



COLBY FREE PRESS

‘Illegal cow’ catches eye of city folks

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Those who think it’s illegal to have livestock within the city limits might want to take a drive down S. Franklin Ave. There’s a Holstein cow that’ll look your right in the eye. And just dare you to do something about it.

How can the *owners* get away with it?

Well, there are some things you have to understand.

Like...

The cow is not real. It’s a painting on a storage shed, the brainchild of Paul and Verna Baird, who live on Terrace Court, along with help from their daughter, Kim Benson, also of Colby.

The need for a shed in their backyard was necessitated, Mrs. Baird said today, as a way to catch the overflow of tools and larger equipment that her husband had been storing for years in the garage.

While shopping for just the right kind of shed, the couple decided on one that measured 8’ x 12’ and looked like a barn.

One reason for the barn-type style was because her husband was raised on farm north of Levant and still does some farming in the area, Mrs. Baird said.

“Anybody can have a barn,” she said, “but Paul and I decided that if we have one, it should have a cow in it.”

Consequently, after the couple completed the shed and painted it red, Mrs. Baird and her daughter began the task of adding the artwork.

Choosing a Holstein, she said, was prompted by the need to use black and white paint so that it would stand out against the otherwise totally red barn, she said.

Both Mrs. Baird and her daughter are involved in art and said they enjoyed the chance to do something fun, while at the same time, giving passersby a smile while driving by on Franklin Ave.

For people wanting to see the Baird’s cow, which in this case is permitted by the city, can do so by driving one-half block south of Pine on Franklin and looking toward the east side of the street.

But don’t expect any moos.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Verna Baird of Colby showed her one-year-old granddaughter, Megan Baird, the Holstein cow, which was recently painted onto a barn-type shed in the grandparent’s backyard. When asked if Megan liked cows, Mrs.

Baird said, painted or not, her granddaughter loves animals and has enjoyed them ever since she was born. Megan is the daughter of Rod and Dawn Baird, also of Colby.

Museum unites in national celebration

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Along with many other activities planned in Colby on Wednesday to recognize the events on Sept. 11, 2001, the Prairie Museum of Art and History is also involved in a nationwide initiative and is inviting everyone to visit the facility, admission free.

The theme of the special event, *Celebrate America’s Freedoms In a Day of Remembrance on September 11*, is a way to help people in towns across the United States reflect on America itself, said Dr. Robert Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“Our museums are a reflection of America itself,” Martin said, “and they are the stewards of the things we create and the ideas we shape.”

Nearly one year later, he said, in a time of crisis and uncertainty, museums served as places of reflection and renewal. “This year, museums and their communities will honor courage, sacrifice and creativity, while exploring diverse perspectives and hopes for the future,” he said.

“On Wednesday, Sept. 11, the museum will highlight the new toy exhibit, *Batteries Not Included*,” said Sue Taylor, museum director, “and the exhibit, *Developing Community Character: Colby in Photographs*.”

The photographic display, she said, is a look at the local built environment. In addition, it was noted that the field of architecture, urban planning and engineering have been irreparably changed after the events of Sept. 11.

This exhibit, said Judy Kleinsorge,

education director, as well as Wednesday’s free admission, gives the community an opportunity to celebrate the built environment, which contributes to its identity by considering the efforts of the past through to the present changes and by contemplating the future of the local landscape.

In addition, Taylor said, the museum was given the video tape of the HBO production, *In Memoriam: New York City*, as part of the national effort, sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and American Association of Museums. Taylor said that the museum has donated this particular video to the Pioneer Memorial Library.

This documentary, which presents a panoramic and unique historical record of that fateful day in New York

City, earned critical acclaim when it debuted on Memorial Day Weekend, she said. Nominated for five Emmy Awards, the program will be rebroadcast on the one-year anniversary of the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m., exclusively on HBO. Taylor and Kleinsorge both said they agree with Dr. Martin in that museums offer their communities special places to examine and reaffirm such precious freedoms as the freedom to assemble, to worship, to learn, to express ideas and the freedom from fear.

“We hope that everyone will plan to visit the Prairie Museum of Art and History on Wednesday, Sept. 11, in a Day of Remembrance to remember the stories,” Taylor said. For information, call 462-4590. The museum is located at 1905 S. Franklin Ave., Colby.

Community to hold Sept. 11 events

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

People in Colby and throughout Thomas County are urged to attend a special celebration on Wednesday beginning at 9 a.m. in front of the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby.

The purpose of the event is in remembrance of the tragic events that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, said Molly Oliver, of the Thomas County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Among the highlights of the event, Mayor Warren Hixson will deliver

opening remarks at 9 a.m., followed by singing from the local Sweet Adelines Chapter, which is among the many choruses worldwide taking part in “Sing Out for Peace,” on that day.

In addition, Ron Evans, Thomas County Commissioner and retired U.S. Air Force officer, and Oliver, will also offer remarks.

Other highlights include recognition of lives lost, planting of a memorial tree, presence by the local National Guard and balloon release.

“We will be giving red, white and blue ribbon pins to those that gather

and will have some at the local banks and Dillons Store for others to wear on that day,” Oliver said.

Later in the day, the local Red Cross is asking that everyone take part in turning on porch lights from 8 to 9 p.m. as a way of remembering those who died in the 9-11 tragedy, she said.

“Your local Red Cross Chapter encourages you to join millions of people around the world in honoring those individuals who lost their lives on that tragic day and those they’ve left behind, whose lives are forever changed,” Oliver said.

