



COLBY FREE PRESS

Pickin' on the Plains

By **PATTY DECKER**

Free Press Editor

Now in its seventh year, the Pickin' on the Plains Festival will begin Friday at 6 p.m. and continue on through Sunday with entertainers from four states, along with local families to include the Wagoners, McLemores, Lauritsens and Larry Booth.

All activities will be held at Bourquin's Campground near the Interstate 70 frontage road.

Other groups and individuals participating are the Faris Family, Ozwakie; Spontaneous Combustion, Kansas City, Mo.; Bluestem, Lawrence; High Atmosphere, Colorado Springs, Colo.; The New Old-Timers, Hill City; Kansas Heart, Wichita; and Trey Allen, cowboy poet from Hooker, Okla.

Friday's schedule kicks off with the Faris Family, making their first appearance in Colby, said Susan McLemore, one of the coordinators. They will perform again at 8:15 p.m.

"The Faris Family will only be here on Friday," she said, "and visitors will be impressed with their four boys, twin and triple fiddling, down-home humor and family harmony."

Sappa Strings will follow at 6:55 p.m., Friday, featuring Wayne and Millie Lauritsen playing guitar, dobro and autoharp to give their music an old-time flair, McLemore said.

"Wayne and Millie have been singing together in the tri-state area for about 12 years, performing their favorite gospel, country, folk and patriotic

tunes," she said. "Lifetime farmers and pure country folk from northwest Kansas, much of this sincere duo's music is a reflection of who they are."

Larry Booth will take the stage Friday at 7:35 p.m. as a solo entertainer who has performed in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska for many years.

"Larry's love of music and people is clear as he offers his own renditions of well-known country and folk songs, and tells stories through ballads and cowboy poetry," she said.

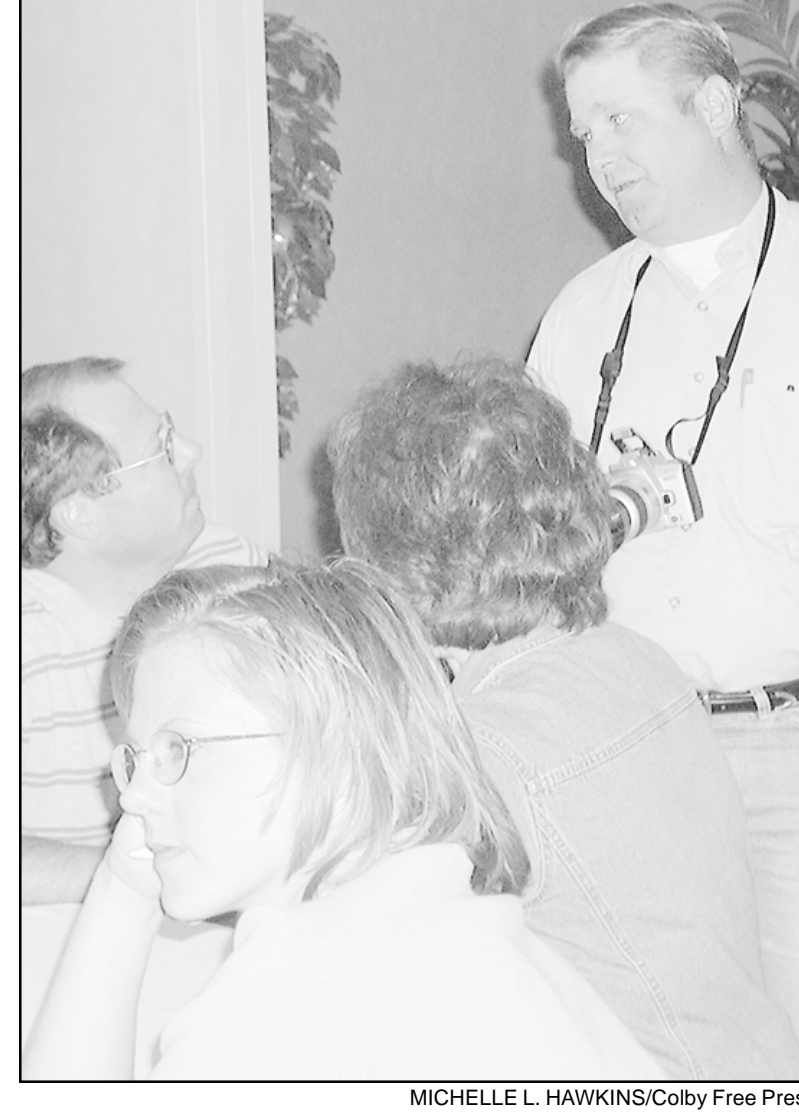
The Wagoner Family will also be appearing for the first time at the festival. They will be performing for one show only, Friday at 9:10 p.m., specializing in country-style music with well-known favorites that are both new and old.

