

College gallery features textile artist

The featured artist at the Colby Community College Art Gallery is textile artist Mary Ewing of Cedar Bluffs.

The show is a display of scrap quilts, quilted clothing, wool blankets with painted leather and baskets.

“My great-grandmother was an avid quilter,” said Ewing. “I was

born on her 80th birthday so we were close. As a child she supplied me with fabric scraps and fostered my love of textiles.”

Ewing grew up in a family of artists.

“I was named for my grandmother, who was named for her grandmother whose grandmother was a Cherokee woman,” explained

Ewing. “Our name and knowledge of pine needle basketry was passed to us from her. Because I grew up in a family of artists and craftsmen, the satisfaction of creating things with my hands has always been a part of my life. It is something I endeavor to pass along to following generations.”

The public is invited to view her

work which will be on display through April 8. There is no admission charge.

The Colby College Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 1-5 p.m.

Groups may make special arrangements for other times by calling art instructor Cathy Gordon at 462-3984, ext. 310.

On the international scene

Hamas leader Yassin killed in airstrike

GAZACITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel killed Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike outside a Gaza City mosque Monday, prompting threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian militants against Israel and the United States.

Yassin was the most prominent Palestinian leader to be killed by Israel in more than three years of fighting, and his assassination was seen as a major escalation.

In a spontaneous outpouring of rage and grief, tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A cloud of black smoke hung over Gaza City, as angry mourners burned tires in protest.

“Words cannot describe the emotion of anger and hate inside our hearts,” said Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh, a close associate of Yassin.

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, in turn, pledged that “the battle against Hamas will continue,” suggesting there will be more air strikes and raids.

The United States urged both sides to show restraint.

At daybreak Monday, Israeli helicopters fired three missile as the Yassin, his bodyguards and dozens of others left a neighborhood mosque in Gaza City. Yassin, a quadriplegic who uses a wheel-

chair, and seven others were killed, including several bodyguards. Seventeen people were wounded.

Two more Palestinians were killed in Gaza later Monday, one while handling explosives and the second by Israeli army fire, during a protest against the Yassin killing, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Israel held Yassin responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a former army general, was updated throughout the operation.

The Yassin assassination was seen as an enormous gamble by Sharon, who is trying to score a decisive victory against Hamas ahead of a possible Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, but risks triggering a dramatic escalation in bloodshed that could turn the public’s mood in Israel against him.

Mofaz, the Israeli defense minister, said Yassin was the “Palestinian bin Laden,” referring to fugitive Saudi terror Osama bin Laden.

Gideon Meir, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, said Yassin was directly responsible for the scores of suicide attacks Hamas unleashed since 2000. “He is the one who is sending children and women to explode themselves,” Meir said.

The Palestinian Authority said in a statement that “Israel has exceeded all red lines with this cheap and dirty crime,” and declared a

three-day mourning period.

Flags at Yasser Arafat’s headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah were lowered to half-staff, and the Palestinian Cabinet was to hold an emergency session later Monday. Yassin was Arafat’s biggest political rival, but Arafat has always been careful not to confront the Hamas leader openly.

Fearing revenge attacks, Israel barred all Palestinians from entering Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Most West Bank Palestinians were confined to their communities.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians took to the streets in the West Bank in protest. In Nablus, the largest city, about 15,000 people flocked to the center. “This morning, dozens came to us volunteering to be suicide bombers and we will send them at the right time,” one masked man said at the rally.

Thousands more demonstrated in the town of Jenin. In the West Bank town of Hebron, dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers, who fired tear gas.

West Bank schools were closed, and a one-day commercial strike was declared over mosque loudspeakers. In the Israeli prison camp of Ketziot, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners rioted briefly, setting tents on fire and throwing stones at soldiers. The Israeli army chief, Lt.

Gen. Moshe Yaalon, met with army commanders in Tel Aviv to discuss the possible fallout, and more forces were ordered to the Gaza Strip.

Hamas promised a harsh response. “Yassin is a man in a nation, and a nation in a man. And the retaliation of this nation will be of the size of this man,” said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a prominent Hamas leader in Gaza who himself escaped an Israeli assassination attempt last June.

For the first time, Hamas also threatened the United States, saying America’s backing of Israel made the assassination possible. “All the Muslims of the world will be honored to join in on the retaliation for this crime,” Hamas said in a statement. In the past, Hamas leaders have insisted their struggle is against Israel and that they would not get involved in causes by militant Muslims in other parts of the world.

Student News

Brandon Blatt graduates from DeVry University

Brandon Blatt of Colby graduated in June, 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology from the DeVry University in Kansas City. He is now working as a controls design engineer with Engineered Controls.

Fish fry draws 600

LURAY (AP)—For 66 years, the Luray United Methodist Church has cooked fish, potatoes and other vegetables in an annual event that feeds hundreds.

Six-hundred people — about three times the population of Luray — showed up Friday for this year’s fish fry, which is always the third Friday in March.

“There will be people here that don’t even go to church,” Dwight Cornwell said a few hours before the first diners grabbed their plates.

The event began in 1938 as a way for the church to raise money for a new building. The event grew so large that it required more help than the church could provide, so nearly everyone in the town of about 200 has an assignment. Some dish up the food, others cook it. Some serve drinks, others clear the empty cups from the table.

People joke that the Methodists get the good jobs and the Catholic or Baptist volunteers get others, but really, organizer

Bill Paschal said, the fish fry is now more of a community event than a church one.

The event is held at the American Legion hall.

But the menu hasn’t change: It features fish, potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, bread and homemade cherry pie.

This year, 600 pounds of fish were thawed. By Friday afternoon, the pollock filets were ready for batter, and the cooking began.

Because frying the fish requires use of the entire kitchen at the American Legion hall, side dishes must be made elsewhere. Once the food is cooked, it’s moved to the American Legion.

In its biggest years, volunteers cooked meals for 1,200 and 1,300 people.

“This thing kind of got out of hand,” said volunteer Joyce Paschal.

The numbers have dropped off over the years, and now the normal crowd is usually around 600 people.

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