



COLBY FREE PRESS

Family who won holiday contest has first 2004 baby

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

What are the odds of this happening?

The first baby of 2004 was born into the family that also won \$500 in the "Christmas on Us" contest.

Babies are always a special blessing and for one Colby couple that happy day was made even more special when their little boy was the winner in the "First Baby of 2004" contest, sponsored by the *Colby Free Press* and Colby merchants.

Ian John Rosales, the son of Alex and Amy Rosales, arrived at 7:47 p.m., Monday, Jan. 5, at Hays Medical Center, making this the couple's third child.

"We are both doing well," Amy said Wednesday. "The entire family is happy and excited because Ian was honored as the first baby in 2004," she said.

It seems that good fortune is continuing to smile on not only Ian, but the Rosales family as a whole when three weeks ago, Amy was holding the winning "Christmas On Us!" ticket worth \$500.

Call it fate, luck or something else, Amy said her newborn is sure a lucky one.

As for Ian's older sister, Isabel, 5, and brother, Isaac, 3, he is a dream come true.

"The first night we were home, Isabel didn't want to stop holding him," Amy said. "She was so ex-

cited to see her new brother."

Little Ian weighed 7 lbs., 4 oz., and was 20 inches in length. As his mother, Amy said she has so much to be grateful for, starting with the support from her family.

"Alex was right there by my side the whole time and both sets of grandparents have been wonderful."

Ian's grandparents include John and Mert Strecker of Colby and Manuel and Linda Villa of Lakin.

She also wanted to thank Dr. Victor Hildyard, her physician in Colby, and Dr. Lee Hodney, who did the delivery at Hays Medical Center.

"Dr. Hildyard was wonderful and I was extremely pleased with the care he gave to me and Ian," she said.

"Even though Dr. Hildyard was not with us in Hays," Amy said, "he kept constant tabs on me — he was always there for us.

"We saw him (Hildyard) before we left for Hays and then he telephoned once I arrived and then after Ian was born," she said.

As for Dr. Hodney, Amy said, she was also grateful for his care.

When asked why all of her children's names begin with the letter "I," Amy explained that it was not really a planned thing.

"We liked the name Isabel and Isaac and it wasn't until Ian came along that we thought we had better name him with an "I" as well," she said.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

It was a happy day for Alex and Amy Rosales of Colby, who stopped this morning for a visit with their physician, Dr. Victor Hildyard at Colby Medical and Surgical Center. The proud parents, who re-

turned home Wednesday from Hays Medical Center with their newborn son, Ian, said they wanted to make sure their doctor was one of the first to see him.

"We didn't want him coming up to us when he was older asking how come he didn't get a name starting with an 'I,'" she said.

In addition to family and friends, the Rosales are also grateful to the community for sharing in their joy through the baby contest.

Participating merchants with gifts for Ian and the family are: Wark's Embroidery and Gifts, Horlacher Jewelry, Pizza Hut, Citizens Medical Center, Farmers and Merchants Bank, First National Bank, Thomas County Health Department, Village Inn, Dillons,

BankWest, Colby Bowl, Gambino's and the *Colby Free Press*.

The only requirements in this year's baby contest were that the first baby be born in Thomas County or that they were under the care of a Thomas County physician. In Ian's situation, although he was

born in Hays, his doctor was from Thomas County.

"We are just so happy to have a healthy son," Ian's dad Alex said today, "and it's a great feeling that others share in our excitement — thank you to everyone."

Hospital explains temporary decision not to admit new patients

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Prompted by questions and concerns that the Colby hospital was not admitting new patients earlier this week, an official at Citizens Medical Center offered clarification.

Kevan Trinkle, acting administrator, said on Wednesday that he was forced to make the decision to divert patients from the facility because it was close to full capacity

and at its maximum in staffing.

"Sometimes we must look at the acuity of patients and there have been times when we cannot admit," he said. It has also not been the first time this situation has occurred.

Trenkle said that about two years ago the hospital was forced to limit patients for similar reasons, adding that it is not something new or that it has anything to do with

the facility's change to critical access.

"We have always needed to look at patient volume on a day-to-day basis," he said. Adding to the problem of capacity, Trenkle also said the facility is operating with a shortage in the nursing department.

"It's a nationwide problem," he said regarding the nursing shortage, "and we are trying to resolve this by actively recruiting nurses and aides."

When Trenkle made the decision not to admit new patients, which he said was based on a team effort to provide the best patient care, the hospital had 20 beds already occupied. The maximum number of beds at Citizens Medical Center is 25 with 3 of those reserved for obstetrics. In the scenario earlier this week there were no obstetrical patients and the facility will not use those beds unless the patient is deliv-

ering a baby. Trenkle reiterated that the situation regarding patient care is changeable and what happened earlier this week is no longer in effect; however, the nursing shortage continues to be a concern.

He said he would encourage anyone with a nursing background to make application with the Colby hospital as staff members continue to search for recruits.

For questions, call (785) 462-7511.