The New Old-Timers will follow at 9:50 p.m. to provide versatility and flair in traditional bluegrass style. In addition, the group will perform old-time music, ballads and newgrass.

The McLemore Family will round out the first night of the three-day event at 10:30 p.m. with a variety of bluegrass music. This is the fourth year the McLemores have performed at the event and credit their success largely to the talents of their 15-year-old twins, Blake and Brandon, who play bass and mandolin. Saturday activities begin again at 10 a.m. with the youth contest sponsored by the High Plains Lions and Colby/Thomas County Kiwanis. Entertainers will begin performing again at 12:25 p.m. until 5:40 p.m. and evening shows begin again at 6:20 p.m.



At left Dr. Eric Jacobsen talked with Robert Schroeder and Dr. Jeffrey Kasselmann at the Wednesday evening reception held on behalf of both



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

physicians, who recently announced they would be leaving the area. At right Dr. Kasselmann talks with Greg and Cindy Schafer.

Hundreds bid farewell to doctors

By **MICHELLE L. HAWKINS**

Colby Free Press

Nearly 400 people turned out for a farewell reception for Drs. Jeffrey Kasselmann and Eric Jacobsen on Wednesday night at the City Limits banquet hall in Colby.

The event was sponsored by the Family Center for Healthcare, which was where both physicians were employed.

Kasselmann will be leaving the

community on Aug. 9. He has accepted a position in Imperial, Neb. He and his family came to Colby in 1998.

"We will miss everybody," said Kasselmann at the farewell reception.

The Jacobsens will be moving this coming weekend to Boise, Idaho where he will be doctoring in a nearby suburb.

Jacobsen originally moved to Colby in 1978, but moved back in 1994 to practice medicine at the Family Cen-

ter for Health Care.

"I have enjoyed serving the community over the last few years, and want to thank them for their support," he said.

When asked his reasons for leaving, Jacobsen said the community had an unlevel playing field before he came. "One person can't have control over the whole community," he said.

Jacobsen feels that a doctor should be a servant to the community not a

dictator of what happens in that community.

"This community needs to deal with issues they haven't dealt with in 28 years," he said.

Jacobsen said he knew it would be hard on people who feel like there are not any other choices for their medical care.

Both doctors agreed they will miss their patients as they venture out to new locations.

WeatherWatch

Colby-Oakley areas

The numbers
Wednesday's high, 97
Low this morning, 64
Year ago today, 101 and 65
Temperature at 11 a.m. today, 88

Rainfall past 24 hours, 0.00
Month's rainfall, trace
Soil temp, 85
Records for July 18: 107 in 1936 and 51 in 1911

The forecast
Today's high was expected to reach 101. Tonight, lows upper 60s, south winds 15 mph. Friday, highs 100-105, south winds 10-15 mph. Friday night, lows upper 60s. Saturday, highs near 100. (Temperatures and precipitation are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, unless otherwise noted. Forecast is from the National Weather Service.)

Colby Water Usage
July 16 = 4.7 million gallons
July 17 = 3.979 million gallons
Levels of Concern
Watch Level 3.5 million gallons
Warning Level 4.0 million gallons
Emergency Level 4.5 million gallons
(Three consecutive days)

Important deadline just days away for Arts Association

By **TOM A. DREILING**

Free Press Publisher

An important date looms July 20 — that's Saturday — for the Western Plains Arts Association.

That's the deadline to become a supporter through one of several avenues of support.

Those membership levels are, and the prices are the same as last year:

1. Benefactor, \$1,500 or more, complimentary tickets.
2. Sustaining Member, \$700 to

\$1,499, eight adult tickets.
3. Patron, \$350 to \$699, six adult tickets.

4. Sponsor, \$160 to \$349, four adult tickets.

5. Family, \$90, two adult tickets and one student ticket per child in the family (high school senior or under).

6. Adult, \$40, one adult ticket.

7. Student, \$15, one student ticket (high school senior or younger).

Benefactor, Sustaining Member, Patron and Sponsor are listed in the

annual program book used throughout the area. "Children or student tickets can be substituted for adult tickets for your family if your membership is at the sponsor level or above," said Joan Albers, one of the Western Plains Arts Association membership drive volunteers.

"But we must have commitments for Benefactor, Sustaining Member, Patron or Sponsor by July 20 in order to have our program books printed on time," she said.

Police search for killer of young girl

STANTON, Calif. (AP) — As authorities searched for the man who snatched and murdered 5-year-old Samantha Rynnion, the sheriff issued a warning to the suspect: "Don't sleep, don't eat, because we're coming after you."

