

# Colby museum busy with exhibits, events

By Tomi Miller

Colby Free Press  
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The Kansas Prairie Museum of Art and History has been busy this year with new exhibits and new programs.

"We have everything pretty much mapped out, but we are always planning new things to do," said Anne Minor, staff at the museum.

In January the museum brought in the Anne Frank exhibit, a traveling display from New York City, that opened alongside the museum's permanent exhibit, Over Here, Over There. The exhibit is in remembrance of soldiers, sailors and Marines who served in WWI to the present and contained artifacts and information about the people who served from northwest Kansas.

The Prairie Museum has also hosted several school groups from Thomas County who came to see the traveling and permanent exhibits.

"We want as many kids as possible to attend, so kids from Thomas County had free admission," Minor said.

The museum also had monthly lunch talks sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. Most of the lunches had a military theme, such as "Kansas Forts" and "Women in the Civil War," to go with the Over Here, Over There exhibit.

The museum just completed the Prairie Fair on May 6. The event brought in students from around the region for activities throughout the day. The theme this year was community.

One upcoming exhibit will include student art from Thomas County schools throughout May and June. Girl Scouts throughout Northwest Kansas are going to the museum for a day of activities this summer.

The museum also has high hopes to rebuild the sod house; due to wear and tear throughout the years it is in need of repairs. Also, the agriculture exhibit is in the plans to be redone.

The giant Cooper Barn and the 1800s church are popular places for people to have



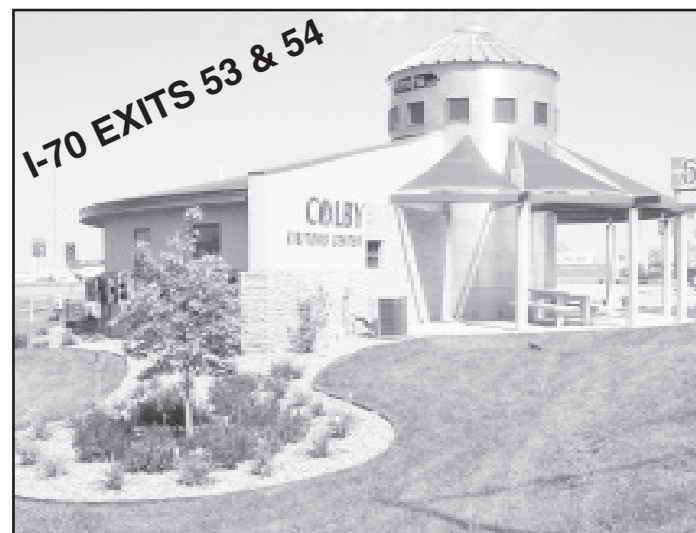
Part of the Prairie Museum's Prairie Fair was a session in the museum's one-room schoolhouse.

weddings. The museum is used frequently for different club meetings and family reunions.

With this year's plans already underway, the museum hopes to have another successful year with new exhibits and programs for the citizens of northwest Kansas and travelers on Interstate 70.

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