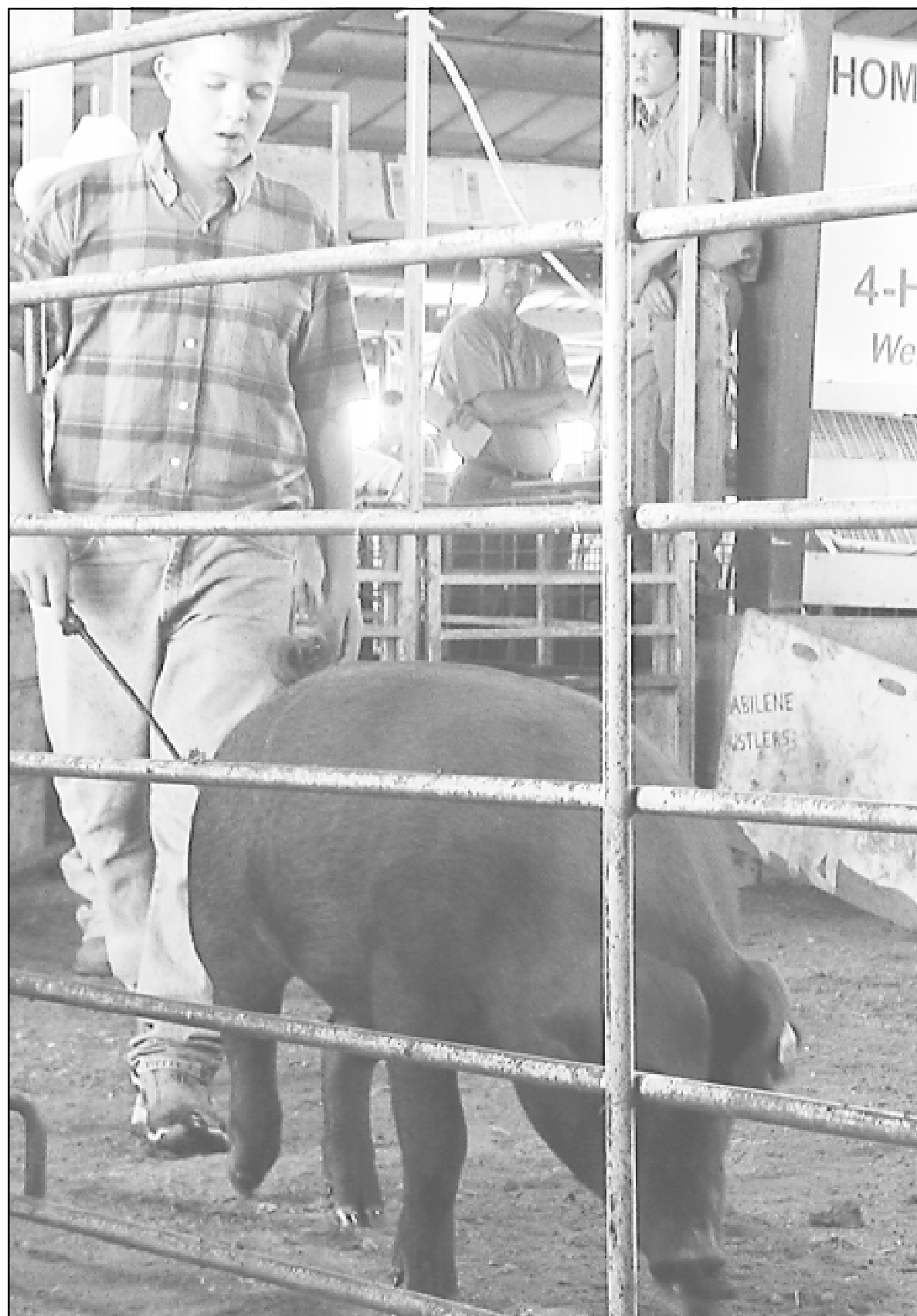




COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Auction highlights



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Todd Ziegelmeier, Gem, was one of 64 young people selling pigs during the annual Thomas County 4-H Livestock Auction held Friday at the fairgrounds. In total, there were 45 steers, 13 bucket calves, and 18 sheep sold. Dollar amounts and bidders will appear in the After Fair special section.

