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Colby's Rod Run stalls

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The annual Colby Rod Run is not happening this year. The Rod Run would have been the second weekend of the month.

"It is not going to happen this year," she said. "No one came forward to chair it unfortunately. It takes a year to plan it. We're still hopeful someone will come forward next year."

Thomas said she didn't think the event's absence would have a significant impact on Colby hotels, but might hurt community pride.

However, there is still plenty going on this summer in the community, said Leilani Thomas, director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Colby Cruise to the Past Rod Run was started in 1993 and coordinated by Bill and Bev Biel of Colby. The event, which ran 12 years, brought classic car enthusiasts from three states to Colby each year to put their cars on display. The vehicles were also judged in various categories.

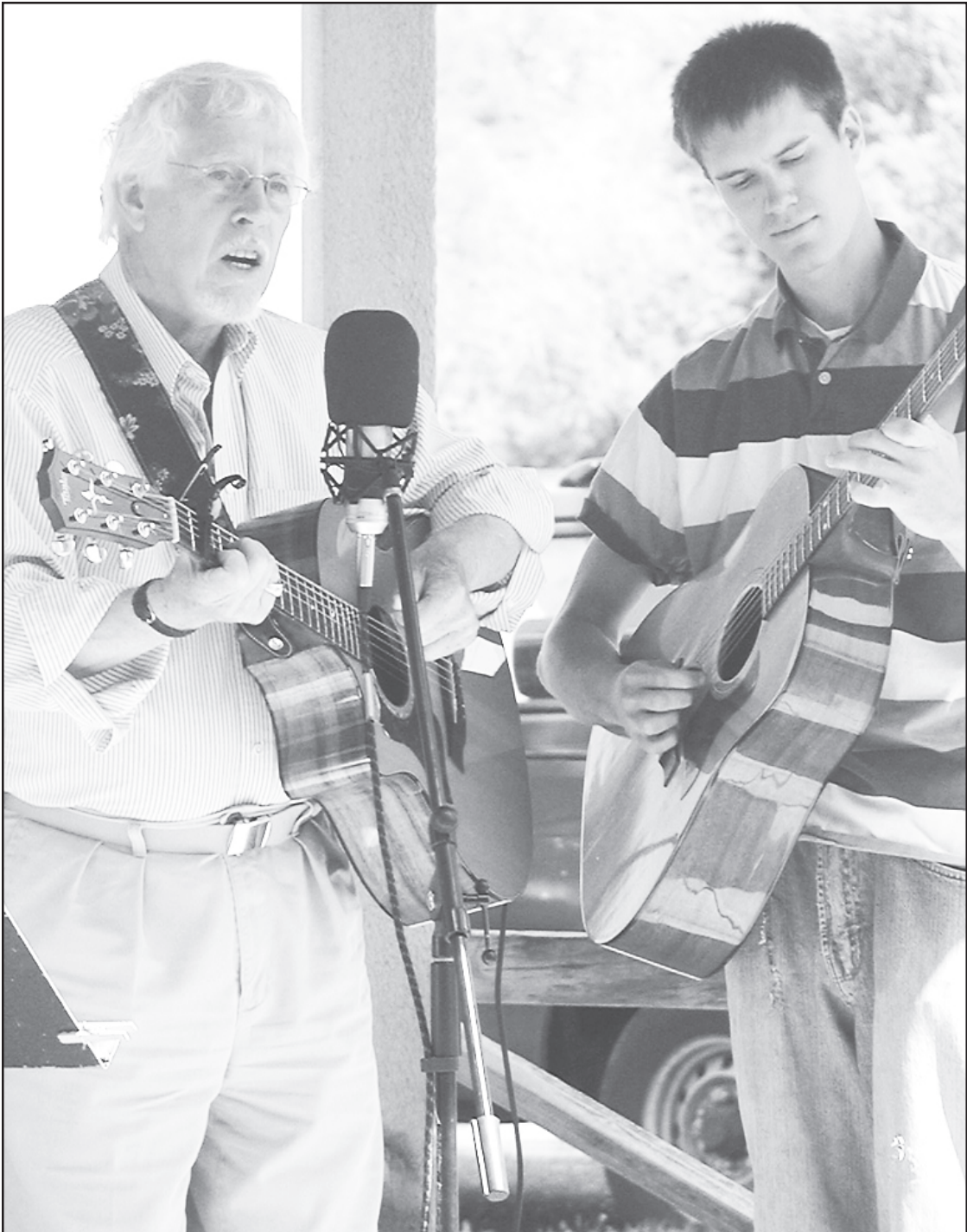
The Biels chose to step down last year after organizing the Rod Run. Mrs. Biel said last year that 12 years was a long enough run for them to coordinate the event. The couple said last year they would be willing to help another group coordinate the event the first year or two, and it can be a joint effort.

