

Colby Visitor Center asks visitors to fill out survey about travel plans

Summer is officially here; we have survived the longest day of the year and now begin counting down. July promises to be an interesting month in many ways, including fun activities planned for Thomas County.

First of all, tourism becomes a partner of Wildlife and Parks beginning July 1. This means a physical move across the street in Topeka and changes in e-mail addresses, stationery and, perhaps, emphasis.

We heard an address by Robin Jennison, Wildlife and Parks Secretary at the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance meeting in Hugoton. His speech was what one would expect to hear from Wildlife and Parks with very little emphasis on tourism.

We will see how this plays out – we do know that the governor has asked Travel Industry of Kansas to put together a tourism summit. Speaking of summits, Gov. Brownback will be at the Frahm Theatre in Colby at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, July 21, for a summit concerning water and the Ogallala Aquifer.

Our visitor center, along with 18 others throughout the state, will be asking visitors to complete a survey today. The results will be shared with the state for accurate information about who is coming, from where, what they plan on doing, purpose of the trip and amount of time and money spent in Kansas.

Each quarter a winning survey will be drawn from each center and that visitor will receive a free basket of Kansas products. We do this to get more accurate demographic information about our visitors. It should help in our future market planning.

July is always a fun and active month in Thomas County. Picnic in the Park continues at noon every Wednesday in Fike Park. July 6 the Wagoner Family will be playing for your enjoyment, July 13 will feature Millie and Wayne Lauritsen of Sappa Strings, Prairie Rose sings July 20, and the season ends July 27 with Taylor and Larry McLemore.

The Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass Festival



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

comes your way Friday through Sunday, July 15 to 17, at the Thomas County Fair Grounds. This is a dynamite show this year featuring Grammy-nominated Vincent and Daily and sharing the headlines with Darin and Brooke Aldridge.

Also new to the show this year are the Hootin' Annies, an all-female band. One of the most interesting groups is the Kansas Bluegrass Association Treblemakers. This is a youth band from Wichita being mentored by bluegrass professionals and already beginning to make waves in the bluegrass world.

Returning will be Sappa Strings, Larry Booth, Ozark Alliance, the popular Driven band and the host band The McLemore Family. Marshal Allen Bailey will be along as the emcee, perhaps with some western music of his own. Early birds can enjoy a pot-luck supper and jam session at 6 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H building.

Advance tickets are available at the Chamber office, F&M Bank at Dillons and Plum Creek. Join us for a great weekend of bluegrass and folk music. Call (785) 460-7643 for information.

Another great evening of musical entertainment will be Sunday, July 24, as a prelude to the Thomas County Fair. Diamond Rio will be presenting a concert at 7 p.m. at the Community Building. Opening for them will be the Ball Brothers. J-R Marketing has been successful in bringing in topnotch groups and presenting great entertainment. You will want to be a part of this evening.

Thomas County Fair actually begins at 8

p.m. Saturday, July 23, this year with a demolition derby. at the fairgrounds. Evening fair entertainment includes the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association rodeo at 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, hypnotist/magician Michael Reeves at 8 p.m. Wednesday, the 4-H livestock sale and buyers' appreciation dinner at 5:30 on Thursday and the F&M Insurance Summer Shootout races at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday night.

The fair parade will be at 5:30 Tuesday from Fike Park to the fairgrounds. The theme this year is "Your Ticket to Fun." A perennial favorite is the Wednesday night barbecue sponsored by the fair board. Thomas County Amusement Association will be running the hometown carnival from 7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

These are just some of the major events of the fair; we encourage you to get a fair booklet and get the complete schedule. Don't forget to view the 4-H exhibits and encourage the young people in our community.

Additional special events include the Kiwanis Fireworks Display at about 10 p.m. Monday, July also at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The Lions Club will hold a hot dog feed and entertainment beginning at 5 p.m. that evening at the 4-H building.

