



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Yogurt deal

Thomas County dairy to supply Dannon



Clinic hires doctor pair to work here

Citizens Medical Center has signed long-term contracts for a married couple with ties to northwest Kansas to practice at its clinic beginning next year.

Dr. Kelly Gabel, a general surgeon and son of the Colby High School principal, and his wife, Dr. Sarah Gabel, family practice physician, plan to relocate to Colby in the summer of 2013 and begin practicing at Family Center for Health Care in September 2013.

"We are delighted with our signings of such well-trained and highly skilled physicians to our community," said Kevan Trenkle, Citizens chief executive officer. "The recruitment of the Gabels is another step in Citizens Medical

Center's long-term plan to ensure that all residents of Thomas County and northwest Kansas have access to quality physician services for the foreseeable future."

Kelly Gabel graduated from St. Francis High School, where he was a three-time state champion wrestler, and receive his undergraduate degree from Fort Hays State University. He attended medical school in Kansas City and received a Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

He is completing a residency at Botsford Hospital, Farmington

See "DOCTORS," Page 2

College to remove mystery chemical

Colby Community College officials have asked a Kansas Highway Patrol unit to come Friday afternoon and help dispose of an unidentified chemical found in one of its labs.

Debbie Schwanke, public information director for the college, said an expert from a chemical disposal company had looked at the substance, a liquid, and determined it is in a stable condition.

It was discovered during a routine clean-up in the chemistry lab storage area, she said. After conferring with the Colby Fire Department and other officials, the college decided to

have it removed.

Schwanke said officials agreed it wasn't necessary to evacuate any buildings on campus.

"The hallway from the chemistry lab in the northeast hall of Thomas Hall will be barricaded from the classroom to the north exit door," she said.

Although the experts feel the chemical is not a threat, she said, the college has no need for it and officials felt it best to have it disposed of.

She said anyone with questions about the removal should call Barry Kaaz, dean of external affairs, at 460-5429.

Air Force band to play concert

By Christina Beringer

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The Air Force Heartland of America Band's ensemble Brass in Blue will land in Colby later this month to perform "Once Heard, Never Forgotten..."

The free concert, sponsored by the Colby Free Press and Western Plains Arts Association, will be Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Colby High School auditorium. Guests can begin arriving as early as 6:30 p.m. and need to be seated at least 10 minutes before the 7:30 p.m. start.

Free tickets, required for admission, may be obtained by contacting Pat Ziegelmeier of the arts group at Colby Community

College. Mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to her at the college, 1255 S. Range Ave., with a note saying how many tickets you are requesting.

The 12-member symphonic brass ensemble will accompany a vocalist, a special treat. Guests can expect a combination of brass and percussion as the orchestra presents a repertoire featuring patriotic favorites, jazz standards, new compositions and other arrangements.

The Brass in Blue features precision performances in every concert, the Air Force says. Debuting in 2007, the group has graced stages from the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson, Wyo.,

See "BAND," Page 2

Wheat planting up 3 percent this fall

WICHITA (AP) — The nation's farmers seeded more winter wheat this season amid higher prices and easing drought conditions in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service reported Thursday that the 41.9 million acres of winter wheat planted for harvest in 2012 is up 3 percent from 2011 and up 12 percent from 2010.

The hard red winter wheat that

is typically used for making bread accounted for the bulk of that surge. The estimated 30.1 million acres of hard red winter wheat is up 6 percent from last year.

Kansas again led the nation in winter wheat seedings with 9.5 million acres planted for an increase of 8 percent over last year.



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Plant to add 13-17 jobs in Rexford

By Vera Sloan

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While most of the country is fighting to stay alive in a recession that has gripped the country for more than three years, the McCarty Dairy in Thomas County is close finishing a multi-million-dollar expansion which will make it a supplier of one of the nation's largest producers of yogurt and dairy drinks.

The dairy, southwest of Rexford, is building a plant slated to supply condensed milk to the Dannon Yogurt plant in Fort Worth beginning April 1.

"Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine anything like this would happen," said Judy McCarty, who owns the expanding dairy operation together with her husband Tom and four sons, David, Mike, Clay and Ken.

It was the wide open plains of Thomas County that lured the family from a land-locked area in Pennsylvania. The expansion happened. The family has been happy here, and after nearly 12 years, still expanding.

From the McCarty's beginnings in Kansas, the original herd of 750 cows near Rexford was soon expanded to include a facility near Bird City in Cheyenne County that houses an additional 2,200 head.

This past summer, the family leased a dairy north of Scott City. They began operations there with 500 head during the fourth week of Novem-

See "DAIRY," Page 2

