



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages



## College holds stained glass class

Barry Mitchell and Deb Johnson (above) laughed as they worked on pieces of stained glass Monday night at a class taught by Rod Rodenbeck (right) at Colby Community College. Johnson used a popsicle stick (below) to wrap a strip of copper around each piece of glass.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



## Suspect here pleads not guilty

By Sam Dieter  
Colby Free Press  
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William Andrew Shank, 24, Garden City, pleaded not guilty to three felony charges stemming from the death of Teri L. Morris on Feb. 9 during a first appearance Tuesday morning in Thomas County District Court.

Shank is accused of killing Morris, his ex-girlfriend, and setting fire to her house. A preliminary hearing was set for 1 p.m. Monday, March 11.

Friends and family of the victim commented later that they are not happy that Shank pleaded not guilty and said he didn't seem to show any remorse.

The main charge was first-degree murder, which carries a possible sentence of life in prison. Shank also is charged with ag-

gravated arson, which carries a sentence from 4 1/2 to 20 years in prison, and aggravated burglary, with a possible sentence of 2 1/2 to 11 years in prison.

Cuffed and shackled, wearing striped prison clothes, Shank was led into the courtroom shortly after 10 a.m. Tuesday. During the hearing, far more people were seated on the victim's side of the courthouse, almost 20 as opposed to four on Shank's side. They included Morris' family, some of them wearing pink T-shirts with pictures of Morris and her baby. Some of her former co-workers with Emergency Medical Services were there, including her boyfriend at the time, Russell Rodenbeck. A small crowd of law enforcement officers sat in the courtroom or stood outside.

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## Postal Service has moved mail

By Kevin Bottrell  
The Goodland Star-News  
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The U.S. Postal Service confirmed Tuesday that incoming and outgoing mail processing for the 677 Zip codes has moved to North Platte, Neb., but don't worry about a letter to your neighbor going off on a long trip.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesperson for the service in Denver, said mail addressed within the 677 area will still be delivered overnight. That area includes Sherman, Cheyenne, Thomas, Decatur, Rawlins, Logan, Wallace and Gove counties.

Mail will go to North Platte, be sorted by machines. Mail for the 677 area will go to North Platte to be sorted, then put on a truck to maintain overnight delivery. Sperry said the sorting ma-

chines at the North Platte facility can handle 35,000 pieces of mail in an hour. Currently, mail and periodical bundles sorted for the same five-digit zip code will stay local.

"Bulk mailing will not change," he said, "but the time to submit may be different."

Outgoing processing had been done in Colby until a previous round of consolidation, when most of that work was moved to Salina. That facility is being closed and processing there moved to Wichita. Incoming mail processing was still being done in Colby until Tuesday.

Sperry said the change will result in a loss of the equivalent of two full-time positions in Colby, which will be shifted to North Platte. Colby will still serve as a

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## High school FFA to hold breakfast

The Colby High School FFA chapter appreciation breakfast, originally scheduled for Thursday, has been moved to this Thursday morning.

Pancakes, sausage and drinks will be served from 6:30 to 8 a.m. at Colby High School during the breakfast, one of several activities scheduled for FFA Week last week that were postponed because of the storm Thursday.

FFA members said they spent a lot of time doing things like ordering food for the breakfast and passing out fliers organizing the

events. "I like getting together with everybody, you know, joking around, having a good time," said ninth grader Lainie O'Neal, 14.

O'Neal organized a petting zoo which had been scheduled Friday. Although she used to live on a farm and still has five horses, three ferrets and a dog, none of them could show up to the zoo.

"I had to talk to a couple of people to borrow cows," she said.

Last Tuesday, O'Neal added,

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## Obama talks budget cuts

By Josh Lederman  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House conceded today that efforts to avoid automatic budget cuts are unlikely to succeed before they kick in and is initiating new talks with congressional leaders to confront seemingly intractable tax-

and-spend issues.

President Barack Obama will meet at the White House Friday with House and Senate leaders of both parties several hours after the deadline for averting the cuts, known in Washington-speak as a "sequester," has passed. This would put the White House and Congress essentially in the position of looking past the cuts to the

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## Browsing book sale



The Pioneer Memorial Library had its book sale ready to go Friday as soon as it reopened. The library had closed after last week's storm. Dan Keel and his wife Bev browsed for books in the library basement.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