We also welcome the League Swim Meet to Colby next Friday and Saturday, July 9. This will be their first opportunity to compete in the new Colby Aquatic Park.

Colby Quarterly Calendar of Events for July, August and September is available at motels, most banks, the library, the city building, the courthouse, the Colby Free Press and the Chamber office. We invite you to pick one up to help you plan your family's calendar.

Have a very "event-full" July in Colby!

Leilani Thomas is director of the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau, a long-time civic volunteer and a passionate observer of the tourism industry.

Web site provides regional flood info

Just in time for holiday travels, a new regional Missouri River flood information page has been added to the Kansas Department of Transportation website. The site can be accessed directly at www.ksdot.org/flood.asp or from the department's home page, www.ksdot.org, KanDrive, www.kan-drive.org, or directly from the 511 Map at 511.ksdot.org.

With roads closed due to flooding in Kansas as well as Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa, the site provides information for all of these states, including updated information about closed roads, detours, alternate routes, flood safety information as well as phone numbers for flood hotlines and automated 511/traveler information phone systems in the region.

"With the vast impact of flooding on roads throughout the Midwest expected for the next several months, we want to provide information to help travelers plan their holiday and summer trips and to safely reach their destination," said department Secretary Deb Miller. "We want travelers to remember that while finding alternate routes can be inconvenient, they should stay clear of areas where flooding is occurring."

Other department of transportation trip planning and travel decision-making tools can assist in planning trips. The services are free and available anytime.

Summer is the height of road construction and by planning ahead and visiting www.kan-drive.org or using 511 on any phone or mobile device, travelers can find out if their routes are impacted by road work.

With weather updates provided every 15 minutes, Kansas 511 can also be a resource to help travelers learn about changing weather conditions.

Visit KanDrive to get enhanced camera views. Camera snapshots of the roadway are updated every few minutes from closed-circuit cameras installed along I-70 and other highways in other parts of the state.

In addition to the camera tour, KanDrive provides all essential information you need to plan your trip, including: an interactive map of Kansas roads, road conditions and work zones and other events impacting traffic; map, camera and roadside electronic sign views; and links to resources such as KC Scout, Kansas Turnpike information, Kansas Byways and weather information.

The 511 Mobile site at 511mm.ksdot.org provides map, camera and electronic message sign views, road conditions, road work and event information as well as links to weather.

The site is accessible from multiple devices, including iPhones, Droids and Windows mobile devices, Version 6.0 and higher. Other devices will be able to access text information only for road conditions and road work activity.

Travelers may also call 511 from any phone in Kansas or (866) 511-KDOT (5368) from anywhere in the U.S. before traveling or as they travel (please don't call while driving) to find out about the latest driving conditions, work zone and travel weather information. Phone numbers for road conditions in other states adjacent to Kansas are also provided. Information is provided free from a landline phone; cell minutes may apply for cellular phone users.

Travelers will also be informed of road closings and other important information by roadside electronic message signs on I-70.

While the department works to make travel information available through a variety of services, it reminds travelers not to text or talk on cell phones while driving. In addition, travelers are reminded to buckle up, slow down for work zones and watch out for road workers and motorcyclists and to move over for stopped law enforcement vehicles. Also, don't remove barricades or fences and drive around them on roads closed due to flooding.

New drunk driving laws go into effect

Drunk driving laws in Kansas will get a lot tougher beginning today as first-time offenders will now be required to use devices on their vehicles to prevent them from driving while intoxicated.

The law, passed by the 2011 Kansas Legislature, requires motorists convicted of driving under the influence to use interlock devices on their vehicles, creates a system to track repeat offenders and strengthens most penalties.

"The main reason to use ignition interlock devices is to save lives by keeping drunk drivers off the roads, but they also provide an-

other important benefit," said Pete Bodyk, manager of the Kansas Department of Transportation's Traffic Safety section. "The offender knows that without the ignition interlock system, they will not be able to drive. Since they are able to drive, they can continue to support their families by driving children to school, driving themselves to work and running necessary errands."

