Students hop on board Amtrak to travel

BY LAURA LEATH

The Southwest Chief arrives at the La Plata Amtrak station Wednesday morning. The train runs from Los Angeles to Chicago and back every day.

Amtrak rolls into La Plata

By Alex Boles

The Southwest Chief is one of the country’s oldest trains. It made its first trip in 1889.

The train makes the La Plata stop because there’s an Amtrak historical museum in the southeastern corner of the country and is well-traversed.

The station was opened in 1910 and it has been renovated several times since then.

Hold up to your seats: Amtrak is on the move.

The Amtrak also is more relaxing and convenient than automobile travel.

It’s something that people really need to keep an eye on because it’s going to change drastically in the next 10 years.

Reporting by Laura Boles

Design by Jenna Rogers

The Southwest Chief arrives at the La Plata Amtrak station Wednesday morning. The train runs from Los Angeles to Chicago and back every day on the BNSF.

According to the Travel Industry Association’s Industry Performance Indicators Report, Amtrak ridership increased 8.7 percent from 2006 to 2007. The increase surprised that of any other mode of transportation.

Marshall, owner of the Depot Inn and Suites in La Plata, said it is the beginning of the year because it was more convenient than some might think.

Marshall also said it has created a lot of buzz, “We gave Jenni a little over $1,000."

I was scared, but I just had to do it. We gave her the money to get there."

The doctors in Macon, her hometown, referred her to the Regional Cancer Center in Little Rock, Ark. She drove there with her parents the night before she was diagnosed and learned she had a brain tumor.

I was really starting to get worried for about three years,” she said.

Marshall said these trains are almost always on time.

The Amtrak stop in La Plata is excellent, said Marshall, who praised the station.

There’s something about being on the train, looking back and forth and hearing the click-clack of the rails, it almost makes you feel like you’ve gone back in time.

Marshall said he is disappointed that it has taken the U.S. to figure out the importance and convenience of trains.

European countries have been using them more and more in recent years as a basic means of travel.

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f Petersburg to New York, or Dallas to Chicago and back again every day and briefly stops in La Plata in the morning and evening.

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