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Barn market coming to Colby again

By Sloane Enninga
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The fifth annual Prairie Barn Market is coming to the Prairie Museum of Art and History from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, which brings in about 50 vendors selling handmade items to Colby for all day shopping, where you can also bring your kids for events and husbands for the antique truck and tractor show.

"I had made handmade items for the last 10 years or so," said organizer Shanda Mattix, "and had been to vendor events similar to this in other places. Nebraska does a really great job of hosting events like this."

Every time she would come home from one of these types of events, she said, she would talk with her family about how excited it made her and her desire to want to hold something like that in Colby. Finally in 2018, she said, she had been discussing it with her husband Caleb and he encouraged her to go ahead and do it.

She said they sat down and brainstormed what she wanted to include, and a lot of it she already had worked out in her mind from the other similar events in Nebraska she had gone to. Then they chose their most ideal place in Colby, which was the museum.

Her main goal for the event was

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Library plans to change, grow in future

By Sloane Enninga
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The Pioneer Memorial Library staff presented to their board in May what they found from the community input sessions they had in April, and from comments they got from those who attended, they think the expansion is the better option, rather than redesigning the current facility.

"Staff determined that relocating the main entrance to the east part of the building is the least beneficial option," they told the board, "and necessitates many changes with little benefit for the cost."

The group said people chose the redesign as the second choice because it is doable, but people still thought it only achieved a temporary benefit for everything it would require.

"Expansion is the best course of action for the library," they said. "After our examination of several options, the staff's first choice is

to expand the footprint of the library, much like the 2017 drawings."

Drawings for an expansion were originally presented to the Colby City Council in 2017. The plan afterwards was to start fundraising for an expansion. After this, the Covid-19 pandemic cut their plans short and the library had to serve its customers with pick-ups and drop-offs only.

Since the pandemic, they said, they have gotten a lot more requests of private meeting rooms. They have to turn down these requests daily because they do not have enough room to accommodate the need.

Now that they are revisiting the expansion or redesign ideas, they said that by expanding the footprint of the library, they could make room for additional opportunities to meet the current and future growth taking place in Colby and the area.

They said with the expansion,

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Couple looks back on life

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Editors note: This is the second story of a series to be written about the life of Wayne and Millie Horlacher.

Millie and Wayne Horlacher spent some of their life together being foster parents, an experience that was special to look back upon to them.

Fostering kids wasn't a goal when they got married, but came about because of the great need there was in Colby at the time.

Right after coming back from watch making school and finishing their house, Wayne said, they agreed to be foster parents.

Over the years, Wayne said they gave home to 13 different children who came to them at different times. Millie said their job was to be an emergency placement, so at times, the police would bring children at all hours of the day.

"We were always prepared," she said, "but I was never prepared to give them up. But we needed to treat them like they were not temporary."

She said the kids received love, instruction and guidance. And even though they had four children of their own, they didn't sub-



Senator visits shop

By Sloane Enninga

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Sen. Roger Marshall visited Colby Thursday and took a trip out to Bob Holloway's Advantage Architectural Woodwork north of Levant to learn about passive houses and some of the difficulties Holloway has run into in his business.

Holloway started off the discussion and said that there has been some talk on the federal level about passive houses in early May. The discussion revolved around how passive house designs will change the housing and buildings in this country.

This type of housing design works with the weather and sunlight in your area to allow you to live comfortably with little or no utility bills.

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Sen. Roger Marshall visited Advantage Architectural Woodwork Thursday and spoke with owner of the business, Bob Holloway about his window designs (above) that allow passive houses to have little or no utility bills.

A group made its way around Holloway's shop, (below right) and stopped every once in a while to listen to some of the challenges Holloway has had while running his business.

Marshall stopped to inspect a component of Holloway's windows, (below left) and commented on the craftsmanship.

The two talked for about an hour about the struggles of today's workforce including labor shortages.