On May 25, Gov. Sam Brownback signed Senate Bill 6 which partially revamps Kansas drunk driving laws. Here are the highlights of the new law:

- Failure of a breath test with a result between .08 and .15, on the first occurrence, is a 30-day suspension followed by six months of ignition interlock device if your record is clear and 12 months of interlock if you have a prior open container violation or three or more moving violations.

- Failure of a breath test with a result over .15 the first time, or over .08 on a second or subsequent occurrence is a one-year suspension followed by ignition interlock (length of interlock is dependent on priors).
- Refusal of a breath, blood or

urine test is a one-year suspension, followed by ignition interlock requirement (length of interlock is dependent on priors), regardless of how many prior Kansas driving under the influence occurrences a person has.

The new law also creates a central repository that will give law enforcement, prosecutors and judges access to drivers' records, making it easier to track repeat offenders. The Kansas Department of Transportation will fund the repository with \$2.5 million and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation will oversee it.

Cow stranded on island, needs medical attention

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) – A cow apparently wandered onto an island in Lake Eufaula, then became stranded when the water rose.

Sheriff Joel Kerns and deputies took hay and feed to the cow Sunday and plan to keep feeding her until she's back on the mainland. Kerns said Monday it appears she waded onto the island when the lake's water level was low. He says he expects the cow to remain on the island for a week or two – but that it's possible local National Guard troops may try an airlift.

He said it appears the cow needs medical attention for a knot on her

head, but that it doesn't appear life-threatening.

Even if the cow is rescued soon, there's still a problem: Kerns said he had no idea who owns the cow.

You are invited to a **4TH OF JULY FREE Hot Dog & Watermelon Feed**
 4-H Building Thomas Co. Fairgrounds • 6 p.m.
 Coin Toss Game • Jewelry raffle • Bingo
 Music • Entertainment
 Sponsored by the Colby High Plains Lions Club

PART INFO GETTING PLUS PART IDEA SHARING
 Equals total government connecting.
 Get info. Find answers. Share ideas. Your connection begins at USA.gov – the official source for federal, state and local government information.
USA.gov
 1 (800) FED-INFO

Rawlins County Health Center
 RAWLINS COUNTY HEALTH CENTER COMMUNITY CALENDAR
 707 Grant Atwood, KS 67730 (785) 626-3211
 Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community
July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Dr. Rubowitz Oncology 2 Cardiac Rehab
3	4 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	5	6 Mammograms Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	7 MRI's	8 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab	9
10	11 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	12	13 Dr. Frankum Surgery	14 MRI's	15 Cardiac Rehab	16
17	18 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	19 Dr. Frederick C. Miller Cardiology	20 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	21 Dr. Saba Orthopedics Dr. Reeves Podiatry	22 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	23 Nuclear Medicine Cardiac Rehab
24	25 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab	26 DEXA Bone Density	27 Ultrasounds Cardiac Rehab Diabetic Clinic	28 MRI'S	29 Cardiac Rehab	30
31	TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VISITING PHYSICIAN, PLEASE CALL (785) 626-3211 Cheryl Banister, RN Specialty Clinic Director					

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Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Colby

Colby Outreach Clinic Schedule

Citizens Medical Center
 100 E. College Drive - Colby

Cardiology - Dr. Christine Fisher
 Monthly - (785) 625-4699

Orthopedic - Dr. Robert Bassett
 Monthly
 (785) 261-7599 or (866) 428-8221

Orthopedic/Spine
Dr. Vivek Sharma
 Monthly
 (785) 261-7599 or (866) 428-8221

Urology - Dr. Wallace Curry
 Monthly
 (877) 312-1619 or (785) 628-6014

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Colby Medical Surgical Center
 175 S. Range - Colby

Urology - Dr. Darrell Werth
 Monthly
 (877) 312-1619 or (785) 628-6014

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