



COLBY FREE PRESS



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Sue Taylor (right), director of the Prairie Museum of Art and History, showed museum visitors, Barb Crouse (far left) of Wellsville and Theo Cinert of Lisle, Ill., a panoramic view of Colby taken in 1907. This photo is a part of the *Developing Our Community Character* exhibit.

At the museum ‘Our Community’ is latest exhibit theme

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A new temporary exhibit intended to stimulate conversation about buildings in town and what the future ‘built environment’ might look like, is now on display at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby.

The exhibit, *Developing Our Community Character*, identifies some of the interesting architectural and historical buildings in the city, said Sue Taylor, director of the museum.

“The exhibit offers visitors a whole new way to look at Colby,” she said, “with the hope of encouraging people to get involved in the preservation of historic resources.”

A dominant part of the exhibit is a large panorama of the city taken in the fall of 1907 from the Thomas

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Sue Taylor, museum director

County Courthouse looking west, she said.

“The rest of the exhibit is organized into four important periods of development in Colby,” she said, “which includes before 1907, 1907 to 1930, 1930 to 1945 and 1945 through present.”

There are more than 250 photographs of current buildings, along with historic photographs from the Thomas County historical archives.

Another aspect of this project, Taylor said, has been nominations to the

National Register for Colby High School, which is now the Intermediate Building; the Colby City Hall and the Colby Municipal Swimming Pool.

“One of the activities that people might consider from this exhibit is in establishing a local register of historic places, which would allow the community to honor buildings locally without the National Register process,” she said.

In addition to the exhibit, a workshop was held at the museum earlier

this summer, she said. As part of the grant, 13 instructors developed curriculum using the exhibit and information about the buildings here.

“Using the newly installed photographic exhibit with the timeline of Colby, the teachers created classroom activities and projects that they plan to take to the students this year,” she said.

Taylor said she believes this will be a treat for students, who will have an opportunity to participate in activities and projects that focus on their town.

The temporary exhibit is located in the Garvey Educational Room at the museum.

For questions or information about this temporary exhibit, call the museum at 462-4590.

Child safety focus of Sept. 19 event

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Health Department is taking steps to make sure you don’t take chances when your child’s safety is on the line.

In order to accomplish that, the health department will be collecting old safety car seats and giving new ones out on Thursday, Sept. 19, said Thomas County Health Nurse Kathy Ryan. This will take place at the Thomas County Office Complex.

“The reason for this,” said Ryan, “is because materials that make up a car seat are no longer able to withstand crash forces after six years.”

The Juvenile Products Manufacturer’s Association recommends the life of any car seat to be six years, after which they should be destroyed. Car seats sit in automobiles and are exposed to extreme conditions such as heat and cold which weaken the material and therefore weaken a safe ride, said the association.

“Don’t take chances,” Ryan said. “If you were given a seat or bought one at

a garage sale, and you don’t know the date of manufacture, then you need a new seat.”

The Thomas County Road Department will be on hand for the public to watch as they destroy the old seats.

“We also received booster seats from the Kansas Seat Belt Education Office to distribute free to anyone needing a booster seat,” Ryan said.

“These are for children who have out-grown safety seats but are still too small for adult seat belts.

“Many parents make the mistake of moving children directly from child restraint systems to vehicle safety belts. Don’t make this mistake. Protect your child with a booster seat,” she said. The seats will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. Even if you don’t have a safety seat to destroy, the Health Department urges you to come out and pick one up, as they are free to the public, Ryan said.

The Thomas County Office Complex is located on South Range directly south of the school administration building.

Accusation names area judge, others in trespassing case

ST. FRANCIS (AP)—A magistrate judge here has been accused of taking the law into her own hands when she believed a man stole her purse from a bowling alley.

The man, Christopher Merklin, insists there was never a purse for him to snatch.

But Magistrate Judge Tamara Lee Zimbelman insists she “had circumstantial evidence” the 21-year-old took it from the Cheyenne Bowl in St. Francis last December.

Enough evidence, authorities said, to take matters into her own hands along with her estranged husband and a friend, who allegedly stormed into the Merklin home and demanded the purse be returned.

“No one invited them in,” Merklin said. “They didn’t make it farther than the living room.

“I came out when I heard cussing and threatening.

Authorities have charged Zim-

belman with misdemeanor intimidation, while her husband, Rell Dean Zimbelman, of St. Francis, and Scott Allen Baumfalk, of Kanorado, face misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass and disorderly conduct.

Merklin said a police search of his pickup truck did not turn up any evidence of a purse on Dec. 22, when Zimbelman accused him of stealing it. A few days later, Rell Zimbelman and Baumfalk showed up at Merklin’s home, according to a complaint filed in Cheyenne County District Court.

Heather Merklin, Christopher’s 17-year-old sister, said the men were in the house for 15 minutes, shouting obscenities and refusing to leave. She said she called her father, who was working at his construction business four blocks away.

