

Two legs, four legs, there's room for all

By Patty Decker

Colby Free Press

COLBY — There aren't too many lodging facilities in northwest Kansas or even the rest of the state, that could say, "yes," to accommodating horses and their owners in a way that places them all in close proximity to one another.

But Theron and Jane Johnson of Colby took on just such a request and their ranch, Tin Acres, located seven miles north of Colby, is a valuable asset to these weary travelers.

Just as the bed and breakfast is a "one of a kind," visitors say they are impressed with the Johnson's home, which is also unique.

"We started the bed and breakfast because we love horses and we know, being owners of horses ourselves, it's important to be near them," Jane said.

Both Jane and Theron said while boarding horses is not necessarily a unique concept, it is unusual in this area since most ranches will board horses, but not the people.

The idea for the bed and breakfast originated about four years ago when the couple bought 10 acres of land, along with a double-wide mobile home and four outbuildings from Larry and Cheryl Cox. After purchasing the property, they set their sights on building their dream home, which included plans for the "horse motel" and bed and breakfast.

"We broke ground on Aug. 15, 2000 and in June of 2001 we moved in," Jane said. The house is 2,800 square feet on

the ground level and the basement is more than 1,850 square feet.

"We wanted the house to have an open concept," she said, "and we piggybacked on a lot of the architect's ideas."

The ceilings throughout the home are 20 feet high at the peak and the walls are a Styrofoam block with concrete poured in the center.

"The underground walls are 11 inches thick and above ground are 9 inches thick," Theron said. "The exterior of the house is a synthetic stucco and the entire house is energy efficient using a combination of solar-forced air and solar-powered fans."

There is no furnace in the house, but three fireplaces have venting systems that can circulate warm air through other ventilation outlets, he said.

The air-conditioner is also hooked up to the fireplace as well and using the same principle for cooling purposes in the summer.

The kitchen has a similar layout to that of the Claremont Inn at Stratton, Colo., Jane said, and other ideas for this house came from trips the couple made to Atlanta and other places across the country.

As for the horse motel, the Johnsons started boarding the animals overnight practically from the beginning. During the first four years after buying their original property, they purchased additional land, which gave them more than 100 acres.

Prior to moving into their new home, the couple renovated the outbuildings

into stables and one facility is set up for artificial insemination.

The Johnson's have 21 Quarter horses and also participate in shows. As members of the American Quarter Horse Association, their accommodations have become well-known.

Citing some of the many visitors who have stayed at their home, Theron spoke of 16 Arabian horses, along with their owners, who spent the night before continuing on to the world horse show in Louisville, Ky.

"The owner of the Arabians had heard about our place and stopped for the night," he said. "One of those horses was worth \$400,000 alone."

Another man and his crew, who stopped at the Johnson's bed and breakfast last summer, said he needed to house his 32 horses and mules for the night. Theron said after talking with him, he learned he was an outfitter who wintered his animals in West Virginia and during the summer months would take them to Pagosa Springs, Colo., where he owned an outfitter's ranch.

This particular ranch in Colorado used Percherons, which are a type of draft horse, Theron said.

"We have had people stay here from more than half the United States," Jane said, "and it's so much fun."

What makes this bed and breakfast so unique and valuable is what it provides people traveling to and from stock shows, rodeos, or just moving to new locations, Theron said.

"Many of our guests have some very expensive horses and are quite interest-

ing," he said.

Their most recent guests left today on their way to the stock show in Denver. The group arrived in a semi-trailer and other rigs with eight Belgian draft horses.

"The carriage that will be used in the show dates back to 1860," Jane said, "and was used in the Detroit Meat Packing Plant."

David Fry of Fort Wayne, Ind., who works for Jesse Graber, owner of the animals, said this particular team recently won first place honors in three events at the Harrisburg, Pa., horse show.

