



COLBY FREE PRESS

What a difference a day makes



DANIEL MORRIS/Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagles celebrated the thrill of victory on Friday night as they won the semi-final game of the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament in Salina over Ottawa 67-59. They painfully experienced the agony of defeat, losing the championship to Marysville, 60-58 on Saturday. (Above photo) are, left to right: Deke Elliott, Jordan Cranston, Jared Dinkel, Brian Sulzman and Jeff Reavis. (Left photo) are Carson McKee, front, Landon Stover, back left, and Matt Augustine, back right. The Eagles finished the season with a 21-5 record. Game details are on page 8.

War clouds are gathering

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush made it as clear as he could: the time for United Nations debate is down to hours, and the likelihood of war against Iraq is growing. Those were his comments at a one-day summit at which he and three allied leaders bluntly demanded that Iraq be disarmed swiftly and completely.

Still defiant, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatened a wider war if attacked.

“We hope (Monday) the U.N. will do its job,” Bush said Sunday at a news conference in the Azores Islands in the Atlantic where he and the leaders of Britain, Spain and Portugal met.

“Tomorrow is a moment of truth for the world,” he added.

First thing today, several top administration officials filed into the White House. The group included Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Attorney General John Ashcroft, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Also today, Mohamed ElBaradi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, announced that the Bush administration had advised the agency to start pulling its in-

spectors out of Iraq.

Administration officials said the opportunity for diplomacy would end today, whether the U.N. Security Council — deadlocked for weeks — approved or rejected a plan calling on Iraq to disarm, or even if the resolution were withdrawn.

The Security Council scheduled closed consultations this morning and arranged a mid-afternoon meeting at U.N. headquarters in New York. But there was little or no evidence that France, Germany or Russia had dropped opposition to a resolution that threatened Saddam with war if he didn’t immediately rid his regime of weapons of mass destruction.

France also called for an emergency U.N. ministerial session on Tuesday to set a timeline for Iraq’s peaceful disarmament and reiterated its threat to exercise its veto in the Security Council.

“France cannot accept the resolution that sets an ultimatum and envisages an automatic use of force,” Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said today on a French radio station.

Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and their summit part-

Registration of private wells on council’s agenda

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

Registration of private water wells, and storage and shipping containers are among items on the agenda for the Colby City Council when they meet Tuesday night at 7:30 in council chambers.

If the council approves requirements for registering private wells with the city under the Uniform Plumbing Code, said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, anyone who decides to put in a private well within the city will need to register it and pay a \$15 permit fee.

Another item that will be discussed is the storage and shipping containers in commercial and industrial zones. The council is expected to appoint a committee made up of its members and who will be assisting the planning commission on addressing new regulations, Armstrong said.

JoAnne Sunderman, Pioneer Memorial librarian, will give her annual report.

In addition, the council will consider approval of a contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation regarding right-of-way and replacing the overhead line when the

viaduct removal process is completed.

In the agreement with Kyle Railroad, pending before the council, officials have said they would provide permission for moving the poles and lines. Armstrong also said that, at this time, the city will remove the poles, reroute electric service and leave the new poles until the entire viaduct project has been completed.

A Colby resident plans to present a wooden plaque to the council regarding the history of the Colby Fire Department’s fire chiefs over the years.

In other business:

- Authorization to contract with Price Banks for zoning regulation updates specifically on storage and shipping containers could be approved. The current price is estimated at \$500.
- The council is also expected to review information regarding the wastewater treatment plant regulations and discharging of water into Prairie Dog Creek from the water treatment facility.
- Approval of a home occupation permit for ABC Daycare, owned by Cheryl Kogler on East Ninth St

Tickets still left for U.S. Navy Band concert

By **TOM (TD) DREILING**
Free Press Publisher

Tickets requests for the Tuesday, March 25 concert by the United States Navy Band are keeping sponsors busy and the pace is expected to pick up as the week rolls on.

Although free of charge, those attending will need a ticket, said Pat Ziegelmeier, executive director of

the Western Plains Arts Association. The association and the *Colby Free Press* are hosting the band’s appearance at the Colby Community Building at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket holders are asked to be seated no later than 7:15, and those without tickets will be admitted after that time if seating permits.

The United States Navy Band is

recognized by many as “The World’s Finest.” It is the Navy’s premier musical representative in Washington, D.C., and is under the leadership of Commander Ralph M. Gambone.

The Colby program includes a variety of popular and classical favorites, and of special interest will be the inclusion of several members

of the Colby Community College Band joining in the performance of John Philip Sousa’s “Washington Post March.”

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Pat Ziegelmeier, WPAA Executive Director, Colby Community College, 1255 South Range, Colby, Kan. 67701



Ready for rain?

Tonight...occasional showers and thunderstorms. Warm and breezy. Lows 45 to 50. Southeast wind 15 to 25 mph...gusting to 35 mph early. Chance of rain 80 percent. Tuesday...rain. Highs right around 50. East wind 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain near 100 percent. Tuesday night...occasional rain. Mild with lows 35 to 40. Chance of rain 80 percent. Wednesday...occasional rain in the morning. Then occasional snow or rain in the afternoon. Windy. Highs near 40. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

The numbers
Sunday’s high, 80
Low this morning, 29
Year ago, 56 and 14
Month’s precipitation, 0.03
Records, 83 in 1916 and -6 in 1906

Spring break arrives

By **PATTY DECKER**
Free Press Editor

The next best thing to the December holiday recess — is spring break.

And it’s here!

Following a busy week of state basketball tournament action at the high school and a variety of music programs in the grade school and middle school, the entire Colby Public School District officially started its “Spring Break” today.

The break will continue through Friday and next week the third quarter grades at all building levels will be sent home with students.

As for the administration, teachers and staff, today was still a work day in finalizing grades and other routine business, said Kirk Nielsen, superintendent.

Students will be back in regular class next Monday at their normal starting times.

Briefly

Area Citizens to meet in April

The Area Citizens for Health Care won’t be meeting in March, but have set a meeting date of April 8. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building’s Little Theater. Everyone is invited.

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 tonight

The Thomas County Amusement Association will hold its regular meeting tonight at 7 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.

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 Colby Childbirth Education series has started 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.

Art exhibit continues at college

Diane Frazey Mahanna’s art exhibit continues at the Cultural Arts Center gallery at Colby Community College. Kathy Gordon, art instructor, said the exhibit can be seen from 1 to 5 p.m. daily or on weekends by prior arrangements. For questions, call Gordon at 462-3984, ext. 310.

Cemetery board meets Thursdays

The Colby Cemetery District board meetings will be held on Thursdays for the next couple of months, reminded Relda Galli, board member. The meetings will continue to be held at the Thomas County Courthouse beginning at 2 p.m. Board members should note that Thursday meetings include March 20 and April 24. For questions, call Galli at 462-3670.

Landfill hours noted

The Thomas County landfill’s winter hours are: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day



