

New year brings increased travel; election year on the horizon

It is a brand new year and "On the Road Again" seems even more appropriate at this time of the year. Travel to and from Topeka always increases when the legislature goes back into session. This session should be especially interesting because it is also an election year.

The Governor in his State of the State address has recommended for 2003 an additional \$500,000 for tourism advertising and \$150,000 for the grant program over the 2002 approved budget. Part of his reasoning could be that \$5 is returned for every dollar spent in tourism promotion. This could be significant in a year when there is a shortfall and economic slowdown.

Travel Industry Association of Kansas is planning their 2002 Legislative Day on Jan. 29, which is also Kansas Day. I will be attending the luncheon

On the Road

with Leilani Thomas

which is planned at the capitol with the legislators to acquaint them with the 2002 legislative agenda of travel association.

The agenda includes increased funding for state tourism, insurance that governance of the transient guest tax support programs for the promotion of convention and tourism in Kansas, monitoring taxation issues that affect the travel industry, supporting efforts to fund Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial and Lewis and Clark activities, monitoring Wildlife and Parks initia-

tives that affect tourism, ensure the Federal T-21 funds are provided to Kansas communities for appropriate transportation projects, and to support federal and state agency initiatives that promote tourism in Kansas. There will be other issues which come up, but this is the initial agenda.

We will also be in Topeka Jan. 25 for a preliminary planning meeting for Chautauqua. The agenda says we will be meeting with the Beverly Hurley, Kansas Travel Media representative, Mary McCaffrey from Department of Travel and Tourism and representatives from Elderhostel, Ride into History and the Kansas! Magazine editor. We will then be working the Travel and Sports Show in Denver the 26th and 27th. As we said in the beginning this is a very busy time for us.

It is extremely exciting to see work

begin on the Colby Travel Information Center. We feel it will be a definite asset for our community and for the traveler. As most of you know, this project was made possible by an increase in the transient guest tax.

We are pleased to report that the receipts for the last quarter of 2001 were up almost 5 percent over the same quarter the previous year when the increase was also in place.

We encourage you to attend the sporting events that are scheduled for the college, schools and Recreation Department.

Our hats off to the organizers of the Orange & Black Classic and Little Kids Wrestling which were held in Colby. Job well done!! There is also a very special night of Bluegrass music

with Lost Highway Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. at City Limits. This is a nationally renowned group which should be a real treat. WPA also has a special presentation on Friday Feb. 8 at the Cultural Arts Center when "Frula" will be performing folk dances of Eastern Europe.

The Leadership Thomas County class met for their education day, Friday, Jan. 18, in the Fireside Lounge at Colby Community College. Teams from the class interviewed leaders in the educational field.

The class was impressed with the technology in the schools, the passion of those interviewed for youth, and the optimism held for the future of the rural schools.

The class also held a visioning ex-

ercise to help ascertain their class project. A special thank you to Taxes & More and Colby Bowl for sponsoring the breaks and People's State Bank of Colby for sponsoring the lunch.

We are especially appreciative of the college for the use of their facilities and Chartwell's for the outstanding presentation and food provided throughout the day.

The networking ending the days activities was again sponsored by the Alumni Association and was wonderful and festive.

The class will be going to Topeka Feb. 20-22. They will be traveling by motor coach with the Sherman County and Rawlins County Leadership classes. It promises to be a very exciting and informative trip.

Oakley's Kansas X-ray school plans to provide needed education, training

Most everyone has heard there is a shortage of trained medical personnel in Kansas. One of the most critical at this time is in the field of X-ray.

Many hospitals, as well as clinics, are finding it very difficult to find Registered radiological technologists to fill the positions needed to provide coverage in their departments, said Rodney Bates, registered technologist for over 38 years and is director of the school.

"Over the past few years many have begun training people on-the-job to fill this need. In a recent survey there were over 50 hospitals in the State of Kansas who now employ non-registered personnel in their X-ray departments. "The Kansas X-ray School in Oakley has just begun to provide the needed education for these non-registered people," he said.