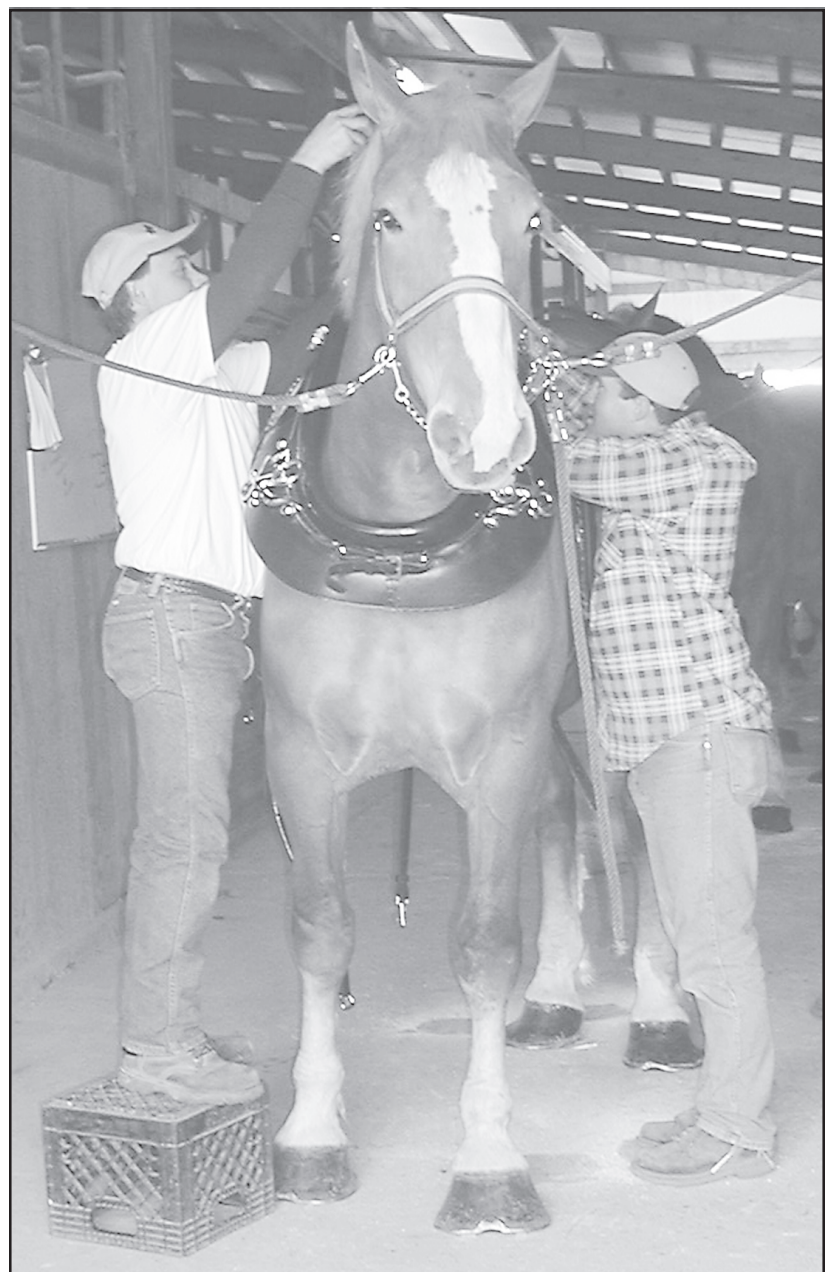
The team of Belgians are fairly new on the circuit, Fry said, and the owners are hoping for good results in Colorado today, Saturday and Sunday.

Helping them to accomplish their goal is another long-time horse owner, Larry Addington, who has his own 8-horse hitch of Percherons in Logan, Ohio.

Addington's team has won first place honors at shows in the same category.

Although they probably won't be stopping at the Johnson's home on their way back to Indiana, Fry said the accommodations were exceptional in that the horses could be hitched up and worked for training and last-minute preparations.

The Johnson's own 21 of their own Quarter horses and specialize in reining and working cows, along with showing them in those performance events nationwide.



Barb, one of the eight Belgian horses performing this weekend in Denver, was the first to get harnessed for some practice drills on Tuesday at Tin Acres, which is owned by Theron and Jane Johnson of Colby. At left is David Fry and Kent Gingerich, both of Ft. Wayne, Ind., who work for Jesse Graber, owner of the horses. The team is hoping to take first place in the eight-horse hitch show in Denver. PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Budget plan is alternative to raising state taxes

BUDGET, from Page 1

from discussions among GOP senators, is an alternative to a package from Gov. Bill Graves. He wants to increase cigarette, sales and motor fuels taxes and vehicle registration fees to raise \$228 million.

The Senate's tax plan includes a 35-cent-a-pack increase in the cigarette tax. Graves' package includes a 65-cent increase. The current tax is 24 cents; the Senate plan would make it 59 cents; Graves' plan, 89 cents.

Graves promised Thursday to fight hard for his 65-cent increase and announced that a new coalition of health and social service groups would lobby for it. Also endorsing it was House

Speaker Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan.

Even legislators who oppose tax increases said their colleagues are feeling pressure from local school officials, who have warned that districts will have to cut programs and reduce teaching staffs if state aid is reduced.

"I think it's just the prospects of being accused of cutting schools that has people panicked," said Rep. Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls.

The state faces a \$426 million gap between projected revenues and spending commitments for fiscal 2003. Much of the problem is caused by higher-than-expected costs in social services and laws requiring the state to set aside extra money for higher edu-

cation and road construction.

The Kerr-Morris budget plan originally covered part of the budget gap through an immediate \$39 per-pupil cut in state aid to school districts. The committee restored the \$23.7 million to avoid that cut.

But if some legislators want to avoid cuts in aid to schools and other spending, they are not sold on Graves' cigarette tax proposal.

"It'll drive consumers across the state line," said Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. "Cigarette smokers are going to try to find the best price that they can find for cigarettes. I think we've got to try to negotiate."

Conservative Republicans argue

that Kansans don't support any tax increases.

"I think it's very unanimous that people want spending cuts," said Sen. Susan Wagler, R-Wichita. "Certainly, they prefer a sin tax over a general tax increase, but I just don't think there's any mood out there to increase any tax."

Also Thursday:

—Bipartisan negotiations over congressional and legislative redistricting continued, and Graves predicted lawmakers would resolve the issue quickly.