Cattle auctions resume across state, but numbers low

By **ROXANA HEGEMAN**

AP Farm Writer

WINFIELD (AP)—Farm trucks towing empty cattle trailers jammed into the parking lot of the Winfield Livestock Auction on Wednesday for its first sale since the mad cow scare.

Inside the packed sale barn, people outnumbered cattle. Last year, the auction sold 1,900 animals in its first auction of the year. On Wednesday, it sold 89.

"I came prepared to buy — and

nothing is here," said Wellington rancher Karlin Debuhr.

Each year, he buys 200 yearlings at this time to sell in June. He planned to do the same this year because he is convinced the mad cow scare will be short-lived.

"I wasn't looking for bargains," he said. "I thought if the prices were the same as they had been, I would buy. I didn't think the sellers would be scared."

It is a scene repeated at cattle auctions across the region as wary

cattle producers hang on to their livestock a little longer to see what the market will do.

Many are attending auctions this week just to watch the sale prices. Some come looking for bargains. A few come to sell cows.

John Brazle, owner of the Winfield Livestock Auction, said after the sale prices were only a little lower — about \$4 to \$5 a hundredweight cheaper than before the scare.

Feeder cattle and stocker calves

were 4 percent to 5 percent lower, but the prices for packer cows were as high as ever, he said.

"If it don't get any worse than it got today, we ought to be able to survive," Brazle said.

Cambridge rancher Floyd Smith bought 15 head of cattle for \$91 a hundredweight in Winfield. He figured the same cattle would have cost him \$102 per hundredweight before Christmas.

Smith has attended a couple of other auctions in Kansas and Okla-

homa to buy cattle for himself and others. Everywhere he has gone, the numbers of cattle for sale are down.

"They gambled this long, they are going to gamble a little bit longer," he said.

At Kansas' biggest livestock sale barn, Pratt Livestock, about 1,200 animals already had been consigned for Thursday's auction, said secretary Lavetta Keller.

A year ago, 1,800 were sold the first week and 6,400 the second week in Pratt.

Professor, student sue school over art

TOPEKA (AP) — A professor and student who object to how a sculpture on the Washburn University campus portrays a Catholic clergyman have filed a federal lawsuit in hopes of forcing the artwork's removal.

Some critics contend that the ceremonial hat worn by the clergyman in "Holier than Thou" resembles a phallus. Also, the lawsuit criticized

the sculpture, which is displayed outside the student union, for giving the clergyman a "grotesque" facial expression.

A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Topeka on a request from Thomas O'Connor, a biology professor, and Andrew Strobl, a student, for an order prohibiting the statue's display. Their attorneys filed the lawsuit this

week. The suit argued that the sculpture is anti-Catholic and represents an official expression of hostility toward their faith, violating their constitutional right to religious freedom.

The lawsuit names the university, its board of regents and President Jerry Farley as defendants. It seeks "nominal" monetary damages, plus attorney fees.

College instructor to sign book

Dr. Keith Coplin, Colby Community College English instructor, is receiving national acclaim for his novel, "Crofton's Fire," which was released on Monday by Putnam Press for distribution to 5,600 bookstores in the United States and overseas.

The Campus Bookstore, located in the Colby College Stu-

dent Union, has the book now in stock for purchase. The bookstore is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The public is invited to a book signing on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the H.F. Davis Library from 4-6 p.m.

Coplin will be available to sign books and discuss the novel.

Briefly

County fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15 at the Thomas County 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include the Extension Agents reports, financial report, bills, committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising. Also on the agenda are the year-end audit and barbecue bids.

Heartland Share

Heartland Share sign-up can be done until Friday at the State Farm Insurance Office in Colby at 905 E. 4th. Delivery will be at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 at Sacred Heart School gym. For more information, call 460-3579 or 462-3733.

College president to speak

Colby Community College President Mikel Ary will address the Thomas County/Colby Chamber of Commerce luncheon at noon on Friday at the Colby Country Club. All chamber members and their guests are encouraged to attend. For questions, call 460-3401.

Baseball team plans fund raiser

The Colby High School baseball team is sponsoring a soup supper from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Colby Community Building in conjunction with the Eagle basketball games against McCook, Neb. The cost will be a free-will donation and the event will be a fund raiser for the team to buy necessary equipment for its program. Everyone is welcome.

Genesis to hold annual meeting

Genesis -Thomas County, Inc. will hold its annual meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S Range, Colby. The regular meeting will follow the annual meeting. Persons interested in Genesis are encouraged to attend.

Congressman to stop in Colby

Congressman Jerry Moran will be in Colby from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. His stop in Colby (and Thomas County) is part of his annual "Big First" Listening Tour. Moran said today that he hopes all area residents will be able to attend the meeting so that he can gather input and answer questions about any federal issues.

Pleasant outlook

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area
Tonight...Mostly clear. Not as cool. Lows in the lower 20s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.
Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts.
Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.
Sunday through Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Lows around 22.

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 38
Low this morning, 16
Records for Jan. 8, 71 in 1965 and -18 in 1988
Year ago today, 70 and 28
Month's precipitation, 0.05
Month's snowfall, 1-inch
2003 precipitation to date, trace

Soil temperature, 29
The sources:
The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

