

Real summer's here before it officially begins

Many of us think of summer starting with the Memorial Day weekend. We proclaim summer officially here, although the calendar says it is June 21. June's activities start out with a bang, beginning with *Picnic in the Park* and the Meet and Greet for Chautauqua both on Wednesday.

Picnics will be every Wednesday during June and July. Larry Booth will kick off the first one, with the Bugbee Sisters, Scott Cameron, Shannon Myers and Pieces of 8 each performing during June. Bring your lunch, lawn chairs and kids for a leisurely summer lunch in Fike Park. This event is cosponsored by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press.

One of the premier events of the Thomas County 125th Birthday celebration is Chautauqua, brought to you through the Kansas and Nebraska Humanities Councils. The theme of the program is "Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the 1930s."

Kick off the activities by attending the Meet and Greet starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Prairie Museum on Wednesday. All scholars will be in costume to give you an opportunity to meet and photograph them while getting a taste of events.

A camp for youth in fifth through



Leilani Thomas

• On the Road Again!

eighth grades will run throughout the week. To end it, kids will perform as Thomas County historic personages at 6 p.m. Saturday under the tent. You may register your child at the museum. There are also youth and adult workshops.

Readers are available at the museum, Visitor Center, Pioneer Memorial Library and the Chamber office. They have a complete schedule, welcomes, history, biographies of the scholars and stories of the characters they portray. This will give you a more complete picture when you hear the scholars.

The main event is in the tent each evening, where you will meet Will Rogers, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Huey Long, Aimee Semple McPherson and Zora Neale Hurston. The Tumbleweed Chorus will perform Friday night. All events are free. The Colby High Plains Lions Club will have concessions each evening.

As part of Chautauqua "The Dust Bowl," a companion exhibit,

will be at the Prairie Museum. It displays over 39 photographs and texts of oral histories of the survivors of the period. Organized in 16 panels, it will be open Thursday through Sunday.

Plan now to take advantage of Chautauqua. This will be the last time it will travel the state.

Another exciting event is coming Saturday, June 5, when Bike Across Kansas comes to Colby. They will ride from the Colorado border through Goodland to overnight at Colby Community College. Over 800 bicyclists will be traveling 475 miles from Colorado to Leavenworth in this event. They will be everywhere in our community visiting attractions, sightseeing, setting up campsites and eating in our restaurants.

Riders of American Legion are holding their second annual bike show and poker run the weekend of June 11-12. The show begins with a pig roast at the American Legion Friday night. A dance will follow with music by Wild Ride. Saturday begins with a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m. The bike show will be held followed at 2:30 by

a poker run and at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and awards. All events are open to the public and will be at the American Legion.

Another event this month is the 10th Annual All School Reunion, Thursday through Saturday, June 17-19. Thursday's events include tennis and golf tournaments. Friday's schedule includes registration, a party for classes 1955 and before at City Limits and the High Flying Eagle Reception at 2 p.m. at the museum. Class parties and pictures are also scheduled.

The general assembly will be Saturday at the Community Building along with the Eagle Picnic at Fike Park. Dances include King Midas at City Limits and The Innocents at the American Legion. Please welcome alumni home.

Other special June events include the Rotary/Chamber Golf Tournament at noon on Friday, June 11, at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

There will be stock car races at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, and Sunday, June 20, at Thomas County Speedway.

Children of all ages will enjoy the Culpepper and Merriwether Circus Tuesday, June 8, at the future location of the Multipurpose Activity Center on South Franklin Street. This is sponsored by the Colby Kiwanis Club.

The 2010 Youth Leadership Class has completed sessions and class projects and received certificates for completion and T-shirts. Brewster students presented 38 new books to the school library for kindergarten through grade 12. Golden Plains painted park equipment in the Rexford City Park, and Colby students painted the swings, shack and slide in West Side Park. An adult class is being planned for the fall. Applications will be mailed in July. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to call us at 460-7643. Any adult in Thomas County is eligible.

Cindy Black and Leilani attended a facilitator workshop in Wichita with the Kansas Leadership Center. This was a very intense, focused session. They plan

to take the fall adult leadership class to Wichita for a session with the Kansas Leadership Center.

We are developing the community *Quarterly Calendar of Events* for July, August and September. If you have an event to include, just e-mail, write or call Leilani with the event, date, location and time. The deadline is Friday, June 11. The calendar will be available July 1.

Summer really is starting off with a big bang in Colby. "The Oasis on the Plains." You'll want to take advantage of many of these opportunities.

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

Senior Progress Center

The Senior Progress Center will be closed Monday for Memorial Day. There will be no meals and no transportation bus.

Activities: **Monday:** Closed. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 11 a.m., health department; board meeting after lunch. **Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m., shuffle board. **Thursday:** 10 a.m., exercise; sweets day. **Friday:** 10 a.m., exercise; 10:30 a.m., Wii bowling.

Menus: **Tuesday:** tuna and no-

dles, mixed vegetables, stewed tomatoes, bread, fruit. **Wednesday:** cheeseburger upside-down pizza, coleslaw, mandarin oranges, bar cookie. **Thursday:** liver and onions in gravy, parslid potatoes, carrots, bread, mixed fruit. **Friday:** turkey vegetable casserole, pea salad, biscuit, watermelon.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older to lunch at the senior center.

Make reservations at 460-2901.

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