



# COLBY FREE PRESS

## Concentration



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Tina Schmid, a junior at Colby High School, worked on a mural in the hall outside the high school's art room today. The mural was designed by Eric Erickson. Other students in Mrs. Roberts' art class were working on various clay projects inside the art studio.

## Size of Wal-Mart store said to exceed 106,000 square feet

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

The Wal-Mart Supercenter planned for Colby will be a big one, according to information provided by Carolyn Armstrong, Colby city manager.

She said the size of the building is 106,707 square feet. Armstrong said she thinks it's comparable to the center at Goodland, but smaller than the Hays store.

She said the store will have a grocery department and garden center but won't have a tire center. It will also have gas pumps but they'll be leased out for someone else to run.

"I have not talked to Wal-Mart on this," Armstrong said. Instead, her information is coming from Spear and McCaleb, an Oklahoma City engineering firm that is working on the initial site plan.

No land has been purchased and she explained there won't be any

land transaction until the land is annexed and rezoned, a process that takes 30 to 60 days. Armstrong said the anticipated opening of the store is late 2005 or early 2006. "That's fairly aggressive," she said.

Wal-Mart is interested in a 13-acre parcel of land at the corner of South Franklin Avenue and Willow Street. Armstrong said she doesn't anticipate any problems with increased traffic.

She said on the site will be room for one more business in front and between the store and the Holiday Inn Express. She also said there is room south of Davis.

Armstrong is optimistic about the progress but said she's always nervous until things start to get done. She added she also has no idea as to what might be the fate of the building Wal-Mart currently occupies.

Armstrong has heard rumors but didn't wish to speculate.

## Commodity distribution guidelines have changed

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

United States Department of Agriculture commodities will be distributed in Colby at the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program office in the Senior Progress Center from 3-5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16.

Director Laura Withington said there have been some changes in guidelines and people should check with the office to see who is eligible.

She said the program is for people with a low income to supplement their food budget with free food.

"Elderly people on fixed incomes or families with children living on low incomes are especially urged to take advantage," Withington said.

Eligibility is determined according to income guidelines, which are decided on maximum gross monthly income.

For one person, \$973; two people, \$1,313; three people, \$1,654; four people, \$1,994; five people, \$2,334; six, \$2,674; seven, \$3,014; eight, 3,354.

Distribution is on a first come-

first served basis and will not begin until the advertised time. Participants are asked not to arrive at the distribution site more than 30 minutes prior to the distribution.

Commodities will only be available on the advertised date and time. Eligible people will no longer be able to pick up the commodities at a later date if they miss the distribution.

Withington said if people can't pick up their own commodities at the advertised time, they can send a signed permission slip with another person to pick up the items. One person may be allowed to pick up commodities for three other households besides their own.

She said the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is the coordinating agency for distributions in Thomas County. Commodities are given out at the Senior Progress Center in Colby and the Brewster Senior Center. Sites are no longer available in Levant or Rexford.

For information, call the office at 462-6744.

## Kerry rivals scrambling

By DONNA CASSATA

Associated Press Writer

John Kerry's three-state weekend rout, capped by his coast to victory in Maine, pushed him closer to the Democratic nomination and left his rivals scrambling to find a way to stop the front-runner.

Boasting a daunting record of 10 wins in 12 contests, Kerry focused on the next round — Tuesday's primaries in Virginia and Tennessee — and the opportunity for the Massachusetts senator to show his clout in the South.

Rivals John Edwards and Wesley Clark, the two Southerners in the race, talked of populist themes in hopes of making inroads with voters in the two states that offer 151 pledged delegates and, more important, continued survival in the Democratic race.

Neither Edwards nor Clark — nor one-time front-runner Howard Dean — could match Kerry's advantage in Maine, which held its caucuses Sunday with 24 delegates at stake.

Kerry outpaced Dean by a nearly 2-to-1 margin in the state, with Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio a distant third. Dean and Kucinich had made 11th-hour appeals to Maine voters. The win there came after Kerry's triumphs in Michigan and Washington state a day earlier.

Kerry has more than twice as many delegates as his closest pursuer, as his win in Maine pushed his total to 426, compared with Dean's 184, according to an Associated Press tally. It takes 2,162 delegates to win the nomination. Kucinich appeared to fall just short of qualifying for delegates in Maine.