One signature Colby event has already started. The Picnic in the Park concert series kicked off Thursday in Fike Park with a performance by Larry Booth and Brandon and Blake McLemore.

Thomas said the series will take place at noon each Thursday through July 27.

The schedule is: June 8, Audrey Hoyt of Brewster singing country, gospel and pop music. June 15, the McLemore Family will perform bluegrass.

June 22, the Wagoner Family of Colby will perform at the park. Closing out the month on June 29 will be Shawna Kersenbrock per-



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Larry Booth, left, accompanied by Brandon McLemore, right, and brother Blake (not pictured), performed during the first Picnic in the Park concert at Fike Park Thursday. The concert series will be at noon each Thursday through the end of July.

forming western and pop selections.

July 6, Margie Broeckelman of Oakley will be the featured entertainment, with country and pop.

Country will be on tap July 13 with Sappa Strings, made up of Wayne and Millie Lauritsen, formerly of Gem.

Bill Summers and friends will perform a variety of music July 20.

Rounding out the 2006 season will be Monica Bugbee-Miller and Carla Haggard performing country and pop.

Later this month, Colby will be part of a national celebration marking the 50th anniversary of Inter-

state 70. That celebration will take place Wednesday, June 21, she said, and more details will be available closer to the date.

Also, there are a couple of golf tournaments planned this month.

Thomas said July 7-8, Colby will host the league swim meet. The same weekend, there will be an MAYB tournament at the Colby Community Building.

"There will be teams from all over for those," she said.

More music is scheduled in Thomas County besides the Picnic in the Park series. The annual Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass festival will run July 14-16.

In August, the Thomas County Free Fair will run Aug. 1-5.

Thomas said the last big event of the summer will be Celebration on the High Plains Sept. 9. It will kick off with the Colby fly-in at the airport and the celebration itself will take place all day at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

The event will feature a concert by country band Cross Canadian Ragweed. Opening act will be No Parking.

For more information on upcoming events, call the visitors bureau at 460-7643 or the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce at 460-3401.

Volunteering never tasted this good

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

In addition to helping someone in need, Colby residents can be rewarded by filling their own plate.

For almost 15 years, Colby has offered a program that helps families and their town at the same time.

The program, known as Heartland Share, is designed to bring people together based on a common need — to help their towns by working together a time, said Gene Griffin, who has coordinated the program in Colby for more than a decade.

Everyone is eligible and there are no income requirements, she said.

"The only requirement for membership," she said, "is the desire to help others while at the same time stretching your own food dollars."

The program works is people volunteer two hours a month and in turn are eligible to purchase a food package each month.

Volunteer services could include mowing someone's lawn, sitting for a neighbor on vacation or involved with a community organization.

Other volunteers work with church groups, the fire department, hospital, 4-H, scouting, coach Little League, take a neighbor to the store or be a mentor or tutor.

"Anything you do out of the goodness of your heart, that you are not paid, is volunteer service," Griffin said.

As for the food, Griffin said a purchasing staff buys from growers, producers and warehouses. The food is then trucked to the Share warehouse in Topeka.

It's then distributed to a network of host sites.

Because of the bulk buying and the volunteer distribution network, the savings can add up to about 50 percent, which is passed on to Share participants.

