



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

About 40 people showed up at the Prairie Museum of Art and History for the two-day Northwest Kansas Rural Experience Agritourism Plus conference held Wednesday and Thursday. Duane Cheney with Western Prairie RC and D said the conference was a collaborative effort among the extension offices in Sherman, Thomas and Sheridan counties; convention and visitors bureaus in Colby and Goodland; Western Prairie RC and D and several community foundations. The purpose of the event was to generate interest in northwest Kansas as a destination for unique experiences.

Marquette City Council holds off action on free-land assessments

MARQUETTE (AP) — Marquette Mayor Steve Piper defended proposed assessments that came as a surprise to some people who received free land through a local development program in this small central Kansas community, but the City Council decided to hold off on putting them into effect.

About 20 participants in the program created by the nonprofit Marquette Development organization crammed into a small meeting room at City Hall on Tuesday night for an explanation of the planned \$4,000 assessments they found out about in a letter last week. The charge for gravel roads and a water system in the development area could be paid off either as a lump sum or spread out over 20 years.

Facing the option of either approving the assessment charge or putting the cost on the shoulders of all taxpayers in the community of 600, the council voted 5-0 to table the issue until it meets again on April 20.

Piper spent most the meeting making the case that he and the city were not responsible for homeowners not knowing about the assessment,

but he did make a few apologies.

“That was something that maybe probably could’ve been communicated a lot better, but from a legal standpoint we weren’t required to say anything,” the mayor said.

Piper, a local grocer who helped initiate the development group’s land giveaway, had said earlier that participants received notification on their title insurance policies about the cost for street and water improvements.

The mayor said that before Tuesday night’s meeting he checked the land records at the McPherson County register of deed’s office.

“I wanted to make sure things were done the way I thought they were done,” he said.

Piper produced copies of homeowner-signed deeds, mortgages, building permits, loan agreements and title insurance that he said contained the information about the assessments.

“Now, people can say we didn’t tell them this, but I can say I did tell them. Your word against my word. What does that mean? It means nothing,” said the mayor, who pointed

out that the city paid for the development’s sewer system along with providing lots worth about \$10,000 each.

Piper said he personally told many of the free-land recipients about the assessments but conceded some may not have heard directly from him.

“We visited with hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people about this land project,” Piper said. “We had lots of questions asked. We tried to answer as many as we could as truthfully and honestly and accurately as we could. We weren’t able to answer all of those questions.”

Free-land recipient Jim Unruh said of the mayor’s visit to the register of deed’s office, “Every paper you looked at there was done after we started building.”

The city’s financial adviser said a decision will have to be made soon on how the note financing the improvements will be paid off.

If the council decides it should come from general tax funds rather than the special assessments, it would mean a four-to-five mill increase in the property tax levy.

Contest winners announced

For National Library Week the Colby Rotary Club sponsored a drawing contest for students kindergarten through fifth grade. Students were to create an illustration of their favorite book.

There were many worthy entries submitted however a panel of judges decided on the following winners:

Kindergarten: Alexyss Kraft
First grade: Madisyn Haggard
Second grade: Brenly Terrell
Third grade: Brooke Wark
Fourth grade: Abby Friesen
Fifth grade: Keana Keck

All entries are now posted in the conference room of the library. Stop by and take a look.

Speaking of great illustrations, an award was established beginning in 1938 in honor of 19th century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. According to the American Library Association at www.ala.org, the Caldecott Medal is awarded “to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.” The Caldecott Award Winner is chosen each year by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association. Perhaps one of the student illustrators listed above will someday become a Caldecott Winner.

Below is a list of the most recent Caldecott Award Winners.

The 2006 Caldecott Winner was the book “The Hello, Goodbye Window” written by Norton Juster and illustrated by Chris Raschka. The vibrant and colorful pictures in this book tell the story of a kitchen window that serves as the hub of life for a little girl.

In 2005, “Kitten’s First Full Moon” written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes, was awarded the distinguished Caldecott Honor. The bold, black and white pictures in this book relate the experiences and encounters of a curious kitten under the bright light of a full moon.

In 2004, “The Man Who Walked Between the Towers” written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein was awarded the Caldecott. The



Jeff Friesen

• Library Link

comic book-like illustrations recount the factual highwire performance given by Philippe Petit in the 1970s. Philippe danced for an hour hundreds of feet in the air on a tight-rope strung between the Twin Towers in New York.

His performance is one of the leading tributes to Sept. 11 and a touching reminder of the tragedy is placed at the end of the book.

In 2003, “My Friend Rabbit” written and illustrated by Eric Rohmann was awarded the Caldecott Medal.

The lively illustrations depict two energetic friends (Rabbit and Mouse) flying an airplane. Rabbit sends his friend mouse on a kami-

kaze flight on a small airplane that ends up landing Mouse in a tree. Rabbits “idea” to get the airplane out of the tree does not make him any friends.

Have a great and “colorful” week!

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth and open seven days a week.

Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our Web site at www.colbylibrary.com. As always, we are here to serve you.

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'03 Pontiac Grand Prix GT - 28 K Miles
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Showcased Homes of the Week

CLOSING COST HELP



Clean, charming cottage with great features. Unfinished basement. Good area close to park. Seller help with closing cost.

665 N. Court ~ \$25,900

COME LOOK



1165 Wheatridge ~ \$199,000

Seller wants you to view this fantastic home. Lots of natural light & lots of open space. Very, very nice.

SO ATTRACTIVE



930 W. 2nd ~ \$69,000

2-story home with lots of charm & a great list price. 4 BR, 2 bath, bsmt & large rear yard.

SPACE & MORE SPACE



Ranch style home with unbelievable space inside & out. Brick underground sprinklers, 2 furnaces, 2 central air units & more.

1245 E. 8th ~ \$153,900

"WOW"



445 Lawrence ~ \$112,900

Brick ranch 4 BRs, 2 baths with tremendous fam. room off kitchen. Full bsmt, 1-car grg. Lots & lots of upgrades.

BEAUTIFUL YARD



1380 E. 8th ~ \$164,500

Multi-level 4 BR home great floor plan and "park like" rear yard with tranquil water pond.

FAMILY HOME



5 BR, 3 bath home built in 1995 with oak throughout. Full bsmt, 2-car garage & corner lot.

425 W. 6th ~ \$96,500

LARGE FAMILY HOME



1850 Harvey Ave. ~ \$179,500

So much space, great area, super floor plan & unique style for our market.

THIS IS THE ONE



255 N. Garfield ~ \$99,500

Older 2-story with upper balcony overlooking yard, close to downtown & school.

NO STEPS



3 BR Ranch with inviting spacious kitchen, 1-car garage, private rear yard.

175 E. Hill ~ \$64,000

NEWER KITCHEN



635 W. 4th ~ \$79,500

2-story, 3 BR, 2 bath home with newer large efficient kitchen access to larger rear deck.

OPPORTUNITY



1000 E. 9th ~ \$78,500

Below market value & your opportunity to benefit. 4 BR, 2 baths, family rm., corner lot & newer kitchen appliances & a motivated seller.

BREWSTER HOME



Brick older home with huge front porch - lots of original hardwood, 2-car garage & basement.

420 Illinois Ave. ~ \$49,900

LOVELY



1065 W. 3rd ~ \$82,500

Older home with charm that will embrace you. Great lot & perfect "sitting porch"

NEWER LISTING



985 W. 4th ~ \$95,000

Sharp 2-story, 4 BR, 3 bath, 2-car garage, corner lot & lots of extras.

Residential Properties ♦ 1840 W. 5th - \$99,500 ♦ 102 - 2nd St, Grinnell - \$58,500 ♦ 265 W. 6th - \$118,900 ♦ 570 N. Range - \$78,500 ♦ 730 S. Mission - \$48,500 ♦ 930 W. 2nd - \$76,000 ♦ 1750 W. 6th - \$78,500 ♦ 930 W. 2nd - \$69,000 ♦ 480 Sherman - \$41,900 ♦ 1245 E. 8th - \$153,900 ♦ 1380 W. 5th - \$138,00 ♦ 830 W. Plum - \$35,000 ♦ 350 E. 4th - \$48,000 ♦ 560 N. Chick - \$26,500 ♦ 202 - 2nd Street, Grinnell - \$73,000 ♦ 795 W. Cedar - \$45,500 ♦ 375 W. 7th - \$92,500 ♦ 350 E. 4th - \$48,000 ♦ 1011 Court Terrace - \$72,500 ♦ 1710 Lynda - \$75,500 ♦ 255 E. Hill - \$59,000 ♦ 260 S. Lincoln - \$59,900 ♦ 427 Smith Dr. - \$175,000 ♦ 1024 Court Terrace - \$114,000 ♦ 345 N. Cleveland - \$61,500 ♦ 1015 W. 35th - \$159,900 ♦ 2870 N. Range - \$199,500 ♦ 255 E. Hill - \$59,000 ♦ 720 N. Nashville - \$119,500 ♦ 985 S. Range - \$265,000 ♦ 1240 W. 5th - \$56,000 ♦ 335 La Hacienda - \$169,900 ♦ 1900 N. Range - \$159,900 ♦ 1125 Maize - \$119,900 ♦ 1111 Flint - \$59,900

Residential Building Lots ♦ Lots 7 & 8, Block 3, Pioneer Add. #2 - \$13,000 ♦ Lots 3 & 4, Block 2, Monterey Sub. - \$20,000 ♦ Lot 1, Block 2, El Chaparral Add. - \$8,250 ♦ Lots 1-3, E 10th Lot 4, Block 57, Southview Addition - \$12,500 ♦ Lots 11 & 12, Block 57, Southview Addition - \$6,500 ♦ Approx. 4.4 Acre Rural Lot South of Colby - \$23,400 ♦

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