Mural dedication

Celebration of artists' work attracts more than 100

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

More than 100 people attended the mural dedication at Colby Community College on Sunday depicting 100 years of education in Thomas County.

The artist, Ken Mitchell, who taught art for 20 years at the college, was commissioned to paint the 47' wide by 12'8" high mural by the board of trustees and took seven weeks to complete it.

"The mural," said Dr. Mikel Ary, president of Colby Community College, "is a testament to the sacrifices made by Thomas County residents to promote and support educational endeavors."

Ary spoke about the history of Bedker Memorial Complex, which was dedicated in September of 1997, and how the mural came to be.

"The complex was an expansion project and an important step in the continued success of Colby Community College," he said. In addition to the large kiva area, where the mural is located, the complex is one of the most used buildings on the campus.

"When classes are in session, this kiva area is bustling with activity and as an institution, we use this area for pep rallies, inservice activities and a variety of other events," Ary said.



B. Kern



M. Brown



M. Carpenter



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Zelma Reed of Colby was one of many people who attended the mural dedication from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, to view the unveiling of this seven-week long project.

In January of this year, owing to the utilization of this area and what was rather a "stark" appearance in there, the board of trustees authorized Mitchell to create a "cartoon" of a mural to be placed on the wall.

"Ken created two separate proposals for the board's consideration," he said. "One was a depiction of agriculture in the 20th century and the other, a depiction of education in Thomas County."

Along with Mitchell, there were many others who helped and their names are listed in the bottom right hand corner of the mural.

Those people included former students, faculty and others. Among those

recognized were Bev Kern, Marjorie Brown, Sheila Krehbiel, Brianna Moses, Tom Moorhouse, Margaret Denneler, Kathy Gregory, Gordon Mai, Marlene Carpenter, Bruce Bandy, Corbin Stephens, Fritz Ostmeier, Marilyn Heble, Brett Bandy, Eileen Vette, Leon Volk, Vicki Mitchell, Steve Zerr, Roger Hale and Gene Robert.

"The college was very fortunate to be able to fund this mural from a grant provided by the Dane G. Hansen Foundation," Ary said. Through the discretionary nature of the grant allocation, he said, the college was able to fund the mural and enhance the educational

See "DEDICATION," Page 4

West Nile virus means more worry for animals than people

CHERRY LAKE, Fla. (AP) — Jim and Judy Haddon, like many of their neighbors in the rolling hills along the Florida-Georgia border, are worried about the West Nile virus.

They live just up the road from a man who has symptoms of the potentially fatal disease caused by a mosquito-carried virus first detected in Florida in July.

But the Haddons aren't concerned much for their own health.

They and others in this area of hill-top pastures and swampy bottomland are far more worried about the horses

they raise here, a community northeast of Tallahassee. For one thing, horses are bitten far more often.

"The thing that's scary is the babies and the older horses," said Judy Haddon, walking a sturdy bay into a corral. "Just like the people."

Last week the Agriculture Department conditionally approved a vaccine to prevent horses from getting West Nile, though data is still being gathered to prove the vaccine's effectiveness.

The last national agricultural census showed 78 farms with horses on them in Madison County.

Most are small, probably about 1,500 horses in a county of 18,000 people. There are no big thoroughbred horse farms.

For a lot of people here, the horses — mostly quarterhorses — are just a hobby. But for many, like the Haddons, who own the Sandy Bottom Quarterhorse farm, it's a business.

"It's not like they are just pets in the backyard," said Ginger Hutchings, whose family has 11 quarterhorses at a nearby farm.

West Nile first showed up in the United States a few years ago and nine

people have died from the virus, all in New York and New Jersey. Scientists say it kills only a tiny percentage of the people who are exposed to it — many don't even get sick.

With several north Florida counties under a health alert, some officials have worried about a panic, especially after a Madison County man was hospitalized in Tallahassee for several weeks after being infected.

But in the sleepy Spanish Moss-draped towns between Tallahassee and Jacksonville, most of the calls for information have not been about hu-

mans, said Tom Moffses, city manager in Madison.

"Most of the people are concerned about their livestock," he said. "They've got a lot of money tied up in it."