SLOANE ENNINGA/Colby Free Press



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Weather



National Weather Service Forecast here.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 10 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: Showers likely and thunderstorms before 10 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 1 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Saturday: Showers likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Saturday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 1 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Sunday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74.

Sunday Night: 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Monday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 78.

Precip:	Friday	.12 inches
	Saturday	Trace
	Sunday	Trace
	Monday	None
Month:		6.02 inches
Year:		8.70 inches



People from all around visited the cemeteries Monday to pay their respects for those gone too soon. Graves at Beulah Cemetery were decorated with flags and flowers for the holiday. **SHANE ENNINGA/Colby Free Press**

Senator visits wood shop

From "WOODWORKING," Page 1

Holloway makes doors and windows that comply with the passive house requirements, meaning they are energy efficient to such a level that they work with the sun at different times of the year to allow the sun to warm your home in the winter, and block it out and cool it during the summer.

"Germans, specifically, have mastered this principle," Holloway said. "It's the gold standard of building. So we have super insulated buildings, airtight assemblies, and they require some special windows."

Since it is common in Europe, but not in America, he said, they have no company, other than his, that makes these windows here. Most windows that comply with the passive house standards are imported from Poland and Germany, he said.

"These are thermally, optimized windows, and they're airtight," he said. "We were blessed about seven years ago, we met a fellow in Germany, that actually is a designer. He has the highest performing window designs in the world that he's developed, and he offers them to small companies and medium sized companies, like myself, to build for their local markets."

Unfortunately, he said, they don't have much of a local market for this type of window. However, they ship their product from coast to coast, well as to Canada. By bringing Sen. Marshall to his shop, he said he wanted to talk about some challenges they are experiencing in this small rural area.

"The number one is labor," Holloway said. "I should make that the number two. People are a major, major problem. It's not just a problem for us, it's a nationwide thing. I have friends, colleagues in the industry that manufacture all over the country, in rural areas and in the big cities. They all have problems finding and retaining skilled trades people."

He said young people are not wanting to do the kind of work he does. Everyone is struggling, he said, from electricians to plumbers. He said this is his number one complaint about America because they do not have enough people to fill the needs of the economy.

His suggestion to combat this issue is to allow kids into the field at a younger age to get them interested. Now, since there are laws about having kids working at certain ages and still not able to run the necessary machinery, it is hurting the industry.

"We're totally letting these kids down," Holloway said. "Myself and Barry (Kaar), he works for me, he's my recruiter, are spending a tremendous amount of time, energy and money to work with the local schools, whether it be in K-12, with the technical schools, in trying to get ourselves involved as a company."

He said there is such a demand for their product that they don't even have to advertise anywhere, people normally contact them. Even with that, they cannot keep up with the demand.

The second issue he sees is housing. Even if you are able to find someone to come work, he said there is no where for them to live. He said he'd love to see some housing initiatives in the area.

"And the third point is the access to capital to help us grow our business," Holloway said. "I feel like they're lacking in these rural areas. I want to grow this business, and I've talked to numerous investment companies and firms. What they say to me is, 'Are you willing to relocate?' The small towns are going to die because that kind of mentality."

He said to continue their work here, they need people to work, automation machinery and to find a way to make this work in their local area.

Sen. Marshall talked after a tour of Holloway's facility and said that he thinks the housing issues are due to the cost. Even with all the government subsidies, he said, the cost of building a home has gone up 25 to 30 percent because of poor policies out of the White House.

As for labor, he said the last thing he saw was there were seven million healthy, able-bodied men between the ages of 25 and 45 years old that are not working in America. He said this is because the government is paying them between \$60,000 and \$80,000 a year to not work.

For access to capital, he said he's a huge fan of community banks. He said he thinks the local banks have the ability to understand the customer. Marshall said he has tried to work with legislations to build the regulations on small banks.

