



Two Sections
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Dillons adding fuel site

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Gas and groceries. That's the new thing taking place at Dillons on Range Ave. in Colby.

Su-Ella McKinzie, director of advertising and public relations at the company's corporate office in Hutchinson, said Colby's the latest to get a gas station.

"We're putting in a new fuel center here," McKinzie said. "We hope to have that open in six weeks."

Customers will be able to get a two, four or six-cent discount on their gas purchased, depending on grade, when they use their Dillons Plus cards.

"It'll be a great deal for you guys," she said.

McKinzie said Dillons has been adding the gas stations since 2000.

She said buying groceries and gas are the most common errands customers run and the company found that combining the opportunity to get both at the same time has been successful..

"We want to make it easier for them to do both by adding a one-stop shopping location," McKinzie said.

The fuel center will include four pumps with eight total filling spots, a canopy and a kiosk that will be manned from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. but customers will be able to buy fuel 24 hours a day if



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

A portion of the Dillons parking lot was dug out this week to make room for a fueling center. The gas station will feature four pumps, a canopy and a manned kiosk. It should be open in about six weeks.

they have a credit or debit card.

Items like candy, lottery tickets, cigarettes and automotive accessories will also be available for purchase at the kiosk.

"This will be our 23rd fuel center," she said.

Other locations include Derby, Wichita, Manhattan, Hays, Great Bend, Garden City, Liberal, Shaw-

nee, Lawrence, Salina and Winfield.

McKinzie said there aren't any other additions that will be made in the near future.

Patriot Act, civil liberties topic of lecture

Anationally-known public interest attorney will be the first guest speaker of 2004 for the Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series at Colby Community College

Edward Ramey, a member of the law firm Isaccson, Rosenbaum, Woods and Levy in Denver, will be here on Thursday..

The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. in the Frahm Theatre located in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. There is no admission charge.

"He has a wide background of experience in complex commercial, corporate, bankruptcy and public interest litigation in federal and state courts in Colorado and throughout the country," said Tom Moorhaus, coordinating the lecture series.

Ramey's lecture will address the current state of American Civil Liberties as a consequence of the passage of the Patriot Act in October 2001 in response to the World Trade Center terrorist attacks and the congressional update of Patriot Act II.

He is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and well-known for his controversial commentary criticizing these legislative acts. A member of the Colorado bar since 1975, Ramey is a frequent lecturer at the University of Denver and University of Colorado schools of law as well as a guest speaker on local, governmental and literary

topics at secondary schools throughout Colorado.

He is a frequent contributor of legal services to persons in need through Colorado and Denver Bar Associations, Metro Volunteer Lawyers and the Faculty of Federal Advocates. Prior to attending law school he served for three years as an infantry officer with the United States Army.

In addition to his private practice, Ramey has served on boards of directors and as litigation counsel to numerous nonprofit community, environmental and legal-related organizations including two terms as President of the Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, three terms as a member of the Board of Trustees of Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and Litigation Counsel for Community Shares of Colorado.

Along with Ramey's speech next week, Robert Kennedy, Jr., will appear at the college on March 11. Kennedy is recognized nationally for his stand on environmental issues. The Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series is funded annually by private donations.



E. Ramey

Senate tax panel opens hearings on governor's schools plan

TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate panel heard mixed expressions from business groups Thursday on whether they would support Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' plan for \$304 million in tax increases to benefit public schools.

Some said higher taxes would derail an economic recovery, but others said the governor's initiative

had merit. The comments were offered in the first of two days of hearings by the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee on the financing aspects of Sebelius' proposal.

Lew Ebert, president of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told the committee that proposed increases in property, sales and individual income taxes would

eliminate jobs and raise the cost of doing business in Kansas.

"Business is already working hard to survive in challenging times that have gone on for far too long," he said. Bernie Koch, lobbyist for the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, said his community had been hit hard by layoffs in manufacturing, particularly aviation. The

Chamber has supported education in the past and recognizes its role, but it cannot support higher taxes, he said.

"Frankly, we have not yet recovered," said Koch, noting Wichita's 6.1 percent unemployment rate.

But Larry McElwain, chairman of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, said Sebelius' proposal has

merit and that education funding represents "a critical need."

"We see that economic development and education are inextricably linked to one another," McElwain said.

"Each company that has come to our town in the last three decades has sought the answer to the question, 'How good is your educational

system?'"

Education advocates told the committee that the governor's plan would address needs among the state's 302 school districts.

Mark Tallman, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards, said other states are gaining on Kansas on national test scores by investing in education.



Snow by Sunday

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie

Tonight...Mostly clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Cooler. Lows around +8. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the west after midnight. **Saturday...**Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday night...**Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the evening. Lows around 14. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Sunday...**Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance for snow in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 30s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday night...**Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows around 16. **Monday and Tuesday...**Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Lows in the mid-teens

The numbers
Thursday's high, 26
Low this morning, 10
Records for Feb. 6, 73 in 1963 and -22 in 1982
Year ago today, 21 and 18
February precipitation, 0.13 inches
February snowfall, 6 inches
Snowfall past 24 hours, trace

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.

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Customers at Dillons got a pleasant surprise Thursday. Members of the Thomas County Farm Bureau Association were handing out free loaves of bread in commemoration of Food Check-Out Day.

"We handed out 110 loaves," said Sue Draper, county women's committee chairman with the Farm Bureau. "That's not bad."

She said the day is to honor the amount of time it takes the average American to make enough money to pay for their family's annual food

supply. She said according to U.S. Department of Agriculture information, it takes about 40 days and equals approximately 10 percent of their yearly income.

"Nationally, it's been a project for many, many years," she said.

Locally, Draper came on board with the project in 2000 but she said it's been held here for many years also.

She said many of the people who received bread loaves were aware of what it was for and were happy to get something for free.

"Most people were just de-

lighted," she said.

Handing out free bread wasn't the only way the farm bureau celebrated the day. Draper said they usually buy groceries and donate them the Genesis, the county food bank but because of the inclement weather this week, they just donated the cash instead.

"America's farmers and ranchers are the most productive in the world," she said.

"We're proud of our contribution to society and Food Check-Out Day gives us the opportunity to share some of our success with others."



Elaine Preston, Colby, got a free loaf of bread from Kenneth Johnston Thursday at Dillons.

Briefly

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday at the courthouse. Items on the agenda include opening of asphalt bids. The meeting is open to the public.

Pre-enrollment announced

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.

Meth awareness/soup supper set

The Colby High School SADD members will be hosting a soup supper and Meth Awareness workshop in the Colby High School commons area on Monday. The soup supper starts at 6:45 p.m. with the workshop beginning at 7:30 p.m. Presentations will be given by a treatment counselor, recovering meth user and law enforcement.

Pancake feed Saturday

The annual Oddfellows and Rebekahs pancake and sausage feed is planned for Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the

Colby Community Building. Proceeds from the pancake feed are used for freshman and sophomore scholarships, organizers said.

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.

Head Start enrollment continues

The Thomas County Head Start program is currently taking applications for the 2004-05 school year. Head Start is a federally funded preschool for children ages 3 and 4. For those with questions, call 462-6067.

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.

Today is last day to order cookies

Today is the final day to order cookies from the Colby Girl Scouts annual cookie drive. No money will be collected until delivery, which will be announced at a later date. This is one of the scouts largest fund-raising events with nearly one-quarter of the profits staying with the local troops to finance girl-activities, said Shannon Koon, one of the coordinators. In case a scout misses someone, call her at (785) 460-6662.

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, interested 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.

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.

