



8 pages

# COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Thursday

January 21, 2009  
Volume 120, Number 12  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

## Obama orders prison closed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama began overhauling U.S. treatment of terror suspects Thursday, signing orders to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, review military trials of suspects and ban the harshest interrogation methods.

With three executive orders and a presidential directive signed in the Oval Office, Obama started reshaping how the United States prosecutes and questions al-Qaida, Taliban or other foreign fighters who pose a threat to Americans.

The centerpiece order would close the much-maligned U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year, a complicated process with many unanswered questions that was nonetheless a key campaign promise of Obama's. The administration already has suspended trials for terrorist suspects at Guantanamo for 120 days pending a review of the military tribunals.

In other actions, Obama:

- Created a task force that would have 30 days to recommend policies on handling terror suspects who are detained in the future. Specifically, the group would look at where those detainees should be housed since Guantanamo is closing.

- Required all U.S. personnel to follow the U.S. Army Field Manual while interrogating detainees. The manual explicitly prohibits threats, coercion, physical abuse and waterboarding, a technique that creates the sensation of drowning and has been termed a form of torture by critics. However, a Capitol Hill aide says that the administration also is planning a study of more aggressive interrogation methods that could be added to the Army manual — which would create a significant loophole to Obama's action Thursday.

- Directed the Justice Department to review the case of Qatar native Ali al-Marri, who is the only enemy combatant currently being held on U.S. soil. The review will look at whether al-Marri has the right to sue the government for his freedom, a right the Supreme Court already has given to Guantanamo detainees. The directive will ask the high court for a stay in al-Marri's appeals case while the review is ongoing. The government says al-Marri is an al-Qaida sleeper agent.

An estimated 245 men are being held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba, most of whom have been detained for years without being charged with a crime. Among the sticky issues the Obama administration has to resolve are where to put those detainees — whether back in their home countries or at other federal detention centers — and how to prosecute some of them for war crimes.



Dale Deaver, 83, of Levant (back row, third person from the left) and the rest of the B-17 flying fortress — nicknamed Emma — pilots and crew he fought with in World War II posed for a picture at their base in Molesworth, England before

one of their seven missions in May 1945 to drop bombs on Germany. Deaver was a gunner and bombardier. He is a longtime member of the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## B-17 bombardier remembers experience

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkanas.com

With a picture of his B-17 flying fortress pilots and crew in his hand and a Kansas State cap on his head, Dale Deaver talked about his experiences in the second World War.

Deaver, 83, said he was drafted in 1943 before he had finished high school in Russell Springs. It took a while, but received an honorary diploma from Colby High School on March 22, 2001.

After training at several bases stateside, he was based in England, where he served as a gunner and a bombardier on B-17s. He rode the nose gun

turret when his crew bombed Germany. He dropped the bombs from his plane on seven missions. He said his plane was regularly shot at by German anti-aircraft.

"If you say you weren't scared, you're a liar," Deaver said.

Deaver said his plane was shot down when the Germans shot out its fuel tank on May 2, 1945. Luckily for the crew, the plane came down in a part of Germany that had been liberated by Allied troops the day before. The troops were led by Gen. George S. Patton, said Deaver. The Germans surrendered on May 7, 1945. While Deaver survived the war, he said his brother, Virgil M. Deaver, was killed in the South Pacific when

his plane was shot down in 1944.

Deaver was discharged from the Army in 1946. He settled down in Levant and has lived here ever since. He worked for farmers for most of the time after that. He married Minnie Tubbs on Oct. 3, 1946.

Deaver said he first joined the Veteran of Foreign Wars in 1966. He said you had to pay \$5 dues, but all he had was a dollar. Luckily, he said, Charles Cook let him join the group anyway.

Over the last eight or 10 years, he said, it has become a tradition for him to lead the organization in singing "God Bless America" on Veteran's Day.

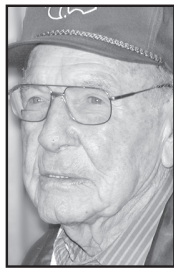
Deaver is an active member of the group. He said he really enjoys participating in the Veteran's Day Parade and going to the

Christmas party that the organization puts on for their kids and grandkids.

Deaver said he has a daughter, two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren. His daughter, Cathy Wieland, is married to Scott Wieland, and they live in Colby. His granddaughter, Colena Woods, is married to Colby Community College men's basketball Coach John Woods. They have three children, Declan, 5; Ryker, 3; and Katlin, 2. His other granddaughter, Karen Lindberg, lives in Great Bend with her husband Nels. They have year-old twins, Nash and Makinzie. Deaver's wife passed away in 2005.