"So that they're not spending all their money on compliance," he said. "So they can give you a better interest rate as well. I've worked to make with the small business committees trying to lose some of those loans more friendly."

Holloway said that through the struggles they are facing, they will keep fighting and being part of area events to get more people interested in the work they do.

Prairie Barn Market back again for fifth year

From "MARKET," Page 1

to have a place where people from all around can gather and have a whole day outing. She said this included being able to have her children and other kids be able to participate as well.

"So I wanted to not only focus on vintage and handmade vendors," she said, "but to create a space that families could come and spend all day. They have something fun to do with their children. We brought our children frequently to the museum, and they had grown to love the space too."

Museum Director Ann Miner said that this event has brought a new crowd of people to the museum, one they didn't have before.

She said that the handmade and vintage theme of the barn market is also consistent with the exhibits they have at the museum.

During the day, she said, all of these exhibits are available for people to visit as well, and are included in the admission price of the market.

"I'm speaking as someone not employed by the museum yet," Mattix said, "but our museum is top-notch. I think a lot of local people don't even realize what an asset it is to our community. ... It really is a great museum and the grounds are beautiful. It's the perfect background for an event like this."

The main attraction for the day is the shopping, she said. Over the past few weeks she has been post-

ing on Facebook highlights about each of the vendors that are coming to the show and said the selection for people is across the board.

In addition to that, there will also be food vendors so people can come and have lunch. The Hoxie Hotrodz donate tables for seating, she added. Mattix said she loves being able to see the tables fill up with people eating and visiting throughout the day.

For the kids, she said, they have pony rides, face painting by the Colby High School art students, yard games like a beanbag toss and an antique tractor that will take kids on a barrel train ride around the museum grounds.

For the men, or all others interested in trucks and tractors,

she said they have had an antique show for the last three years. It has grown a lot over the past few years, she said, and there's even one couple bringing seven different vehicles this year.

Mattix said her husband spearheads that area of the barn market, recruiting people to come bring their antique vehicles to the museum. She said the people that come for that part of the event, are ones that love to teach and share their love of vehicles with others.

Painter Christine Mountford will be offering painting classes during the day from 1 to 3 p.m. Mattix said to be included for that, people need to register on her Facebook page called Create with Christine by today.

"Honestly, it's kind of grown beyond my expectations even," Mattix said. "But I think there's potential for it to continue. Not only continued growth but also different vendors and different activities."

Last year, their rough count of people who came to the market was over 700 people. With Pickin' on the Plains the same weekend, she said they have also gotten comments about how it's nice to have an event to go to during the festival.

Both Mattix and Miner said they appreciate the partnership they have between each other and are hoping for it to grow more in the future.

Briefly

Send your Briefly items to colby.editor@nwks.com. Deadline is noon two days before. For maximum impact, we recommend having them in 10 days or more in advance.

Fire Department to start hydrant testing

The Colby Fire Department started testing hydrants. This may lower the water pressure in your area for the time it is being tested, but it will go back to normal. Fire Chief Scott Hilbrink said the water could also turn a rust color for a short period, but will also go back to normal after the testing is finished. For information, call the fire department at (785) 460-4454.

Kiwanis looking for support

The Thomas County/Colby Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the annual Fourth of July fireworks show at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The group will be fundraising to be able to put on the show. To contribute to the fireworks, the group asks for people to send donations to Colby Kiwanis Club at P.O. Box 501 in Colby.

Retiree pie and ice cream social planned

Colby United Methodist Church is holding a retiree pie and ice cream social from 7 to 8 p.m. today for retired people considering going back to work. The event is sponsored by Advantage Architectural Woodwork of Levant. For information and to reserve your spot by May 29, call (785) 462-0411.