Dennis Merklin filed a complaint with the Cheyenne County Sheriff’s Office, and the case was referred to the Kansas Attorney General’s Office.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Wednesdays high, 85
Low this morning, 60
Year ago today, 85 and 60
Temperature at 11:30 a.m. today, 74

Colby’s 24-hour rainfall, 0.05
Oakley’s 24-hour rainfall, (n/a)
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 72
Records for Aug. 30, 104 in 1922 and 40 in 1915

The forecast

Today’s high was expected to reach the lower 90s. Tonight, clear, lows in the lower 60s, south winds 10-15 mph. Saturday, sunny, hot, highs upper 90s, south winds 10-20 mph. Saturday night and Sunday, partly cloudy, lows in the lower 60s and highs in the mid-90s. Labor Day and Tuesday, partly cloudy, chance for thunderstorms, lows in the upper 50s to around 60 and highs in the 80s. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage

• Aug. 29 = 1.199 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Oklahoma City company offers to purchase bankrupt plant

WICHITA (AP)—LeForce Signature Beef confirmed Thursday that it signed a letter of intent to purchase and reopen bankrupt Future Beef’s plant in Arkansas City.

Terms of the deal, which would require the approval of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Denver, were still being worked out Thursday.

Parker, Colo.-based Future Beef’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization was converted to Chapter 7 liquidation on Aug. 16—the same day the Arkan-

sas City plant closed, leaving hundreds of workers without jobs.

Oklahoma City-based LeForce said it would rehire at least some of the 900 former Future Beef employees, but did not specify about how many.

The company also did not say how many head of cattle the plant would process.

“We are predominantly interested in a sustainable enterprise, and in order to sustain the enterprise it has to work for us and the communities we are involved in,” said David Mitchell, chief executive officer for LeForce. “We don’t want to see those communities go through what they have been through in the last year.”

Joe Rosania, attorney for court-appointed trustee Jeffrey Hill, said Thursday that a motion for approval of the deal could be submitted to the banks that loaned Future Beef money within a week. Another motion would be filed a week later to sell the property.

“We are looking at a fairly conservative start-up,” Mitchell said in a telephone interview.

Both Rosania and Mitchell declined to discuss the price.

Mitchell said a definitive agreement was still being negotiated, according to information from the interview.

It is unlikely that the LeForce would buy the plant for anything near the \$120 million figure that was bandied about while the company was still considering reorganization.

“That was an optimistic number be-

ing circulated by management for an operating facility,” said Harvey Sender, the attorney who represented unsecured creditors during the reorganization court proceedings.

He said another offer for about \$50 million was rejected during those proceedings because little cash was offered up front, and the deal was almost entirely financed.

Future Beef has roughly \$300 million in debts and \$7 million in cash, Sender said.

Briefly

Rexford celebration starts tonight

The Rexford-Golden Plains alumni are hosting a “blast from the past” millennium alumni weekend beginning tonight. Kicking off activities will be a football soap scrimmage and tailgate party with free-will donations at 7 p.m. The celebration continues Saturday at 11 a.m. with a street parade in Rexford, followed by music in the park throughout the day, food booths, a barbecue beginning at 6 p.m. at a cost of \$5 per plate and more. There will also be a free street dance Saturday night from 9 p.m. to midnight. Sand volleyball teams are also needed with the event planned from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Everyone is invited, with a special invitation being extended to former alumni from Gem, Menlo, and Selden who were in school prior to consolidation of Golden Plains.

Commissioners to meet a day later

The Thomas County Courthouse will be closed on Monday, in observance of Labor Day, thus the county commissioners will defer their meeting to Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Trash pick up schedule altered

Colby’s sanitation department will be taking Labor Day off which alters the yard waste and trash pick up. Those will take place Tuesday. For questions call the Public Works Department at 462-4420.

Landfill to close for holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will be closed on Sunday, Sept. 1 and Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday. For information or questions, contact Larry Jumper at 462-8139.

No newspaper on Monday

The Colby Free Press will not publish a newspaper and the office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Youth activity in September

The Community Awareness Team is sponsoring a “Coffee House Night” in the City Limits conference room, Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 to 11 p.m. The activity will feature an open microphone for youth to share poetry, music or other talents, and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to all students. For questions or information, call Janet Worthy, coordinator, 462-8152.

Actors sought for fall production

The Colby Community College drama department will be conducting auditions for the fall production of *Scapino!* by Frank Dunlop and Jim Dale on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 4-5.

Auditions will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center on the Colby College campus.

The auditions are open to students and the community, said Walter Yuhre, drama instructor, and will consist of reading from the script. “Actors who have prepared monologues are invited to perform their audition pieces,” he said. For questions or information, call Yuhre at 462-4783.

Crafters needed for fall event

Plans for the annual Colby Girl Scout Craft Sale are now underway, said Jan Barnum, coordinator. As in year’s past, Barnum said crafters are needed for the event, which will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Colby Community Colby. For questions or information on how to arrange for a booth at the ‘Craft-a-Ganza,’ call her at 462-6503.

Mosquito spraying continues

City of Colby crews are continuing to spray for mosquitoes for the remainder of the summer. Anyone who would like to be notified when crews will be in their area can call Jo Strange, executive secretary to the city manager, at 462-4410.

In addition, the city is urging residents to check their yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water, such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc., to keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

