



# COLBY FREE PRESS



FILE PHOTO

Dave Jennings, left, visited with Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Hays, at the His Shop in February of this year. Jennings will be remembered for his family and store, and his involvement in politics. Jennings died earlier this month.

## Community says 'goodbye'

By Patty Decker  
*Free Press Editor*

His faith, his family and his store were considered the top three priorities in the life of Dave Jennings, 58, who died Dec. 6. Friends and family spoke in detail about how Dave touched many lives during his life, describing him as unselfishness, self-sacrificing, funny and committed to his community. "I first met Dave when I moved to Colby in 1974," said Dr. Victor Hildyard of Colby. The doctor spoke about some of his most memorable and humorous times with Jennings.

"I am not well-known as a fashion 'guru' and every trip to the His Shop (Jennings store) became an event in which after much bantering and laughing, Dave would have to ultimately pick out what would look good and spend an inordinate amount of time instructing me in what articles of clothing went together after I left the store and had to dress myself," Hildyard said.

Others recalled similar experiences at the His Shop. Wayne Horlacher, owner of Horlacher Jewelers, said one thing he and his wife, Millie, counted on was Dave being forthright and honest.

"Millie particularly appreciated

Dave when she sent our children down to the store for buying clothes," Wayne said. "Dave would always sell something appropriate, stylish and in the right price range."

Donna, Dave's wife, also talked about her husband's knack for clothing.

"He was a natural," she said. "He knew what size someone wore by looking at them and his customers were as far away as Denver."

She said he started in the clothing business at 16 working for Fred Fischer in Oakley. When he went to Fort Hays State University, Dave continued working at the Tiger Shop and then at Bernard's in Hays. "After graduating in business,"

she said, "he returned to Colby and the men's store owned by Warner Brothers since 1916, before taking over the His Shop in 1971.

"The store was much more than just selling clothes," Donna said. She recalled many times that Dave would talk politics, football and other issues with Rich Epp, Larry Heier, Terry Stover and others.

In fact, Epp, who considered Dave one of his best friends, talked about his unselfishness.

"When it came to community," Epp said, "Dave's philosophy

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## Colby football coach turns in resignation

By Tisha Cox  
*Colby Free Press*

Colby High School head football coach Bob Ray said Friday he submitted his resignation.

The resignation will be on the agenda at the Colby School Board meeting 7 p.m. today held at the Administration Building, 600 W.

Third St.

Ray is leaving Colby at the end of the current semester to take a job as the assistant head football coach at McPherson College.

"It's been a real tough decision to make," he said.

Ray said it will be a better situation for his family and will allow his wife to stay home with their chil-

dren. McPherson called twice in the past two weeks, asking Ray to consider their offer, but he told them no each time.

"The third offer was the one," he said. In his only season as coach, Ray led the Eagles to a 1-8 record. He also was the coach that broke Colby's losing streak that started early in the 2004 season.

"The kids here worked hard," he said.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said last week Ray had spoken with him and activities director Larry Gabel about his intentions.

Gabel said because Ray is leaving at semester, his position as weights instructor might be filled long-term with a substitute teacher.

## Colby man wins \$1,000 in grand prize drawing

The big winners in the *Colby Free Press* "Christmas On Us" promotion were selected Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

The \$1,000 winner in scrip money was Rick Haeffner of Colby. Haeffner said it was the first time he had won in the promotion.

"I wasn't expecting this," he said.

He will use the money for Christmas gifts.

Winner of the \$500 second prize was Marilyn Friesen of Colby.

Friesen said this wasn't the first time she has won. She won the grand prize five years ago. And like Haeffner, she plans on using her winnings on Christmas.

Three \$50 winners were also chosen.

They were Kerri Blatt, Marilyn Donelan and Rob Williams, all of Colby.

This was the eighth year for the promotion. Shoppers were given one ticket for each \$10 spent at participating busi-



R. Haeffner

## Judge to consider doctor's lawsuit

By Patty Decker  
*Free Press Editor*

A judge will determine at 10 a.m., Tuesday in the Thomas County Courthouse whether a Colby doctor has sufficient cause to move forward on a lawsuit he filed against Citizens Medical Center suspending his privileges.

Hutchinson attorney Mike O'Neal, representing Dr. Victor Hildyard, filed the suit eight months ago alleging the Colby hospital did not follow its own bylaws when it suspended Hildyard's privileges in April 2003.

Defending the hospital, Carol Bonebrake of Topeka, filed a motion for dismissal stating the hospital is a private and not-for-profit organization and its decisions are

not subject to court review.

Prior to the hospital suspending Hildyard's privileges more than three years ago, two other attempts to suspend the doctor's privileges were reversed by the Thomas County District Court.