The mission of the school is to im-

prove the quality of medicine by providing the scientific and technical education to ensure people doing x-ray work have a basic knowledge of the use of X-ray in the medical field.

Kansas X-ray School is a proprietary school, approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

In response to why he formed the school, Bates said that during hearings on the proposed licensure of x-ray personnel, it was stated that because of the shortage of registered technologists some sort of training should be set up for those people working in the field who did not have formal training. After discussions with fellow administrators and technologists and the completion of a study of the number of people working in the field, in hospitals in Kansas alone, I decided to attempt to provide this.

"After studying the results of the initial questionnaire it was determined there would not be a sufficient base for a Community College or Vo Tech to provide this course of study, therefore I established a proprietary school," he said.

The school will utilize new technology in the provision of this education. Most of the coursework will be completed as correspondence, however, there is mandatory on-site class time as well.

Completion of the course will provide certification the student has completed a course in "Limited Radiography."

The course does not qualify for registration by the American Registry.

Information about the school can be accessed by going to the internet site www.kansasx-rayschool.org.

Colby Jaycees celebrate special week

The Colby Jaycees were among many across the state and nation to take part in this week's national celebration of the good things the group does for its communities.

Colby Mayor Warren Hixson signed a proclamation designating this week as National Jaycees Week with representation of the Colby Jaycees Club witnessing the event.

Those present include Chandra Farmer, Deb Hudson, president, Tammy Horn, Tonya Lee and Amanda Martinez.

"The program here demonstrates long-term and consistent success in providing Thomas County with community events," said Hixson. Some examples include youth activities to include middle school and high school dances, along with encouraging young people to get involved in their community, member said.

Deb Hudson, president of Jaycees, said the organization has done much to enlarge the area of opportunity for young people.

The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) gives young people the tools they need to build the bridges of success for themselves in the areas of business development, management skills, individual training, community and more, she said. Established in 1920, the organization provides opportunities to develop personal and leadership skills through service to others.

During this special week, Hixson said people might want to learn more about the organization and consider becoming a Colby Jaycee member.

Jaycees are men and women, ages 21-39, who are making a difference across the nation, Hudson explained. Whether to build on a career, tough lives in a community, or just meet new people, the Jaycees will help, she said.

The special week was first celebrated in 1929 to raise awareness on the opportunities available.

For information or to learn more about the group, call Hudson at 462-2890.



C. Farmer



D. Hudson



T. Horn



T. Lee



A. Martinez



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First National Bank would like to thank the businesses that participated in the 2001 Community Dress Down Days. A total of \$1,867 was raised to benefit the following projects and organizations:

Friends of Pioneer Memorial Library
Grandview Therapeutic Riding
Citizens for Recycling Program
American youth Soccer Organization
Heartland Rural Counseling Services, Inc.

Citizens Foundation Harvest for Health
Colby Swim Club
Thomas County Community Foundation, Inc.
American Red Cross
Thomas County Genesis
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Businesses participating in 2001 Dress Down Days included:

Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
Colby Grade School
F & M Insurance
Gerstner-Cerovsky Insurance Agency
Northwest Title, Inc.

Chamber of Commerce
Colby Middle School
Family Center for Health Care
Gordon Company
Thomas County Courthouse

Citizens Medical Center
Colby High School
First National Bank
Dr. Morrison & Dr. Wahlmeier
Donna Finley & Marcy Wasson

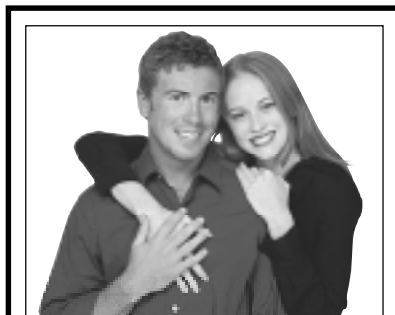
Anyone interested in participating in the monthly Dress Down Day should contact First National Bank at 462-2000.

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Faith

\$14

(Example shown actual size)

Price of \$14 includes box with up to 20 words + artwork

A 2x2 ad (example not shown) is also available for \$30. (Includes a picture plus choice of artwork: Cupid, Lips or Heart)

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