Orange County Sheriff Mike Carona said that Samantha, whose body had been dumped in a ravine 50 miles from her home, was likely the victim of a serial rapist and serial killer.

Officials said there was no prime suspect and warned parents in the area to tell their children to stay away from strangers. The killer intends to strike again, authorities said.

"The way the body was found, the

fact it was not buried, not hidden and such, and how it was left is almost like a calling card, like a challenge: 'I'm here and I'm coming back again,'" Carona said.

An autopsy confirmed that Samantha was sexually assaulted and died of asphyxiation, Carona said. She had been alive for several hours after being abducted Monday evening, he said. Samantha's body was discovered Tuesday afternoon, less than 24 hours after she was abducted outside her apartment building while playing a board game with a friend. She was nabbed by a man who pulled up in a light green Honda or Acura and asked for help finding his puppy.

The Sheriff's Department released a sketch and description of the kidnaper based on the account of a 5-year-old playmate who was with Samantha when she was kidnapped.

FBI agent Richard Garcia said the girl was able to identify speech patterns, and as a result, investigators believe the man is a Hispanic American. He was described as having slicked-back black hair and a thin black mustache. He wore a powder blue button-down shirt.

The sheriff said the killer may bear physical signs of a struggle. "He will probably have unexplained injuries to his hands, arms and possibly face," said Carona.

Logan County Fair Schedule of Events

Tonight

6 p.m. — Bread baking contest
7:00 — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens
7:15 — Logan County Drill Team (grandstand)
7:30 — KPRA Rodeo (grandstand)

Friday

8 a.m. — 4-H Building opens
9:30 — 4-H Livestock Judging
10:00 — Floriculture Judging
1 p.m. — 4-H Grand Champion pictures
1-2:30 — Life Skills Judging
5:00 — 4-H Livestock Auction & Buyer's Appreciation Supper
7:00 — Tri-County Amusement's home-owned carnival opens
7:30 — Demolition Derby (grandstand)
10:00 — 4-H Building closes

Fair parade is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. down Center Avenue. Saturday's full schedule will appear in Friday's Free Press.

Briefly

Resident takes own life

A 36-year-old Colby man took his life Wednesday night and his wife was hospitalized following the incident after a friend discovered the body in the basement of their home in the 500 block of North School. Mark W. Barber, authorities said today, were called to the scene at 7:39 p.m. after being alerted by a friend of the family that the incident had just occurred. After calling police and emergency medical technicians, who tried to stabilize Barber's condition, he was taken to Citizens Medical Center where he died later that evening. In addition, Barber's wife was also taken to the local hospital after complaining of chest pains. No further information was available. Authorities were sketchy on the details, but did say that Barber got a call prior to being found in the basement and when he returned from the telephone call appeared depressed. Funeral arrangements are through Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel.

Pageant entry deadline nears

Entries for the Thomas County Rodeo Queen/Princess Pageants are due by Saturday, July 20. This year's pageant will be held on Friday, July 26. For questions or information, call Trudy Wildeman, (785) 462-2848.

Post offices seek applicants

Every few years the United States Postal Service accepts applications for those interested in taking entrance exams for positions ranging from carriers and clerks to mail handlers, mail processors and mark-up clerks. This opportunity is now available in the Colby and surrounding area post offices, said James McDonald, Colby postmaster. Beginning today and through Friday, July 26, people interested can either apply by calling 1-866-999-8777 or 1-800-800-8776 or using Internet at www.usps.com/employment and referencing "Announcement No. 31915."

Blood drive slated next week

The Thomas County American Red Cross is sponsoring a community blood drive from noon until 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 24 at the Comfort Inn meeting room, 2225 S. Range Ave., Colby. To make an appointment, organizers ask that participants call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE and walk-ins are welcome.

Teams sought for Relay for Life

Teams are now forming for this year's annual "Relay For Life" event in Thomas County to benefit the American Cancer Society. "The event is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones and raise money for the fight against cancer," said Tina Dreiling, team captain chairman. "Relay for Life," will begin at 7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 16 and conclude at 7 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 17. All ac-

tivities will be held at Dennen Field. For questions on how to organize a team, call Dreiling at 462-8677.

Registration deadlines near

The last day to register to vote or to change party affiliation for the Tuesday, Aug. 6 primary election is Monday, July 22, said Tracey Perkins, Thomas County clerk. Persons wanting to change affiliation or register can do either at the county clerk's office at the courthouse, 300 N. Court Ave., Colby.

Extension office closes during fair

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed during the week of the fair, July 29 through Aug. 2, and officials are reminding everyone that any business or services they may need during that week should be brought in prior to or after the county fair. Call 462-4582 for questions.