"For anyone who might have a misconception about what the Share program is or isn't," Griffin said, "the program is not charity, is non-governmental and is not a

"The only requirement for membership is the desire to help others while at the same time stretching your own food dollars."

Gene Griffin,
Share coordinator

handout."

The current number of Share distribution sites in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma totals about 375. The first Share program in Kansas started in Topeka about 17 years ago.

Colby is also the drop station for Rexford. On average, the western half of Kansas and southern Nebraska order about 15,000 or more shares. Adding to that total, some people order the meat by itself or buy special meat packages as well.

The number of Share recipients in Colby fluctuates monthly, but on delivery day, Griffin estimates about 25 volunteers help with distribution at Sacred Heart.

Monday will begin the June sign up for Colby.

The sign up is at the State Farm Insurance office, 905 E. Fourth St. Sign up ends Friday.

Delivery is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 24, at the Sacred Heart School gymnasium.

This month's menu includes breaded chicken breast chunks, salmon fillets, turkey sausage links, split chicken breasts, pork riblets, plus six to eight fresh fruits and vegetables.

A "share" costs \$20.50 plus proof of two hours of volunteer service. Individuals can order as many Share food boxes as they want.

For questions about the program, call Griffin at 460-3579.

Bike-A-Thon to benefit Logan County health care foundation

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

Logan County Healthcare Foundation members are gearing up to host the first Buffalo Bill Classic Bike-A-Thon.

Foundation Executive Director Susan Bloom said the charity event will take place 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

June 10 in Oakley.

"Everyone must check in on event day at the school cafeteria," she said.

Check in starts at 7:45 a.m. and minor bike repairs will be available beginning at 6:30 a.m.

A registration fee of \$25 will be collected from each cyclist; however, three or more cyclists from the

same family will receive a discounted fee of \$20 per person.

Oakley's Shurfine Foods will sponsor a registration table inside the store from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. through June 9.

Registration forms are also available at the Logan County Health Foundation at 216 Center Ave. in Oakley, by calling Bloom at (785)

672-3663 or online at www.lchcf.org.

Another way the event will be supported is having participants collect additional donations.

"Donations may be turned in the day of the event," Bloom said. "Those collecting \$250 or more in donations will receive a free bicycle jersey, or jerseys can be purchased

for approximately \$85."

Bike-a-thon organizers are requiring riders under 18 years of age wear a helmet. Bloom said all riders will be encouraged to wear a helmet and anyone not having one can use one of those which will be on site. Cyclists will be encouraged to ride at their own pace, ride as much or as little as desired and start

and stop as often as needed.

Prizes will be given to those who have the most donations and the most laps on each route.

This event is not only to raise money for the Logan County Healthcare Foundation it is also to encourage fun and safe bicycling by all ages. Plans are to make the event annual.

Lawrence considers hanging up the phone

LAWRENCE (AP) — City officials in this college town are proposing the most aggressive cell phone ban in the country, according to a national group that studies cell phone usage.

The proposal, which goes before the Lawrence's Traffic Safety Commission on Monday, would ban the use of hand-held cell phones and hands-free cell phone devices by all drivers.

"That would be a first in this country," said Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Bans in places such as New York, which became the first state to ban cell phone use by motorists four years ago, still allowed for hands-free devices. But recent research has shown that hands-free cell phones can be just as distracting.

Rader said research in Australia backed up claims that people using

cell phones while driving were four times more likely to be in an injury accident, regardless of whether they were using a hands-free device.

"I think, initially, people assumed that the problem with using a cell phone while driving was the holding of the phone and the dialing of the phone," Rader said.

"But now the body of research is suggesting that the conversation itself is the major distraction."

City commissioners and Mayor Mike Amyx declined to comment on the proposal before Monday's meeting. Several members of the cell phone industry oppose the proposal, which originally targeted drivers younger than 18.

John Taylor, a spokesman for Sprint Nextel Corp., said Thursday that it would be appropriate public policy if all distractions were included in the ordinance.

Look out below

Phillip Hillis went off the diving board Thursday at the Colby Swimming Pool. The pool had its opening day after being delayed from Memorial Day weekend because of needed repairs.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press