

# Helping hand from the heartland

HOYT (AP) — Cattle rancher Jim Rickel is using his skills with livestock to support Christian missions around the world.

Through STEER Inc., Rickel and several other members of Hoyt Baptist Church are raising 25 head of cattle that generate nearly \$15,000 a year for world missions. Several other residents of the Hoyt and Mayetta communities also are participating in STEER.

Across the nation, about 1,150 ranchers and farmers in nearly 40 states account for about \$1 million a year to STEER, which channels the funds to approximately 90 mission organizations. Nearly 60 ranchers in Kansas take part in the program.

The beauty of the arrangement, Rickel said, is that STEER uses donations to purchase the calves that are placed with the ranchers, who in turn provide feed, medical care and labor.

“It lets us be involved in supporting missions,” said the 67-year-old Rickel, “but it doesn’t take money out of our operations.”

With beef prices up, funds generated may be getting higher. Rickel said STEER tries to place a first-calf heifer, at a cost of about \$1,200, with a rancher. Each heifer is capable of producing from seven to 10 calves on a one-per-year basis. Calves are commanding around \$800 at sale barns these days. This means one cow is capable of producing around \$8,000 in revenue — more than six times the return on the initial investment.

Many who donate to STEER share the organization’s vision but don’t have the land or expertise to raise livestock on their own.

“We have people in Topeka who don’t have a place to put a cow,” Rickel said. “They send the money to STEER Inc., and they purchase a cow for us.”

Rickel’s son, Jerry Rickel, 40, said the nice thing about the STEER program is that the cattle are mixed in with other existing livestock on a ranch or farm.

“We feed the calf and provide all the medical care and labor,” he said.

“Then, when the calf is sold at auction, the entire amount goes directly to STEER.

“It’s a simple program. To me,

it’s one of the easiest ways to support missions and do God’s work.”

STEER livestock sales benefit a variety of world missions, including Trans World Radio, Youth for Christ and Mission Aviation Fellowship.

The cattle receive a yellow tag and a triangular-shaped brand, with a cross on top, for identification purposes. The three sides represent the rancher, donor and mission organization, with a cross on top indicating STEER’s Christian emphasis.

Each rancher or farmer can select a mission agency that benefits from funds raised through STEER. About 90 percent of all proceeds goes directly to the mission agencies.

Other livestock that are used in STEER include hogs, sheep and goats.

Chuck Wilhelm, of Mayetta, said he isn’t a farmer or rancher but does have access to a small pasture, which he uses in a feeder project for STEER.

“One unique concept of this ministry is that the money that the donor gives to buy the animals or put in a crop continues to be used over and over,” Wilhelm said. “All of the animals and crops are insured by STEER Inc. I had a cow die a couple of years ago, and the insurance paid for it. They understand that when you are working with animals, about anything can happen.

“If you have a heart for missions, this is another way to give and be involved without financial risk.”

STEER Inc. was founded in 1957 in Bismark, N.D. Despite the involvement of more than 1,000 farmers and ranchers across the nation, more money is available to ranchers willing to take on an additional few head of livestock.

“The cows are out there anyway,” said Jess Ribelin, 69, another Hoyt Baptist Church member in the STEER program. “They eat with the rest of them.

“This makes it easier for me to give to the missions without taking something right out of my pocket.”



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press  
Children at Trinity Lutheran Church lined up to do actions for a song today during the church’s Vacation Bible School. The school concludes Sunday with a presentation during the 10:30 a.m. services.

# Bush wants gay marriage ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will promote a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage on Monday, the eve of a scheduled Senate vote on the cause that is dear to his conservative backers.

The amendment would prohibit states from recognizing same-sex marriages. To become law, the proposal would need two-thirds support in the Senate and House, and then be ratified by at least 38 state legislatures.

It stands little chance of passing

the 100-member Senate, where proponents are struggling to get even 50 votes. Several Republicans oppose the measure, and so far only one Democrat — Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska — says he will vote for it.

A slim majority of Americans oppose gay marriage, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press from March. But the poll also showed attitudes are changing: 63 percent opposed gay marriage in February 2004.



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## SHARE the FAITH

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

## Schedule of church services

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05

p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER**, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men’s Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children’s Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women’s Bible Study

## In honor of Military Appreciation Month



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary members (left to right) Mary Grabenstein and Margene Griffin; Boy Scout Cory Sager; Colby Mayor Ken Bieber; Boy Scout Kyle Peterson; and Auxiliary members Rose Grigsby, Hazel Duffey and Doris Voisin showed off the auxiliary’s “Buddy Poppies” in honor of Military Appreciation Month in May. The VFW Auxiliary had a campaign to sell the poppies last month, which benefit veterans. The Boy Scouts helped distribute the poppies.

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