'Swinging Fore the Lord' back again

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is holding the 22nd annual "Swinging Fore the Lord" golf tournament with registration starting at 8 a.m. on Friday at Meadow Lake Golf Course. Tee time is at 9 a.m. and the entry fee is \$360 per team or \$90 per person for the four man scramble. To ensure your spot in the tournament, you can mail or turn your entry form along with the fee made payable to the church. The fee includes 18 holes of golf, 2 individual mulligans, coffee, rolls, two meals and hole prizes. For information, call Jeannie Solko at (785) 462-2179 or (785) 443-2589.

Wheat plot tour scheduled

The Thomas County Wheat Plot Tour is scheduled from 9 to 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 6. The plot is located nine miles south of the Levant I-70 interchange on the east side of the black-top road. For information, call the Thomas County K-State Extension Office at (785) 460-4582.

Hospital board members needed in Goodland

The Sherman County commissioners are requesting Sherman County citizens interested in being appointed to the Goodland Regional Medical Center hospital board to send a letter outlining their interest in serving the community in this capacity. Please include qualifications or attributes that should be considered. Mail or deliver to: Sherman County commissioners, 813 Broadway Room 102, Goodland. Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. on June 29.

Scholarship available for female graduates starting junior, senior year

The Thomas County Scholarship Organization has a \$500 scholarship available, \$250 per semester, for a female graduate of a Thomas County high school who is starting their junior or senior year at a college or university in the fall semester of 2023. Deadline to apply is Thursday, June 15. Request application or information by email at pat.ericsson55@gmail.com.

Schools selling trees to raise money for ag building

Colby Public Schools has approximately 60 blue spruce trees ranging from 6 feet to 25 feet available for a minimum donation of \$50 a foot. Donations will benefit the Agricultural Education and Technology Center building project. The donor will be responsible for removal by an approved removal service. Trees are available for selection on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Colby Public Schools Administration office at (785) 460-5000 for more information.



Pioneer Memorial Library looking to change, grow soon

From "LIBRARY," Page 1

they would be able to broaden and diversify services to children, families, caregivers and child advocates, along with unifying the child and youth areas to better

serve families. This growth would initiate opportunities for education, nutritional and cultural experience.

They could also provide remote work spaces for entrepreneurs and professionals as well and those

wanting to have a quiet place for counseling, telemedicine, job interviews and getting legal counsel.

This new square-footage would allow the staff to offer self-checkout options, improve Americans with Disabilities Act access, and improve services and programs in the future.

Thinking about down the road when they outgrow their space again, they also want to make this addition able to carry a second story so they could expand up in

the future, rather than buying new land and building an entirely new facility.

The board members were very appreciative of the time and effort the library staff has put into the project.

Melany Wilks, library director, said they are now talking with the original architect that designed the addition in 2017 and will begin to look at what it will cost for either the redesign, or an expansion.

Colby couple looks back on their time fostering kids years ago

From "FOSTERING," Page 1

tract love from their own kids, but rather added more to the household, Millie said. When they would get some of the kids, she said, she would try to let them just play in the bathtub when they first came to their house. This was because she thought it would be easier on them to

soak, rather than having to scrub the dirt some of them had.

They were not able to contact the kids they fostered after they left their home, which Millie said was a hard thing to do.

"There's only one that we know about and Millie can tell you the story on that," Wayne said. "But we got him as a baby, just three days old, straight out of the hos-

pital." Millie said they raised the baby for a year and it was hard to give them up after treating him like their own for so long. Many years later, she said their granddaughter Rachel was going to school in Manhattan.

"She was in grade school," Wayne said, "and she would visit with the teacher and

make conversation. The teacher mentioned that they had adopted a little boy. Well, he grew up in Colby, Kansas."

One day, he said, after Rachel told her teacher that her grandparents were foster parents, the doorbell rang.

When the Horlachers opened the door, he said, it was a Kansas Highway Patrolman who said that he had been their foster

family. This was a special memory for the two to look back on from fostering a baby and then later as an adult.

Millie said she doesn't think their own kids regretted that experience of their parents fostering children, and were able to get all kinds of life experience from them doing so.