



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colby Grade School second grader Caelan Ford posed with a buffalo during a recent visit to the Fick Fossil Museum in Oakley. The school's second graders took a field trip to the museum, and learned about the area's history and fossils.

Agriculture secretary says increased federal spending on produce helps California

MODESTO, Calif. (AP) — A farm bill proposed earlier this week by the Bush administration would benefit California farmers by boosting federal spending on fruits, vegetables and the marketing of the state's crops overseas, the U.S. agriculture secretary said.

The bill, proposed Wednesday, would trim \$18 billion from current federal agriculture spending over the next five years. But California farmers would benefit, as the bill calls for an additional \$3.25 billion in federal spending on produce that would go toward federal food programs, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said Thursday.

"If you are a fruit and vegetable grower, I promise you, you will see a presence in farm policy that you have never seen before," Johanns said at a meeting with state officials.

California sells more produce than any other state, leading in the sale of dozens of fruits, nuts and

vegetables, including grapes, almonds, raisins and carrots. Most of those crops don't receive federal subsidy payments, farmers said.

"We grow what you buy every week in the grocery store," said George J. Miller, who grows peaches, almonds and walnuts on 250 acres in Modesto. "We can't keep fresh peaches stored in a warehouse for two years like you can with wheat."

The state would also get a share of a proposed \$1 billion that would go toward research on pest control and the breeding of plants over the next 10 years, Johanns said.

Many California farmers called the \$87.3 billion spending bill a good first step. But others said they worried Congress would overhaul it to direct those funds to traditionally subsidized crops such as rice, corn and soybeans.

More federal funds for fruits and vegetables is important if U.S.

"We can't keep fresh peaches stored in a warehouse for two years like you can with wheat."

George Miller, peach producer

growers want to compete on the world market, said Russel Efirid, president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

In all, the plan is not a radical departure from current farm programs, which Democratic leaders and major farm groups have pushed to maintain.

But it is historic that fruits and vegetables were considered so significantly in this farm bill, said state Rep. Dennis Cardoza, who called the proposal promising.

The plan would cost \$87.3 billion over the next five years, not counting food stamps and other nutrition programs, compared with \$105 billion spent on farm programs over the past five years.

"It'll be great if it goes through," Miller said. "But you have to wonder what they'll cut from now until it's passed."

On the Net:
U.S. Department of Agriculture:
<http://www.usda.gov>

Heartland Christian School Junior/Senior Garage Sale!

Saturday, February 3 ~ 8am-1pm

Nice piano, furniture, television, computers, CDs, videos, toys, games, books, vinyl records (33 1/3 and 45) for those collectors out there, household items, bedding plus lots of other misc.

All proceeds for the day will be used to help fund a mission/history trip to Washington DC in March 2007. Students will be helping out in an urban city school in the DC area. In addition to working with the students, they may be helping with repairs, maintenance, painting and other areas of need within the school. After this they will spend time touring the DC area and several Civil War battlefields.

Your support would be greatly appreciated!



1995 W. 4th
Colby, KS 67701

It's in the bag



Jeff Friesen, library link

• Pioneer Memorial Library director

Booked for Lunch will take place Wednesday over the lunch hour from noon to 1 p.m. Larry Barrett will be reviewing the books "Ogallala Blue" by William Ashworth and "The Worst Hard Time" by Timothy Egan. A light lunch will be served.

New Fiction

A homeless man who calls himself Falcon is Jack Swyteck's latest case. As a criminal defense attorney, Jack has seen a lot of things. But a few inconsistencies in his latest case have Jack scratching his head.

For one thing, his homeless client Falcon has managed to come up with \$10,000 to pay his bail. Worse yet, a dead body was discovered in the back of the car that Falcon was living in. Jack suspects bigger things at play.

His fears are realized when Falcon takes his best friend hostage. Now, the destiny of Jack and Jack's best friend, Theo, are left in the hands of an increasingly unstable man with an agenda - Falcon and a blind man named Vincent Paulo - the police's top negotiator. Read "When Darkness Falls" by James Grippando.

New Non-fiction

Dr. Laura Schlessinger creates tension. Her methodology towards solving life problems is direct, uncompromising, and typically filled with tension and pity for the person seeking advice — but people love it.

Dr. Laura's book titled "The Proper Care and Feeding of Husbands" was a runaway bestseller. Her latest book just off the press is titled "The Proper Care and Feeding of Marriage."

Dr. Laura begins the book by examining the trends of society and

how those trends have impacted the traditional understanding of a marriage. Dr. Laura provides the groundwork for what is needed to make a marriage successful and highlights a number of root problems that, if not addressed, can lead to an unsuccessful marriage.

Her characteristically no-nonsense approach uses a lot of real world examples to illustrate her points without any assumptions about the state of the reader's marriage. Her advice applies to couples with a good marriage, a marriage on the brink of divorce, or a couple contemplating marriage. P.S. - Reading Dr. Laura creates much less anxiety than listening to her radio show.

Tip of the week

Keep track of the books that you want to read from Pioneer Memorial Library by putting them in your "bookbag" online.

To do this, go to www.colbylibrary.com and click on online catalog along the left side of the web page. Browse for the book that you want and when you find a title click the link to the title.

On the lefthand side of the page a button should now be available that states "Add to Bookbag." Click this button and continue to add books in this same way. After you are finished adding books click on the Bookbag button with the search icons at the top of the page. This will bring up a list of all the books that you have added to your bookbag. At this point you can save, print, or edit your list of books.

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth and open seven days a week. For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our web site at www.colbylibrary.com.

WINTER BLOW OUT SALES

- 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt CT, 4 door - \$12,995
- 2006 Hyundai Sonata, V-6, GLS - \$15,995
- 2005 Pontiac Vibe, 4 door - \$13,495
- 2005 Dodge Neon, SxT, 4-door - \$9,995
- 2003 Ford Taurus, 4 door - \$5,995
- 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix, GT, leather, 4-door -
- 2005 Polaris 550 Snowmobile, RMK - \$3,395
- 1999 Ford 1-Ton Crew Cab 4x4 Diesel, - \$14,995
- 1999 Saturn SLI, 4 door - \$4,995
- 2001 Chevrolet 1-Ton Reg. Cab 4x4 Flat Bed, - \$17,995
- 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS 4x4 - \$20,995
- 1992 Mercedes-Benz 400E, - \$10,495
- 2003 Mercury Grand Marquis - 4-door, low miles -



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