

Tourism gears up for events in the new year

The new year is upon us and we eagerly look forward to the opportunities and possibilities which may await us. We are extremely excited with the progress of the Colby Visitor Center. This project is viewed by the Convention and Tourism committee as an excellent opportunity to market our community, its attractions, friendliness and hospitality. It will also be an additional tool to publicize and spread the word about our business community, events and festivals.

We will keep you informed on the progress made toward the completion of the project.

We also anticipate hosting several groups, sporting events, and annual events.

The Rod Run committee and Bluegrass committee have been planning their 2003 events since the completion of the 2002 events.

The mission of both groups is to make each year's event bigger and better than the year before. Two large sporting events are taking place in January. On Friday and Saturday, Jan. 10-11 is the date for the Colby Com-

Leilani Thomas

On The Road Again

munity College Tournament of Champions which will be bringing top-notch national wrestling contenders to Colby to compete.

A favorite is the Orange & Black Basketball Classic which will be taking place Jan. 23, 24, and 25, 2003. You won't want to miss any of the basketball action during this one.

Santa City and the Holiday parade are behind us. A hearty thank you must be extended to all who participated, helped or attended making the holiday season brighter for all of us in Thomas County. If you have artificial trees that you no longer will be using, please consider donating them to Santa City. Just call 462-3401 or bring them to the Chamber Office and they will be stored to be used next year.

The donations help to keep our costs lower so that we do not have to charge

admission and all children have the opportunity to visit this winter wonderland.

The second session of Leadership Thomas County was held Dec. 13 at the Thomas County Office Complex. The theme was City/County Government day with class member teams interviewing public officials.

Those interviewed by class members were: Sen. Stan Clark; Rep. Jim Morrison; County Commissioners Ron Evans and Duane Dawes; Sheriff Tom Jones; City Manager Carolyn Armstrong; Councilman Eugene Wieland; Charles Schwanke of the Planning Commission; Pioneer Memorial Librarian Director Joanne Sunderman; Les Brown of the Recreation Commission; Gerry Bieker, director of Public Works and Mark Ostmeier from Colby Municipal Airport.

We thank all those who performed this service and provided vital information which was shared with all of the class members.

A mock town hall meeting chaired by Carolyn Armstrong was held in the

afternoon with several of the officials joining the class for a very spirited and interactive exercise. The breaks and lunch were co-sponsored by Midwest Energy and Thomas County Economic Development Alliance.

Day facilitators were Gerry Fulwider and Scott Focke who both are Leadership Thomas County Board members. The 2001-02 class hosted the networking social following the session. Bev Biel was in charge of set-up. We are grateful to all for the role they played in a very successful day.

This vital program involves so many people in the county who are involved in so many ways.

All are to be thanked for their support in time, money and belief in the leadership program. The next session will be held Jan. 17 for an in depth look at education in Thomas County.

We extend our best wishes for a very happy and prosperous 2003 to one and all. We pledge to do our very best to keep you abreast of the activities in our community and events exciting for visitors and citizens as well.

Network helps those without jobs

The Kansas Workforce Network offers a variety of services to people in the 18-county area of northwest Kansas who are being laid off their jobs, said Cathy Patterson, workforce development coordinator.

Rapid Response services offer support to both employers and employees with options prior to layoffs.

Employment plans can include job search assistance to classroom training or on-the-job training.

For questions on Rapid Response or Dislocated Worker Services, call Patterson at (785) 628-8201.

Wellness Fair committee members said the event will give everyone in

Happenings

Colby and Thomas County an opportunity to learn more about staying healthy through prevention, screenings and testing, an official spokesperson said. Blood work dates are scheduled for two Saturdays in January. The dates are Jan. 4 and 11 from 6 to 10 a.m. at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

The actual Wellness Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 18 and all activities will be held in the Colby Community College Student Union. Health care professionals will be available to answer questions.

Babies

Wyatt Thomas Tubbs

Dennis and Robin Tubbs of Colby announce the birth of their son, Wyatt Thomas Tubbs, born Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2002 at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. Wyatt weighed 10 lbs., 13 oz.

His grandparents are Robert and Caroline Tubbs, Levant; Marsha Baumann, Colby; Ray Baumann, Omaha, Neb.; and Elma Tubbs, great-grandmother, Levant. Wyatt was welcomed home by two older brothers, Spencer and Jake.

Wade Mitchell Rush

Lane and Laura Rush of Colby announce the birth of their son, Wade Mitchell, born Monday, Dec. 23, 2002 at Hays Medical Center in Hays.

Wade weighed 9 lbs., 1 oz., and measured 21" long.

His grandparents are Loretta Niblock of Stockton and Rolland Rush of Levant. Wade was welcomed home by a sister, Kynndra, 4.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat	\$3.58
Corn	\$2.50
Milo	\$4.10
Soybeans	\$5.22

Hospital

Citizens Medical Center, Inc.
Friday, Dec. 27, 2002
Admissions
• Mary Schmidt, Oakley
Dismissals
• Brian Goossen, Colby
• Doris Barnett, Colby
Saturday, Dec. 28, 2002
Admissions

• Anna McDougal, Atwood
Dismissals
• Kenneth Messamore, Colby
Sunday, Dec. 29, 2002
Admissions
• Anita Tippetts, Colby
• Karen Molstad, Colby
Dismissals
• None

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January 1, 2003

1:00-5:00 p.m. only!

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"Neighbors helping neighbors"

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, Jan 1, 2003

Genesis Thomas County will be closed New Year's Day.

Sixth Street Alcoholics Anonymous & Al Anon (non-smoking), 1275 West 6th, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, Jan. 2, 2003

Kiwanis, Student Union, noon

Family History Center, 1145 S. Franklin, 7-9 p.m.

Tumbleweed Chorus, United Methodist Church, 8 p.m.

Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous, City Hall basement, 8:30 p.m.

Wings Upon the Prairie drop-in center, 485 N. Franklin, 5-8 p.m.

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