



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby keeps Greyhound bus service

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Colby is one of the communities that won't be losing its status as a Greyhound Bus Lines stop.

Kim Plaskett, manager of external communications with the company in Dallas, said Greyhound is eliminating stops between Chicago and Seattle in 13 states. The reasoning is two-fold, Plaskett said: to improve the company's financial performance and also to improve bus service.

The stops were eliminated on a case-by-case basis, she said, based on how much revenue was coming versus how much money it cost to run a particular stop.

Plaskett said fewer stops along the bus route will mean a faster trip, which will make the company more efficient and more effective with its resources.

She said Colby is being listed on the company's Website as the nearest service point for communities like Oakley and Goodland, who were eliminated as stops.

The Colby bus stop is at 1980 S. Range.

Other eliminated stops in Kansas are Abilene, Ellsworth, Quinter, Russell, WaKeeney and Wamego.

She said most of the people traveling with Greyhound are traveling less than 450 miles and many customers are from rural areas or are people who are traveling two and from the top 200 cities in the country, like from Boston to New York or Los Angeles to San Francisco.

"We see rural America is changing and we have to change with it," Plaskett said.

She said customers should notice an improvement in service and it will take two to three years to implement similar changes around the rest of the country.

She said the company made the decision to eliminate stops that were unprofitable or marginally unprofitable in order to make the company more profitable.

Plaskett said the company's performance has been on the rocks since Sept., 2001 and hit an "accelerated decline" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which brought on cost increases due to rising insurance costs and security measures.

Eight of 11 people charged in insulin case

WICHITA (AP) — Eight of the 11 people charged in an alleged scheme to steal insulin and insulin test strips from U.S. Army pharmacies pleaded not guilty Monday during a brief hearing in federal court.

The defendants were all released on \$10,000 bond after being arraigned. Their next court dates have not been scheduled.

The 11 were indicted last week in what U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren said was a \$2 million scheme to steal the insulin and insulin strips between 2002 and 2004 from Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Ft. Lee, Va.; Fort Gor-

don, Ga.; and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Nine of those indicted were Army pharmacy technicians on active duty; the two others were technicians' wives. The technicians were in charge of post pharmacies.

All were charged with one count of conspiracy to transport stolen goods in interstate commerce, one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of forfeiture of \$2.3 million in currency plus real estate in Virginia.

The indictment alleges that the conspirators were paid about \$2.3 million for the stolen insulin and test strips.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Lacey Township trustee Jerry Baird, Thomas County road department supervisor Clair Schrock, concerned resident Ben Hoeting, and County Commissioners Glen Kersenbrock, Duane Dawes and Ron Evans who among officials who met

Monday afternoon to discuss the condition of County Road U. Hoeting had brought the road condition to the attention of the commissioners and wanted something done. **BELOW:** Pictured is a stretch of the road which is rutted because of recent rain.

Thomas County road issue settled

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A problem with a county road ended up being resolved Monday during a meeting with the Thomas County Commissioners, several township trustees, the county road supervisor and a resident who lodged the complaint.

The matter was resolved with Smith and Lacey townships agreeing to work together to improve part of Township Road U by McCarty Dairy.

Commissioner Ron Evans said he and fellow commissioners Glen Kersenbrock and Duane Dawes weren't interested in getting involved in township issues.

"We're going to get along and we're not going to get in your business," Evans told the trustees.

The matter came to a head last month when Ben Hoeting, who lives near the road, had been in touch with the commissioners and even showed them pictures

of the road near his home. He said it's impassable in several spots due to excessive rains and is hard to drive on when water is standing on the road.

Hoeting said there are at least five places where motorists have to drive in the ditch to get down the road to get around standing water. He would like the road to be better maintained.

"That's all I want," he said. "Those four miles need to be maintained."

He said the road could be dangerous for people who don't know the way and he only wanted something done to improve driving conditions.

Kersenbrock said the township mill levies aren't big enough to get everything done, but suggested maybe a couple could pool their resources and work together to get things done. Kersenbrock said if anyone has a concern, they should first go to their township trustees.

"That's the way that works," he said.



They're Pickin' on Colby again! Bluegrass festival is weekend highlight

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

The ninth annual Pickin' on the Plains Bluegrass and Folk Festival will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds in Colby.