—The House Appropriations Committee introduced a bill to allow the state to issue up to \$110 million to establish new scientific research centers at state universities.

—The Senate Judiciary Committee introduced a bill to restrict 16- and 17-year-old drivers' ability to carry other minors in their vehicles.

Field trip shows importance of conservation

FIELD TRIP, from Page 1

to get out of class," said one student, "but this conservation stuff is really important."

The students who chose to learn about terraces showed their interest with the questions they asked.

"How long do they last?" "Do a lot of gullies form if there is no terrace?" "How long does it take to build one?"

Whitney Wright, 11, a fifth grader, chose the conservation reserve program as her topic. She said she already knew about terraces and the other choices, but she didn't know anything about the program and was interested to learn.

Jordan Albers, 12, a sixth grader, another student who picked the conservation program, said he chose it because he already knew a lot about it. His grandfather is a farmer who uses the program, and he says he has hunted pheasants.

Albers says that besides the information he got on the trip from Wedel, he will surf the net and look through books and encyclopedias for his presentation.

Anxious mother wants children returned

KIDNAPPING, from Page 1

inches tall and 135 pounds with dark graying hair that he may have died black.

The posters also describe each of the boys. They say Jaeger has a birthmark on his lower lip, wears glasses and may answer to Bubba or Jaybird.

Jacob has a small scar on his left cheek bone and may answer to Elf. Both boys have brown hair.

Jonah has red hair and green eyes, the posters say, and Job has brown hair and blue eyes and may answer to Boo.

The Goodland Police have done everything they possibly can, Police Chief Ray Smee said, and are now waiting to see where Mark and the kids are found.

Warrants have been issued, he said, and the kids have been reported missing. He said there's not much else the police can do.

At least until Mark is found. But finding Mark is not what Quast wants.

"I don't care if we ever see him again," she said. "We just want the kids back."

Quast has lived in Goodland, she

said, since 1971. Tohanna grew up in Goodland, Quast said, and went to high school here. She spent her senior year in Newton, Tohanna said, and graduated there. Tohanna and Mark met in Goodland, Quast said, though he was originally from North Carolina.

They married over nine years ago, she said, and have lived in Florida and Byers and Brighton, Colo., before returning to Goodland in 1995.

The couple has been separated for two years and both want residential custody of their children and have been involved in a custody dispute.

Health Fair hosted at Activities Center on Saturday

By Skilar Boland

The Goodland Daily News The Goodland Activities Center, 808 Main, will be holding their annual Health Fair on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., offering many booths and many different screenings.

Donna Terry, director of the center, encouraged everyone to attend, no matter your age.

She said the Goodland Lions Club will be screening vision and hearing and will offer a glaucoma screening.

Emergency Medical Technicians will be coming from the hospital, she said, to check participants' blood pressure, height and weight. She said prepaid blood tests to check TSH and prostate will be reviewed by doctors with

the patients.

The Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Initiative will have information about Breast Cancer and the Sherman County Extension office will be figuring percentage of body fat.

Tender Loving Care will be taking an oxygen saturation test and Dr. Sid Unruh, owner of Unruh Family Chiropractic, will have a booth with health information.

Other agencies that will be at the fair include the Prevention Center, Family Shelter, Harvest America, the Good Samaritan Center and the Highway Patrol. There is no charge for any of the screenings and anyone is welcome.

"It's a yearly health fair where people can get screenings done for

free," said Terry. "We try to get people aware of their problems and how to take care of them."

Kansas State Fair plans a \$1 day

HUTCHINSON (AP) — While the Kansas State Fair has phased out the tradition of free admission on opening day, it will let people in for a buck apiece the following Monday, Sept. 9.

The plan that general manager Bill Ogg told the fair board about at its meeting Wednesday is an effort to boost attendance on a typically slow day. Carnival rides will also be \$1 that day.

A Licensed Community Mental Health Center

COMMUNITY CASE MANAGER

position available in the Goodland area (full-time): Qualifications include at least (1) a BA/BS degree in psychology, social work, sociology, or other human services degree, or (2) be equivalently qualified by four years of related work experience and college education. Shall possess the abilities to work with mental health patients and related others, demonstrated interpersonal skills, and the abilities to react effectively in a wide variety of human service situations. Responsibilities include providing a wide array of case management and other mental health services to severely emotionally disturbed youth and their families and adult patients with severe and persistent mental illness. Must also be able to provide after-hours on-call services. Applicants should possess valid driver's license and good driving record. Must pass KBI, SRS Child/Adult abuse checks and drug and alcohol screening. Interested applicants should send resumé, transcript, references, and letter of interest to: Manager, Goodland Branch Office, High Plains Mental Health Center, 723 Main, Goodland, KS 67735. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE

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Anyone interested in purchasing the total 4,640 acres prior to March 12, 2002, may contact Mike Weimer, the Real Estate Agent by 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2002, and submit a notarized offer in writing for the entire ranch as one unit. If there are no acceptable bids by February 15, the land will be sold at Public Auction as stated on this sale bill.

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The land will be sold in 9 individual tracts only.

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Attorney for the Estate: Jerry E. Driscoll
Russell, Kansas 67665 - 785-483-5325

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