

# Colby critic rates Stuart Little II the best movie yet

“Stuart Little II” is the best family movie I’ve seen this year and it’s playing downtown at the Colby Twin Theaters.

Far better than the first “Stuart Little,” this movie is really fun and will definitely hold your attention.

Stuart (Michael Fox) joins his new friend Margalow (a friendly but misguided little bird), the Falcon (a big nasty bird) and of course Snowbell, the Little family cat.

Together this unlikely crew set off on the adventure of their furry and feathery little lives.

Stuart learns some valuable lessons about friendship such as: being there for one another when you’re really needed, not giving up on someone just because they’ve made a few bad choices, etc.

Margalow learns she can be more than what she’s been taught to be. The Falcon is made to realize he’s not unstoppable or all-powerful. Even Snowbell finds that if you’re a good friend, in the end it will pay off.

Some high-flying maneuvers await your watchful eyes as you sit back and enjoy this delightful movie.

In my opinion, you and your kids will greatly enjoy “Stuart Little II.”

There’s plenty of popcorn, soda and candy to tantalize your taste buds as well. See you at the movies!

Arts degree in marketing. Rogers currently resides in Spokane where she works for US Bank as the market trainer for the eastern Washington and northern Idaho districts. She is the daughter of Marsha Rogers and Ron Rogers of Selden.

# Private report directly links Yaggy leak to Hutch blasts

HUTCHINSON (AP)—An underground natural gas storage field had been leaking since 1993 and led to the explosions last year when gas burst to the surface through old brine wells at Hutchinson, according to a report commissioned for use in a civil lawsuit.

Operators of ONEOK Inc.’s Yaggy field seven miles northwest of Hutchinson chose profits over safety, employing “reckless pressure gradients” as they operated the field, said M.R. Tek, a Hawaii-based petroleum engineer and professor emeritus for the University of Michigan.

His report was commissioned by the Wichita law firm Foulston & Siefkin, which represents the four adult children of John and Mary Hahn of Hutchinson. The children have sued

Tulsa-based ONEOK, claiming gas leaking from the underground storage field sparked the January 2001 explosion that killed their parents. Also named in the lawsuit are two companies ONEOK owns — Kansas Gas Service and Mid-Continent Market Center.

ONEOK officials said they would have no response to the report until Monday.

Besides linking the leak at the Yaggy field’s S-1 cavern directly to the explosions, the report also projects upward ONEOK’s estimate of the gas lost from the field—from 143 million cubic feet to more than 200 million cubic feet.

Tek said evidence pointed to a “catastrophic leak” from the S-1 cavern as the cause of the explosion.

# Tips offered for protecting animals from heat

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

With temperatures hovering around the triple digits, law enforcement officials are urging pet owners to take precautions to keep their animals safe from the heat—or they will.

The Colby Police Department has had many complaints from people alleging that some pet owners are guilty of animal abuse relating to heat exposure and unsafe conditions.

“We believe there is reason for concern,” said Randy Jones, Colby Police chief, regarding potentially dangerous situations when animals are left outdoors and unprotected from the searing temperatures.

Police officers checking out these complaints have reported varying situations ranging from animals who have just tipped over their water dishes to more serious incidents involving pets that, if medically untreated, could die.

“We have some pet owners who just put their animal on a leash or in a pen and then pay no more attention to the pet,” he said. “Last week, we checked on a mother and her pups that were reportedly outside with no shade and no water.”

In extreme situations like the aforementioned, an officer will take immediate action by removing the animal from the residence and impounding it at Colby Animal Clinic.

“We take every complaint seriously,” he said, “and no matter what size an animal is, too much heat with not enough protection, could kill the pet.”

Although Jones said he believes, that for the most part, people in Colby care about their animals and understand what it takes to protect them, there are others who for whatever reason do not consider their animal’s health.

Consequently, veterinarians here and elsewhere have offered the following suggestions and other related information as a reminder to pet owners on how to keep their animals healthy during these hot days and months.

For example, even though all animals are affected by heat, one official said, dogs with short noses, such as bull dogs, Pugs and boxers, are particularly at risk for heat stress.

Early symptoms that a dog could be in danger from extreme heat conditions include initially an increase in activity followed by panting and barking or whining. If these early symptoms are not brought under control, the animal will continue to have heavy panting, glazed eyes, rapid pulse rate, dizziness, vomiting or a deep red or purple tongue.

Officials suggest that in this situation, an owner should move the pet into the shade, spray him down with cool water and allow him to drink a small amount of cool water.

“Water that has been placed outdoors should be routinely changed,” Jones said, “because when temperatures hit 100 plus degrees, warm to very hot water isn’t good for an animal either.” The water bowl, he said, should never be left directly in the sun for that reason.

Pet owners should also avoid keeping dogs and cats confined in a hot house or shed for long periods of time and water containers should be positioned so that it cannot be knocked over.

As for exercising dogs, the veterinarians say only in the cool of the morning or evening. “Excessive running during the hottest part of the day can be fatal,” one expert said.

Many experts say that if owners cannot leave their dog or cats in a cool place during extremely hot days, the next best thing would be to hose them down periodically to alleviate heat stress. One official recommended gently spraying the dog’s neck to quickly cool them off. As the water evaporates from the coat, the dog will naturally cool down.

Experts agree that pet owners must do the thinking for their pets, so that



Many pet owners cannot offer their dog quite the pampering that this 13-year-old Australian Shepherd and Blue Heeler mix has in Colby. But, according to her owner, the dog prefers the inside setting over the great outdoors anytime.



they can keep cool. A good rule of thumb, one official said, is that if we are distressed by the heat, it stands to reason that so is our cat or dog. “During these hot days,” Jones said, “please make sure there’s always fresh water and shade available—even if the only shade is a doghouse—and certainly don’t leave any animal in vehicles.”

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