

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

More than 20 parents and their children attended Storytime Kleinsorge, children's librarian, right, reading about funny farm family night Tuesday at Pioneer Memorial Library with Judy animals. Storytime activities are offered year round.

Spring wheat expected to boost Montana

tana farmers plan to plant 5.5 milthe most since 2002, a federal agriculture agency says.

Much of that -3.05 million acres — is expected to be seeded to spring wheat, the Montana field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service said. That would be a bright spot in the state's wheat picture: Winter wheat plantings are down from the previous crop year and durum acres are expected to be sharply lower.

"My instant reaction was, the numbers were surprising. They don't seem to compute," Tracy Houck, executive director of the Montana Farmers Union, said last week. "We've had a good year. We're going into the (spring planting) season with good moisture for the second year in a row."

Thomas Chard, an agricultural statistician with the agency, said energy and commodity prices are Fuel prices were high last fall when last year's crop.

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Mon-farmers were seeding winter wheat, which he said probably kept some lion acres of wheat for the crop year, producers from planting more acres. And durum prices, as recently as February, were much lower than during the same period the past few years, he said.

While spring wheat acreage is expected to be up from last year's 2.6 million acres, it would still pale in comparison to acreage seeded in the mid- to late-1990s, agency figures show. In 1997, for example, farmers planted nearly 4.3 million spring wheat acres.

This year, a shift from durum and winter wheat acreage, along with better soil moisture conditions, are adding to the higher spring wheat hopes, the agency said.

Farmers plan to plant 450,000 acres of durum, which would be down from last year's 590,000 acres and the fewest since 1999, when just 360,000 acres were planted, according to the agency.

Producers, meanwhile, planted likely behind the lower numbers. 2.15 million winter wheat acres for

Electric company upgrading Holcomb plant

Power Corp. promises greater and for western Kansas.

The electricity provider is currently undergoing a \$20 million upgrade at the Holcomb plant to refurbish its massive generator, upgrade the boilers and coal pulverizers, and replace the computer system that runs the facility.

"It's a once in a 20-year thing," said Steve Moss, senior manager of power production.

The generator was shut down on March 10, and about 200 people brought in by contractors have been working toward getting it back online by April 19.

for power production, said the up- Department of Health and Environgrades will bring the plant from the ment and have discussed using its

cables and installing a computer Aquifer to run the plant. more efficient energy production system that will provide more information to operators.

> But refurbishing the existing plant isn't the extent of the activity a few miles west of Garden City. An agreement has been signed

with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a Colorado electric cooperative, to build two 600 megawatt generation plants on site — nearly tripling the current output in Holcomb.

When Sunflower was organized in 1957, the nonprofit corporation designed the Holcomb site with a

1,000 megawatt facility in mind. Officials already have applied for Kyle Nelson, executive manager building permits with the Kansas

The company is also stockpiling to be constructed. the 88,000 tons of ash left by the 1.6

HOLCOMB (AP) — A bevy of past to the present, replacing old right to an additional 2,369 acremillion tons of coal burned annuactivity at Sunflower Electric copper wiring with fiber optic feet of water from the Ogallala ally, which will be used to stabilize the ground where the new plants are

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These Colby Churches listed here warmly invite you to share part of your day with them. Trinity Lutheran Church 855 E. 5th St. • Colby, KS

Wishing you A

Colby Wesleyan Church

320 W. Pine, Colby



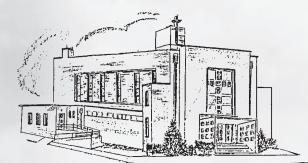
Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m., April 13 at the church Tenebare service and drama

Please come join us!

785-462-3497 April 13 7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday with Communion and Stripping of the Altar April 14 7:00 P.M. Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 15 5:30 P.M. Easter Eve April 16 7:00 A.M. Easter **Sunrise Service** 8:00 ~ 10:00 A.M. Breakfast Served by the Youth. 10:30 A.M. Feast of the

Resurrection of Our Lord Join us & Bring a Friend!

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Breakfast......9:00 a.m. Outdoor Family Worship......10:00 a.m.