WeatherWatch Colby-Oakley area

The numbers

Monday’s high, 84
Low this morning, 55
Year ago today, 86 and 39
Temperature at 10:30 a.m. today, 61
Colby’s 24-hour rainfall, 0.64
Oakley’s 24-hour rainfall, 1.93
Mingo’s 24-hour rainfall, 0.77
Soil temp at the 4-inch depth, 76
Records for Sept. 10, 102 in 1964 and 32 in 1898

The forecast

Shower activity was expected to continue today, with highs in the mid- to upper-60s. Tonight, cloudy, patchy fog, lows in the lower 50s. Wednesday, cloudy, 40 percent chance for showers, highs in the lower 70s, southeast winds up to 15 mph. Wednesday night, cloudy, a 40 percent chance for showers, lows in the upper 50s. Thursday, cloudy, a 40 percent chance for showers, highs in the lower 70s. Goodland reported 1.03 inches of rain during the past 24 hours and Wallace topped the area with 2.35 inches. (*Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.*)

Colby Water Usage

• Sept. 9 = 1.399 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)

Briefly

Colby schools to celebrate

The Colby Grade School and Colby Middle School will have a patriotic celebration Wednesday morning from 8:30-8:45. The public is invited to gather on the lawn at the old intermediate school location, 3rd Street and Grant Avenue. “We really hope that the public can come,” project spokesperson Sally Smith said. “The National Guard will be on hand, as well as the middle school pep band.” There will also be a poem read, and a sing-along to “God Bless America.” Prior to the gathering, the public is also invited to the open house for both schools, which will be from 7:30-8:30.

Courthouse alters schedule

The Thomas County Courthouse will close from 9 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11, to allow employees to attend the 9/11 Remembrance Service at the Thomas County Office Complex.

Red Cross luncheon planned

The American Red Cross is hosting a luncheon to show its appreciation for blood donors, volunteers and the media in northwest Kansas. The celebration will take place at the Ramada Inn in Colby, on Thursday, Sept. 26, at noon. Please RSVP if you plan on attending to Debbie Kirk, at 620-271-7394, or 316-259-6685.

Chamber luncheon is Friday

The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce will holds

its noon luncheon Friday at the Ramada Inn. Special guest will be Don Barta, the new principal at Colby High School. Chamber members and their guests are encouraged to attend and meet the new school official.

Tailgate party scheduled

The Colby High School Booster Club is hosting a tailgate party Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Dennen Field, prior to the football game against Hoxie. The menu consists of roasted hog, hot dogs, baked beans and chips.

Community photos on display

The Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library sponsored a second photo contest called *A Day in the Life of Thomas County* this summer. There were more than 80 community photographers who took the challenge and submitted their photos to the library. The winners have been chosen and a public showing has been set for Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the library. The three grand winning photos have been framed and will be on display along with the 100 honorable mention photos. For more information, contact the library at 462-4470.

Grandparents’ Day activities set

The Abilene Hustlers 4-H’ers will be holding their annual Grandparents Day at the Senior Progress Center on Sept. 11. The event will begin with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by bingo with

prizes. Reservations are not required. Coordinators for the group are Emily Strange and Kim Herron.

Scholarship offering at high school

The Colby High School Career Center recently announced a scholarship opening with Discover Card Tribute Awards. To be eligible for this offering, said Joni-Clark Leiker, counselor, students must be currently a junior in high school with a grade point average of at least 2.75. In addition, applicants must excel in three out of four areas to include special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome and community service.

Youth/adult activity planned Saturday

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 everyone.

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, call her at 462-6503.

Parvo outbreak reported by two area veterinarians

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

Many dogs in the Colby area have been diagnosed with the canine disease, Parvo. Area veterinarians agree this disease is contagious and should be taken seriously.

Dr. Russell Bowers, Colby Animal Clinic, said the outbreak originally came from Exotic Petland, a pet store in downtown Colby that was recently shut down by the state.

The store was not closed due to the Parvo outbreak, but rather the failure of owner, Dustin Baker, to obtain a license from the state to keep and sell animals. Upon the closing of the store, several sick puppies were taken to the veterinarian by Baker. Bowers said because of poor records on the part of Exotic Petland, they were not sure where exactly the infected puppies sold by Baker had originally come from.

Kristy Howard, and intern at the Oakley Veterinary Clinic said they have seen a great number of dogs from the Colby area in their facility who have the disease.

“We have seen a little of it in Oakley, but the majority of it has been seen in dogs from Colby,” said Howard.

Bowers said it is pretty well dying down in Colby, but people should

still be aware.

Parvo is spread mainly through oral and fecal transmission, and can be easily picked up. It is even possible for a person to walk somewhere an infected dog has been and carry it into their house.

“Parvo hits harder in younger dogs who have not completed their vaccinations,” said Howard. “It is important to have your dogs’ vaccinations current.”

Bowers did say that he has never had a dog who is current on vaccinations contract Parvo.

“All dogs need to be vaccinated every year,” said Bowers.

Signs of Parvo are vomiting, depressions, a lack of appetite, weight loss, and bloody diarrhea.

Parvo can be fatal to your pet, especially for younger and smaller dogs who are not able to handle the dehydration. Treatment and supportive therapy are able to help dogs through the illness with early diagnosis.

Both Bowers and Howard agree that if you notice signs of Parvo in your pet, you need to seek veterinary treatment right away.

“If your dog is vomiting and it is a funny color or has a bad order, you should have your dog checked by a veterinarian,” said Howard.