He said the most important part about being involved with the organization has been the friends he has made over the years.

"We're all brothers," he said.



Deaver

## 'Benjamin Button' leads Oscars with 13 nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The romantic fantasy "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" led Academy Awards contenders Thursday with 13 nominations, among them best picture and acting honors for Brad Pitt and Taraji P. Henson, and a directing slot for David Fincher.

Other best-picture nominees are "Frost/Nixon," "Milk," "The Reader" and "Slumdog Millionaire."

As expected, Heath Ledger had a supporting-actor nomination for "The Dark Knight" on the one-year anniversary of his death from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs. But the Batman blockbuster was shut out from other top categories such as best picture and director.

"Slumdog Millionaire" lived up to its rags-to-riches theme, coming in second with 10 nominations, including a directing spot for Danny

Boyle and two of the three song slots.

Pitt and real-life partner Angelina Jolie both will be going to the Oscars as nominees. Jolie had a best-actress nomination for the missing-child drama "Changeling," while Pitt is up for his role as a man born old who ages backward toward childhood, an epic tale based on an F. Scott Fitzgerald story.

The acting categories were load-

ed with surprises. Kate Winslet won two Golden Globes, best dramatic actress for "Revolutionary Road" and supporting actress for "The Reader." But she was nominated for lead actress at the Oscars for "The Reader," and shut out for "Revolutionary Road."

Actors considered longshots also sneaked in, among them lead-actor nominee Richard Jenkins for "The Visitor," best-actress contender Melissa Leo for "Frozen

River" and supporting-actor pick Michael Shannon for "Revolutionary Road."

Winslet reunited with "Titanic" co-star Leonardo DiCaprio for "Revolutionary Road," but he also was shut out for a nomination on that film.

Other best-actress nominees were Anne Hathaway for "Rachel Getting Married" and Meryl

See "OSCARS," Page 3

## Briefly

### Girls out hawking cookies

If you're on a diet, you may not want to answer the door. But who can resist Girl Scout cookies? Sales began Saturday and run through Sunday, Feb. 1, said Scout leader Penny Cline. Cinna-Spins have been renamed Daisy Go Rounds in honor of the littlest Scouts, who will be out selling cookies this year, but they still come in 100-calorie packs. If you miss the knock on the door, call Mint Culver at 460-6005 or Cline (after 6 p.m. only) at 460-2929 to order.

### Pets available for adoption

Looking for a pet? Colby Animal Clinic has one

dog, a medium-sized, fairly young female, maybe a spaniel or border collie-mix with a nice temperament, available for adoption. Lost or

strayed animals are often brought to the clinic. Call or stop by 810 E. Fourth St. All animals have current shots, and costs are minimal. For questions, call 460-8621.

### Event will help man fight cancer

Friends of Reid Atkins, a long time resident of Thomas County, plan a fund raiser to help with his medical costs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday after church services at the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building. Sloppy joes, chips, relishes and desserts will be offered for a donation. Raffle tickets will be available for \$1. Atkins, who has nonhodgkins lymphoma, is a patient at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, awaiting a bone marrow transplant. Kansas

Quick Lube is offering a free oil change for every \$100 donation.

### Tech students plan soup supper

The Colby High School and Middle School chapters of the Technology Students Association plan a soup supper starting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, during the Colby-Hays Thomas Moore Prep basketball games. The supper is to raise money for the student's trip to the national competition in Denver. Homemade chili and chicken noodle soup, desserts and drinks will be available for a donation. For information call Lamoreaux Fulwider at 460-5300.

### Conservation reservations due

The Thomas County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Colby United Methodist Church. Dead-

line for reservations is Friday, Jan. 30. Call district manager Debbie Potter at (785) 462-7482, extension 303.

### Cemetery decorations need to go

Beulah Cemetery caretakers ask that all Christmas grave decorations be picked up by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30. For questions, call 462-3188.

### Museum offers kids program

To mark Kansas Day, the anniversary of statehood on Jan. 29, the Prairie Museum of Art and History plans a free art workshop for kids in grades three to five from 2-4 p.m. Saturday Jan. 31. Participants will make colorful oil pastel sunflower designs in honor of the Kansas state flower. Registration is limited to 20 participants; deadline is Thursday, Jan. 29. Call Rosanne Dougherty at the museum (785) 460-4590.

