

Cleveland County Manager Lies about Problems at Animal Control ?? Polkville Man Allegedly Arrested for Animal Cruelty-Horses, pigs, other animals and 25 dogs-No time for rest at Animal Control !! Gossip, evaluation, and arguendo by Robert A. Williams

Some might ask, "how can you tell when Cleveland County Manager Brian Epley is lying?" The answer being, "when his mouth is moving!"

Well, I say NO to that. The correct answer is when you see one of those phony "Press Release" articles in the Shelby Star. Like the one in the Shelby Star Sunday issue August 11, 2019 titled "County manager talks about photos from Animal Control" Under the signature of Diane Turbyfill Shelby Star Staff. A former Star Reporter once slipped up and told me their Star "Press Releases" are under the headings of "Shelby Star Staff." Press Releases being text provided by the county agency (Brian Epley in this case) that is written up as if it is a real live reporter written news article. They do it all the time.

This is the Star article: (Fair use: for discussion)

County manager talks about photos from Animal Control

By Diane Turbyfill

Shelby Star staff

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Outrage online over conditions at the local animal shelter spilled over into a recent Cleveland County Board of Commissioners meeting.

A handful of people spoke during public comment to express concerns about pictures that showed discarded and broken syringes on the floor and open cabinets of medications. The photos circulated on Facebook by several people including Commissioner Deb Hardin.

Cleveland County Manager Brian Epley said he was unaware of the photos that had been posted on Facebook before Tuesday's meeting. Once he was made aware, he checked into it.

Epley said he talked to employees and feels conditions at the shelter aren't what they appear in the photos posted online.

"Those photos are a simple second in time," he said. "You must frame it in the right context."

Epley said that when photos are taken out of context or without proper explanation, untruths can surface.

For instance, one of the photos showed a broken and bent syringe on the floor. Online comments suggested an animal had chewed on it. Epley said no animals were in the room at the time an employee stepped on and broke the syringe.

Epley said that while the photos did come from someone inside the shelter, he doesn't know when they were taken. People should understand that some days are more hectic than others, and things can get messy when caring for more than 100 animals, he said.

Cleveland County Animal Control takes in owner-surrendered animals. Not all shelters do. When a high number of dogs and cats are surrendered, or an influx comes from a hoarding situation, it's not surprising that materials may pile up until there's time to clean, Epley said.

And as for the medicines shown in an open cabinet, they were

in a locked room where only certain people are permitted, according to Epley.

Epley lauded the work that employees, volunteers and rescue groups do to help the discarded animals in Cleveland County. Efforts by all these groups have helped the shelter greatly lower the number of animals euthanized, decreasing that number from more than 4,000 to less than 500 annual over the past decade. Epley said that 84 percent of animals at the shelter find a home.

“That’s a very promising number compared to other counties similar to Cleveland County,” he said. “We are focused on getting better. We’re not going to stop. We’re going to come in every day and do the best we can.”

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Now, folks, did you notice that I didn’t add one thing to this text? I say, I didn’t have to. It’s clear as a bell that the whole article is hokum.

OK, Williams, how do you know that?

It’s easy. In the second paragraph, it said that Commissioner Deb Hardin had shared the photos. Deb Hardin is the Animal Control guru and knows what is going on at Animal Control. So, why didn’t the Shelby Star contact Deb Hardin? All the talking, all the mouth moving is from Brian Epley and all the knowledgeable stuff would have come from Commissioner Deb Hardin.

Just a simple Sherlock Holmes common sense thought process. Brian Epley is lying to cover-up something bad at Animal Control and the Star is helping. I would bet Commissioners Susan Allen, Ronnie Whetstine and Johnny Hutchins are in on this cover-up too. Since they are up for re-election and don’t want people that care about animals knowing the truth of this matter.

Now, trusted sources report (no gossip here) that Ricky Lee Pruitt of the New House/Polkville area of Cleveland County was very recently arrested for many counts of animal cruelty regarding the starvation of a number of horses, pigs, other animals and 25 penned-up dogs. A slew of Cleveland County Animal Control vehicles, equipment and personnel were seen by eye witnesses removing the animals from the premises. Mr. Pruitt was allegedly arrested. Where the animals were transported to is presently unknown.

A check of the Sheriff's Department on-line jail log and mugshots show no records of such an arrest. The Shelby Star has not written any articles about this and Brian Epley has not made any comments. Perhaps another cover-up??? About 99.99% I would say.

As for me, I am going to ask Commissioner Deb Hardin about this. And get the truth of the matter.

And then make my updated report to the people of Cleveland County who care about hearing the truth and not so many lies.

PS: My own involvement with Animal Control has been very good. Tyler Moore of Animal Control came out to my house, trapped 19 stray and breeding cats that had taken over the neighborhood, had them spayed and neutered and returned them as the program called for. (No cat shootings.) This brought the cat population explosion around my part of Fallston to ZERO! I was even invited to tour the Animal Control facilities, which I accepted. The tour was led by Holly Wall. We went everywhere and looked at everything, as I usually like to do. I found Animal Control to be so clean you could eat off the floors. No messes anywhere. All the animals had names and were well treated. I even wrote an article or two suggesting that the County Government should look to Animal Control to see a well-run organization and copy their actions. Now, I have to believe that any problems at Animal Control that have developed since then were caused by "jealousy" from the County

Manager's Office because Animal Control got a complement for a job well done and they did not. (Mostly because they have not done such a good job to be complemented for-too many lies!) Stranger things have happened within Cleveland County's so-called leadership.