In April 2002, Hildyard's hospital privileges were suspended following an employee complaint, which was handled by the hospital as an issue under its Hostile Work Environment Policy, according to the petition.

That suspension was reversed by

the district court in Thomas County on May 2, 2002.

The employee who originally filed the complaint with then Chief Executive Officer Michael Boyles, recanted.

On Sept. 3, 2002, using the same employee's complaint from April, the board again suspended Hildyard's privileges. Two days later, the court again denied the suspension.

Hildyard then sought for his due process rights outlined in the medical staff bylaws of the hospital, according to the petition.

The hospital suspended Hildyard's privileges in April 2003 based on what O'Neal alleges was a "flawed composition of the hearing panel." That took place in Colby Nov. 20-22, 2002.



V. Hildyard

## Checking it twice

Connor Edmundson of Colby, left, Tad Holm and MacKenzie Edmundson of Brewster visited with Santa Claus at Santa City Saturday. Children will have time to tell Santa their Christmas wishes this week. Santa City is open from 6 to 8 p.m. each evening through Friday; from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 1 to 3 p.m. Christmas Eve.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## Brewster soldier hurt in Iraq war

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
*Colby Free Press*

A former Brewster man believes guardian angels were with him and his crew when their military helicopter crashed Dec. 10 in Iraq.

"I'm OK," Sgt. Jesse Doze said today from Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. "I'm waiting on surgery and I'm in a lot of pain."

Doze, 29, is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 4th Weapons Company of the Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center at 29 Palms, Calif. He was one of 21 military personnel traveling in the helicopter when the pilot lost visibility believed to have been from either a brown out or having been shot down.

A brown out is when the tail end of a helicopter is open and dust from whirling blades gets inside and obscures the view. The crew was on a training operation and were returning to the base at Al Qu'im when the crash happened.

The crashed caused one fatality, and 10 of 18 personnel injured were treated and released back to active duty. A helicopter directly in front of the one on which Doze was riding landed safely. The crash is under investigation.

Doze said he remembers when the helicopter hit the ground and that it hit nose first.

"I remember all the Marines just flying around inside and one Marine flew into me head first and knocked me out," Doze said.

Doze said he went in and out of consciousness for an undetermined time.

"I woke up a couple times and was on a pile of Marines and then the next time I woke up I was outside of the helicopter just looking at it," he said.

Having injured to his pelvis, back and shoulders, Doze said he will require surgeries and rehabilitation expected to last about a year.

"I'm done for now," he said. "But the Marines have a policy they'll find a job for whoever wants to stay in after an injury."

Family members and friends have rallied around Doze to help him through his recovery.

"He's a very fortunate young man," Doze's brother Dustin said. Dustin Doze resides in Syracuse and was at the airport in Texas when the transport plane carrying his brother arrived.

"He is doing fine today," Dustin said. "He just visited with the orthopedic surgeon and his hip surgery is scheduled for Wednesday or Thursday. He's stable and doing well."

Brewster resident Bonnie Reid is a long time family friend of the Dozes and has been keeping in contact with the family.

"They feel like it was a miracle," Reid said. "Vicki and Kent went to



Sgt. Jesse Doze

San Antonio on Sunday to be with Jesse."

Reid said a lieutenant asked Jesse if there was anything he needed and he said his parents and that they were having trouble getting airplane tickets from Kansas to Texas.

"The lieutenant told Jesse he would see what he could do and about 30 minutes later he was back telling Jesse they had their tickets," Reid said.

Rep. John Faber (R) of Brewster said Jesse went to school with his son, Jerry, and knows the young Marine.

Faber, Representative for the 120th District which includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton and Phillips Counties, has been helping family members and friends communicate about Jesse and his deployment back to the United States.

Reports from the Doze family to Faber indicated Doze's hip socket was shattered but the femur bone was not injured. Doze also has a burn on the calf of his leg. The shape of the burn is being suspected to have been caused by Doze's leg on something that was hot after the helicopter, which rolled several times, hit the ground.

Part of the miracle being talked about is the fact the helicopter was carrying more fuel than usual when it crashed but it did not explode on impact.

"There is not doubt in my mind that there were angels on board protecting these Marines from even more serious injuries, not to mention the fear of exploding," Doze's mother, Vicki, wrote in an e-mail Faber shared.

Doze's sister-in-law, Karen, stayed behind in Syracuse and said the family appreciates the thoughts and prayers for Jesse.

"Everyone has been wonderful," she said.

Anyone wanting to send get well wishes to Jesse Doze can do so at Brooke Army Medical Center, 3851 Roger Brooke Drive, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.