Prior to Friday's opening, volunteers are continuing to ready the area for the event. For those who might want to help set up, workers will be there tonight, Thursday and Friday morning until showtime.

Once the festival gets underway — featuring musical entertainment by nine musical acts and two emcees/cowboy poets — there will

also be a youth bluegrass contest and gospel sing-along.

Thursday, starting at 4 p.m. with registration, the Farm Bureau Association will sponsor a Kids Pedal Tractor Pull, followed by a potluck dinner and jam session.

"Those planning to attend the potluck are asked to bring a covered dish and table service, otherwise, there is no charge," said Susan McLemore, one of the coordinators.

Festival activities begin at 6 p.m. Friday and continue until Sunday afternoon.

The following is a breakdown of

the Friday's activities with Saturday and Sunday music schedules to appear in a later edition of the *Free Press*.

Friday night starts off with Sappa Strings at 6-6:30 p.m.; Larry Booth, 6:40-7:10 p.m.; The Pearce Family, 7:20-7:50 p.m.; The New Old-Timers, 8-8:40 p.m.; McLemore Family, 8:50-9:30 p.m.; Exit 81, 9:45-10:30 p.m. Saturday kicks in with a youth contest followed by open stage at 10 a.m. Youth contest winners will be announced at 11:45 a.m. Rules and information on the youth contest are available at the Colby Convention and Visitors

Bureau. Also on Saturday will be free Scottish oxen-drawn wagon rides provided by Lon Sowers. Free "Make and Take" crafts will also be offered from 1:30-3:30 p.m. thanks to Judy Kleinsorge of the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

Sunday will also feature horse-drawn wagon rides provided by Wilbur Henry.

Tickets are available in Colby at either Dave's His Shop, House of Wood Furniture, F&M branch at Dillons and the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

For questions, call the Chamber office at 460-3401.

Briefly

Colby library closes for service

The Pioneer Memorial Library will be closed Thursday afternoon from 12:30 to 5 p.m. in honor of the memorial service for Herb Sunderman. Mr. Sunderman's wife, JoAnne, recently retired as the Colby librarian. The library will be open in the morning from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will then re-open from 5 to 8 p.m.

Shepherd's Staff kids to perform

Shepherd's Staff in Rexford is hosting a "Creative Arts Camp" for children ages 8-13 this week which will culminate in a performance at 7 p.m. on Friday in Hiram Hall. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend the event which will feature 32 kids from Colby, Rexford, Selden, Hays, Goodland, Russell and Texas.

Yo-Yo Spinmaster to perform at library

The 2002 National Yo-Yo Champion will be performing freestyle routines to music at 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 21, at Pioneer Memorial Li-

brary. Brent Dellinger, 16, who is a sophomore in Salina has won many awards and contests for his tricks using a yo-yo, a library spokesperson said. Dellinger has been performing professionally since February of 2000 and demonstrates tricks from the beginner level to the exper/pro level. The program is free and open to everyone. For questions, call 462-4470.

Voter registration still open

Voters who haven't registered still have time to register to vote in the Aug. 3 primary election. The county voter rolls close at 5 p.m. on July 19 and won't reopen until the day after the election. For information on registering to vote, call the Thomas County Clerk's 462-4500.

Deer, turkey, elk application deadline near

The Thomas County Clerk's office has received the 2004 deer, turkey and elk applications, along with information booklets. Applications to the Department of Wildlife and Parks must be received or postmarked no later than Friday. For questions, call the clerk's office at (785) 462-4500.

Colby Park Gove



Cool front (upper 80s)

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds 5 to 15 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday night...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 5 to 10 mph. **Friday...**Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. **Saturday...**Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

The numbers

Monday's high, 102
Tuesday's high, 100
Low this morning, 62
Records for July 14, 109 in 1934 and 45 in 1943 (on this date in 1913, Colby experienced its warmest overnight July low with an 80-degree reading)

Year ago today, 100 and 69
Precipitation past 24 hours to 8 a.m. today, 0.00
July total, 2.22 inches
Soil temperature, 85

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

Water use

• July 13 = 3.478 million gallons.

Water advisories

- Water **Watch** is 3.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
- Water **Warning** is 4.0 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.
- Water **Emergency** is 4.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days.

