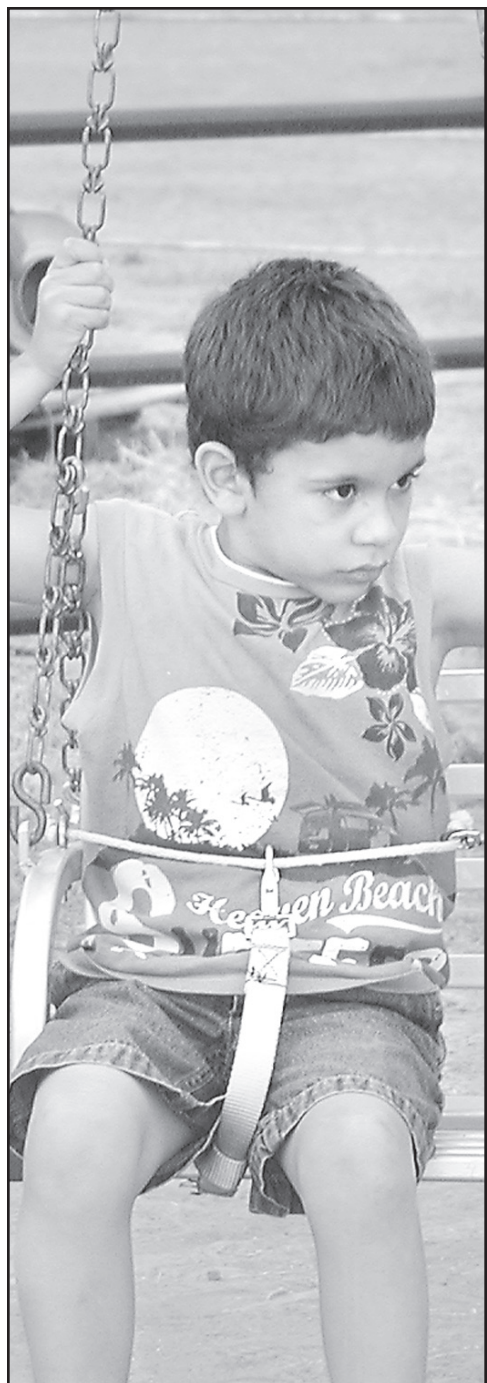




KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

"Oh, it's nothing, but I'll protect you" might have been the line when this foursome took a ride on the teacups Friday night, though the girls don't look so sure of that.

# County fair's about kids, animals



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

Kelly Sloan (left), daughter of Tom and LaDonna Sloan of Colby, got a shower as she hosed down her market steer for the 4-H show on Thursday at the Thomas County Fair. There was a lot of work involved for both kids and livestock last week, but the visiting alpaca (above) took a break, letting everyone know her opinion of the crowds. Meanwhile, the carnival drew a tremendous crowd, with lots of kids of all ages enjoying the rides and games.

# Fair's past, so it's time to think about school

By the time you read this, the Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival and Thomas County Fair will be over.

Both are crowd-pleasing events which are fun for all and take many willing volunteers to ensure success. We thank all of those who helped in any way, especially the attendees.

Now it is August and already we are thinking about Back to School and the many activities the college and other schools bring us.

Enrollment for returning students in Colby is Friday, Aug. 13, in the high school commons, with new students enrolling at their individual buildings Thursday, Aug. 12. Classes will begin Thursday, Aug. 26. The sixth grade will have a back-to-school party at 8 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18.

Registration for fall classes at Colby Community College is Monday, Aug. 16. The community-campus block party will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17. The party is sponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau and the college. KXXX-KRDQ Radio will be playing music.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the business and service community to welcome and introduce themselves to students. Free tables



**Leilani Thomas**

• On the Road Again!

are available; call the Chamber at 460-3401 for information. Dr. Max Pickerill will be celebrating his 85th birthday, and the college will have a cake for him. Come out and wish him a happy birthday. Another event scheduled for the same day, Aug. 17, is the Green Rally. Six to eight cars which have been designed to be fuel efficient will be parked along Franklin Avenue at Fike Park. These cars are reported to get nearly 100 miles a gallon. They are traveling across the United States to Long Beach, Calif.

We will try to get information about the time of arrival, but they are thinking early evening. We are told that the drivers enjoy discussing these cars with locals, so we encourage you to come out and take a look.

Relay for Life will start at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 27, in Fike Park. You are invited to get your team together for this fun and important fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society.

Stock car races return to Thomas County Speedway at 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 29.

Check out the Colby High Eagles on Friday, Aug. 27. The volleyball team plans a sports-drink scrimmage at 6 p.m. in the high school gym, then the football team will have its video scrimmage at Dennen Field at 8 p.m.

The college plans a golf tournament at 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 27, at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

Leilani will be in Omaha the first week of August for Tour Kansas Showcase, marketing I-70 and Colby to tour-bus operators. We will be attending Kansas Dialogue in Garden City Aug. 13-15. The Travel Industry Association of Kansas board meeting will be in Salina on Thursday, Aug. 12, and the Northwest Kansas Travel Council will meet in Oakley on Tuesday, Aug. 24.

We are very pleased that Hampton Inn is open and look forward to the opening of Sleep Inn, which will be having their Business After Five on Thursday, Aug. 26. These properties are great additions to our community.

Yes, August is a busy month as we prepare for fall and winter activities, including the State Fair,

Thomas County's 125th Birthday grand celebration to be held Oct. 9 and planning for Santa City. Enjoy August events and don't forget to

vote Tuesday.

Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors

Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.

**DECRA®**  
STONE COATED STEEL ROOFING SYSTEM

**Aqua Shield Roofing and Construction**

**WOODSHAKES • TILE**

**METAL • ASPHALT**

Steel & Vinyl Siding  
Cement Board Siding

**202 W. Commercial**  
**Oberlin, KS**  
**785-475-2533**

Fully Insured — FREE Estimate  
References Available — Serving Western Kansas