## 'Rally for Beef' set at Goodland

By GREG STOVER

The Goodland Star-News

GOODLAND — "Rally for Beef" is the theme of this year's High Plains Ag Expo Thursday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland, starting at 8 a.m. (MST).

The Expo is sponsored by KLOE, KKCI and KWGB Radio in Goodland and the National Sunflower Association. Marty Melia, spokesman for the Expo, said Governors Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Bill Owens of Colorado have been invited along with the representatives of several state and national livestock organizations to be part of the celebration.

The purpose of this year's theme is to help promote the beef industry in northwest Kansas, eastern Colorado and southwest Kansas. Part of

that promotion is to stress that American beef is safe and good to eat. To help in that goal a free hamburger lunch sponsored by some of the beef producers from northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado will be served starting at noon on the exhibit floor in Max Jones.

"Our goal is to feed from 800 to 1,000 people at the Rally for Beef," Melia said.

A similar event in Kingman, Melia said, sponsored by the Kingman County Farm Bureau held Jan. 16 served over 700 people from all over the state who came to show their support for the beef industry.

People taking advantage of the free meal are invited to stay and listen to the Expo's guest speakers including Kevin Duvetter and Terry Kastens, agriculture economists

from Kansas State University; Greg Dowd, a livestock disease specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Brownie Wilson, of the Kansas Geological Survey in Lawrence, who will talk about water well surveys in western Kansas.

There will be a special presentation by "the Cowguy" Ron Schilling. Live entertainment is sponsored by Eagle Cable TV and Internet.

Nearly 40 agri-businesses will have displays to show off some of the developments in agricultural services and technology. Some of them are Sigco Sun Products, Crop Quest, Mueller Grain, Ag Source, Kansas Livestock Assoc., Mycogen Seeds, Kansas Cattlemans Assoc., Kansas AgriBility, Agri Safe and the Sherman County Farm Bureau.

## Trial for ex-Westar officers delayed

TOPEKA (AP) — Two former Westar Energy Inc. executives who are charged with spending millions of dollars in company money will face trial in September instead of March, a federal judge ordered.

U.S. District Court Judge Julie Robinson ordered that the start of the trial be changed from March 8 to Sept. 7.

Lawyers for David Wittig and

Douglas Lake, who waived their constitutional right to a speedy trial, had asked Robinson to postpone the trial until October.

Prosecutors wanted a July trial date, but the defense said they would be unavailable due to scheduling conflicts.

Wittig and Lake's lawyers have until March 19 to file a request to have the trial be moved out of state.

## Briefly

### Kindergarten pre-enrollment set

Kindergarten pre-enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year will be held at Colby Grade School on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in the conference room. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization records and social security number. Call the grade school office at (785) 460-1500 if you have any questions.

### Tax help available

AARP Tax Aide help is now available on Mondays and will continue through April 15 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the meeting room at Pioneer Memorial Library. On Wednesdays, help will be available on simple tax forms from 1-3 p.m. at the Senior Progress Center. For information, call Alvin Volk at

462-2645 or Lela or Don German at 460-3062.

### Rotary soup supper next week

The annual Colby Rotary soup supper will be from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, during the Colby High School basketball game against Goodland at the Colby Community Building. All proceeds from this event go to benefit various organizations. Tickets will be available at the door or from any Rotary Club member.

### Dog obedience school underway

The Thomas County Trackers 4-H Dog Club is once again offering obedience training this winter and spring. Although the orientation meeting and classes have already begun, in-

terested persons should call Carrie Bredemeier for questions or information at (785) 460-3816.

### Workforce Center has new hours

The Colby Workforce Center (formerly the Job Service Center) is now operating under new hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The center is located at 485 N. Chick.

### Landfill hours for winter

The Thomas County landfill is operating on its winter hours, said Larry Jumper, supervisor. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



### Continued cool

**Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area**  
**Tonight...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 15. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Tuesday night...**Partly cloudy. Lows around 19. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty.

**Wednesday...**Partly cloudy. Breezy...Cooler. Highs in the upper 20s. North winds 15 to 25 mph.

**Wednesday night...**Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows around 14.

**Thursday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 30s.

**The numbers**  
Sunday's high, 39  
Low this morning, 19  
Records for Feb. 9, 71 in 1954 and -22 in 1933

Year ago today, 36 and 15  
February precipitation, 0.13 inches

February snowfall, 6 inches  
Snowfall past 24 hours, 0.00

**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.

