



COLBY FREE PRESS

USS Brewster



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Devan Selby, foreground, and Emily Klemm, freshmen at Brewster High School, paddled their cardboard boats around the swimming pool at Colby Community College today. The boats were built as a project for Leland Francis' freshman science class.

The students built the cardboard boats, and before putting them in the water, wrote papers on what they learned during the building process and how they expected their boats to perform. The practical part was learning whether or not their boats would float.

Landlords, city talk trash

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Prompted by a request from the city of Colby requiring landlords be responsible for ordering mandated 95-gallon tipper garbage cans on all their rentals, many property owners attending the Tuesday council meeting opposed the idea.

"We asked that landlords request the tipper cans since the serial number is tied to the address where it is being used," said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

Since most of the rental properties are eligible for the one-time free tipper can, the only financial liability would be if the can came up missing.

"In lieu of landlords making the request," she said, "the city staff could simply assign a tipper can to an address, but the end result would still be that if the can is missing, someone will have to buy a new one."

Betty and Norm Behring, who own many properties in the city, told council members the only way it would work for them would be in adding the can to an already growing number of deposits.

However, Jan Barnum, another

rental property owner, said the state will not allow adding that type of deposit.

"State statute says we can add one-month rent as a damage, furniture deposit, but garbage cans can't be put on that," Barnum said.

Both Behring and Barnum told the council they have little, if any, recourse should renters leave the area and take the garbage can with them.

Mayor Ken Bieber said he does not believe the city should supply garbage cans for commercial businesses, which he said rental property is in that classification.

"We cannot endlessly supply garbage cans to rentals," Bieber said.

Betty said she agreed she could not do that either.

Barnum suggested raising the cost of picking up garbage for those addresses without a tipper can.

"Why not charge \$12 or whatever amount of a house without a tipper can?" she queried. Councilman Jim Tubbs and Debbie Zerr, the city financial officer, both agreed it would be an accounting nightmare.

"It would also be discriminatory," Tubbs said.

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Heartland Christian reaches milestone with first graduates

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

Heartland Christian School senior Shawna Goossen called her high school years a dirt road because the school was still building its high school courses at the same time.

"Next year's class will pave it," she said with a shy smile.

Before future Heartland administration and classes start that proverbial paving, they will see the footprints left by Goossen and fellow graduate Jake Beckley. This year marks the first graduating students from Heartland. Commencement services are 7 p.m. Friday at the school at 1995 W. Fourth St. in Colby.

Shawna, 18, can partially thank her father, Lynn, for helping her become part of the first graduating



Beckley



Goossen

class. Lynn currently serves as vice chairman of school's board and was one of the five founders of the school.

Lynn and wife Tami desired to have a Christian-based education for Shawna and son Clint, currently in eighth-grade. Shawna was in public school during kindergarten.

"She had a good teacher," Lynn said about the kindergarten class. "But some things are going on in several public schools, but not necessarily this school."

Lynn and Tami were not comfortable with public schools or homeschooling. Goossens were not alone as other families had similar situations.

"So we hired a teacher to teach and it turned into a school," he said. Like with raising children, the Goossens said there are challenges about growing Heartland and still providing quality education.

"Every year you think there shouldn't be any challenges because we took care of that last year," Tami said. "But there was always another challenge."

One of those challenges was as the older Shawna and Jake got, the closer they were to high school-like courses — something the school did not have.

During the board meetings about



the school's future, Lynn said he remembers not thinking of his own daughter, first.

"You have a tendency to think of your kid," he said. "But we always thought where the school is going."

Creating high school classes was a turning point for Heartland, according to Lynn.

"Starting a school was easy," he said. "But starting a high school was a must, but difficult, step. We had

some long board meetings ... which class goes on up?"

Heartland opened in 1995 in Mingo Bible Church with 28 students. The next year enrollment was 56. Because of its growth and eventual plans to expand to high school, Heartland acquired its current location in Colby and move classes there in 2002. Shawna remembers the years when the board knew it would have students approaching

high school.

"When we were in eighth grade my dad, and Jake's parents, were pushing for high school," she said. "Our future was unknown at eighth grade and even our sophomore year we were still unsure. Either we go or we stop at eighth grade."

Lynn remembers the meetings when Shawna was in eighth grade and decisions were made to expand to high school.

"That was a large step of faith," Lynn said. "We were short on time and money. God always provided."

Rick Roberts was administrator of the school, and taught, from 1997 to 2006. Roberts had prior experience in Christian schools in Michigan. Current Heartland teacher, Tammy Higerd, who also had secondary education experience, was hired.

"We hired the people who could do it," Lynn said. "We hired additional people along the way. We hired Rick and didn't know how to pay for him."

Lynn said Roberts was an excellent choice as he gave the board his input and opinion on how high school courses should be implemented.

"He set the school on a good foundation. He taught the board what should be happening at a school."

Lynn said Heartland's graduation requirements at least meet the state of Kansas standards.

Roberts provided more to Heartland than just planning and strategy. Shawna said she does not remember her kindergarten year but slowly realized why she was at Heartland.

"My fifth-grade teacher, Mr.

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Thomas County native returns to unique birthplace

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The old joke about being born in a barn really wasn't a joke for Norman Rupp. Norman, 73, of San Angelo, Texas, was born in a barn. And not any barn.

Norman was born in the old Foster Farms Barn, now called the Cooper Barn on the grounds at the Prairie Museum of Art and History in Colby.

He and his wife Doris were staying in Colby a few days this week, and Norman visited the barn for the first time since he was born.

He explained his mother, Mary Agnes Rupp, worked at Foster Farms. In March 1935, she was in the barn milking cows when she went into labor. She yelled for her husband, Harlan, but by the time he and the midwife arrived, Norman was born.

"I found out the barn was here several years ago," he said. "I've never been in it before now, that I know of."

However, there was not ever a chance to visit the museum when they have been back through Colby.

Chris Griffin, museum registrar said the barn, one of the largest in Kansas, was moved from 16 miles northeast of Colby to the museum grounds in 1992. The barn is more than 70 years old and was built to house Hereford show cattle.

Its smaller companion barn, housed Clydesdale horses and is at the Oakley Camp Inn.

Norman grew up in the area. His family bought a farm and moved to Kanorado in 1939. Later that year, in December, his father was killed in an accident while working the first bridge east of Kanorado on U.S. Highway 24.

His mother was later the head cook at the Colby Duckwall's, and

re-married to Bob Sprinkle. She died in 1998. As he toured the barn, Norman said the equipment and photos brought back memories.

One of the photos featured in the barn shows off the farm employees that helped build it. Norman recognized his father in one, and was able to get a copy of the photograph.

Coming back to the barn was a novel experience for him, but finding his father's picture made it even more memorable.

Doris said it was "awesome" for her husband to come back, and find a bit of family history also.

While growing up, he used similar equipment while helping with farm work and harvests, such as a horse-powered mower.

Norman spent 23 years in the U.S. Army working in hospital food service.

He and Doris are snow birds, spending winters in Texas and the rest of the year traveling.

The Ruppss have been married 47 years and have four children and 11 grandchildren.



Rupp



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Norman Rupp of San Angelo, Texas pointed at farm equipment like that he grew up around during a visit Tuesday to the Cooper Barn at the Prairie Museum of Art and History. Rupp was born in the barn in March, 1935.