There is no evidence that West Nile can spread from horses to other animals or people, according to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Owners here are used to inoculating horses against a different mosquito-borne killer, Eastern equine encephalitis. They've dealt with that for years.

But this is already a bad year for mosquitoes, the first wet summer after several dry ones, and horses need more inoculations than normal. EEE, as it's known, is killing far more horses this year. State agriculture officials are calling it an epidemic.

But there is no vaccine for the West Nile virus, although one is being developed in a laboratory in Iowa and may be available late this summer.

"There's nothing you can do," said Judy Haddon. "Except spray them with repellent." There are no vaccines for people either.

In this issue of the Free Press

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life
full-color weekly magazine

City council to hold public hearing on budget

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Budgets will be the main topic at the Colby City Council meeting on Tuesday night. Library director JoAnne Sunderman and recreation director C.W. Cheney will present their budgets, along with a public hearing for the proposed 2002 City Budget. The projected budget is \$10,586,512, up from

\$8,946,419 in last year's budget. Council members will also vote on an increase in the tax levy to support the budget. The council will also consider:

- A formal contract with Jim's Electric for the airport lighting project. They will also consider a change, requiring a runway end intensity light as requested by Eagle Med air ambulance service to help pilots land in inclement

weather. The project will also add 8 additional runway lights. Total additional costs would be \$19,380.

- An ordinance changing White Avenue to Taylor Avenue and Harry Lazarus Avenue to Southwind Avenue.

- A request for a privacy fence in the street right-of-way at 285 S. Chickamauga.

- The third reading of an ordinance

granting S & T Communications a franchise for a telecommunications system and hold a public hearing on the ordinance. They will also hear reports concerning Eagle Med's decision to base an air ambulance in Goodland instead of Colby and the initial analysis of the soil contamination in the alley between Franklin and Lake and Fourth and Fifth Streets.

Briefly

Weather: No relief

The weather outlook for the Colby area tonight calls for lows in the mid 60s with winds from the southeast at 5 to 15 mph. Tuesday highs are expected to reach 95 with southerly winds at 5 to 15 mph. Tuesday night lows again in the mid 60s. On Wednesday, continued dry with highs around 95. The extended forecast is calling for a chance of thunderstorms on Thursday. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

School board meets today

The Colby Board of Education will meet tonight beginning at 7 p.m. in the board room of the administration building, 210 S. Range. Prior to the regular meeting, there will be a public hearing on the 2001-02 budget to give people

an opportunity to voice their opinion, school officials said. After the hearing, the board will then vote on whether or not to approve the budget. Other items on the agenda include reports from building principals and other administration; approval of facility rental fees; establishing substitute teaching rate per day; out-of-district requests; employment recommendations and resignations.

Youth group to sell peaches

Colby's Sacred Heart CYO will be selling Colorado freestone peaches at various locations in Thomas County beginning Friday, Aug. 10. Organizers said these peaches are "extremely delicious" and are being sold for \$22 for 22 lbs. or smaller quantities are available. The peaches will go on sale at the Relay for Life at Dennen Field, Friday, Aug. 11, from 7 to 10 p.m.; at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range, Colby, beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug.

11; and also at locations in Selden, Brewster and Rexford from 8 a.m. to noon, and Levant from 8 to 10 a.m., also on Saturday.

For questions or details, call Paul or Marilyn Bailey, 462-7356.

Final enrollment next week

Sacred Heart School is having its final enrollment on Tuesday, Aug. 14, said Dave Evert, principal. Times for enrollment and the walk-through will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For information, call the school office at 462-2813.

Preschool plans open house

An open house enrollment is planned at Puddle Duck Preschool, 520 W. 5th, from 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8. According to Amy Jennings, director, there are class openings for children in the 3 and 4-year-old age groups.

For information or questions, call Jennings at 462-2603 or 462-8388.

Childhood testing offered

Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, Oakley is offering early childhood intervention testing, including eyesight, hearing and learning disability testing. All test are free. For more information or an appointment, call 785-672-3125.

Fundraiser/giveaway postponed

The Thomas County Treasurer's office will be closed until 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday (Aug. 7) so that employees may attend the funeral of Loretta Schoenfeld, 49, who was a co-worker in that office.

According to Donita Applebury, treasurer, the office will return to normal hours on Wednesday.

