant the same rights to citizens as to immigrants in the process of becoming citizens, said Elias Garcia, chairman of the Kansas Hispanic Caucus, who testified before both committees.

Two citizens appeared before the committees to testify against the bills, which they said would reward illegal activity.

## Briefly

### Walk Kansas starts Saturday

Those registered for the Walk Kansas program need to begin recording their miles walked on Saturday. Any aerobic activity may be used in place of walking using the formula of 15 minutes of activity equals one mile. If you planned on participating and missed the registration deadline, call the Thomas County Extension office at 462-4582 to enroll.

### Chamber luncheon Friday

The Oasis Travel Center managers, Jason and Tara Wofter, will be speaking at the monthly Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon, Friday, at Quality Inn. All chamber members and their guests are welcome to attend. For questions, call 462-3401.

### Bluegrass pancake feed planned

The Colby Bluegrass Committee is sponsoring a pancake and sausage feed on Saturday, March 29 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

at the Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go to defray costs of the annual Bluegrass Festival, said Leilani Thomas, one of the coordinators of the event.

### Amusement meeting next week

The Thomas County Amusement Association will hold its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Colby. Anyone interested in helping on various committees is urged to attend. For questions, call Kerry Wark, president, 462-6403.

### Enrollment is still open

Enrollment for next year's Colby public school kindergartners has been held, but for those who missed this pre-enrollment, Terrel Harrison, principal, is asking parents and/or guardians to stop by the school office, 210 N. Grant, as soon as possible to enroll your child. Harrison said to bring the child's immunization records, birth certificate and social

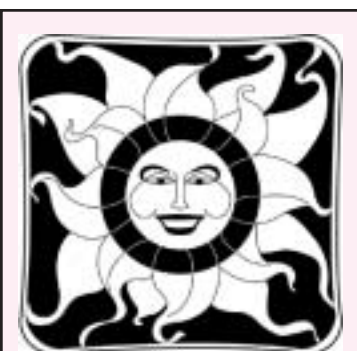
security number for the enrollment. Any children residing in the Colby School District and who will be five years old on or before Aug. 31, 2003 is eligible to enroll. It is not necessary to bring children for the pre-enrollment, she said.

### Help available with form filings

Free assistance in filling out the Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications is available to individuals with disabilities until March 31. Free assistance in completing the Homestead Food Sales Tax Returns will be available until April 15. For information, or to set up an appointment, call (785) 625-6942 or (800) 569-5926.

### Childbirth education series begins

The next Colby Childbirth Education series will start on Thursday with subsequent classes scheduled March 20 and 27, and April 3. They will be held in the Health Science Building on the Colby Community College Campus. More information is available at 462-6845, ask for Tina Schrick.



### Warm to linger

Tonight...Partly cloudy and mild. Lows in the mid 30s. West wind 10 to 15 mph. Thursday...Mostly sunny and continued warm. Highs in the mid 70s. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south early in the afternoon.

Friday...Mostly sunny and continued warm. Highs in the upper 70s. Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Saturday...Partly cloudy and continued warm. Highs in the lower 80s. Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Lows near 40 and highs in the lower 70s.

**The numbers**  
Monday's high, 70  
Low this morning, 26  
Soil temperature, 40  
Year ago, 72 and 28  
Month's snowfall, trace  
Month's precipitation, 0.03  
Records, 84 in 1972 and -3 in 1969



