



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Council debates truck purchase

By Patty Decker  
Free Press Editor

A difference of opinion over to authorize bids for a new or used water utility truck prompted a 5-3 vote in favor of moving forward to purchase one at last week's Colby City Council meeting.

Councilmen Jim Tubbs, Tim Hutfles and Jim Brown voted against advertising for bids. Council members, Phil DeYoung, Pat Mallory, Bev Eicher, Mark Beringer and Tom Waldschmidt voted to approve City Manager Carolyn Armstrong to begin the bid process to replace the truck.

Hutfles, along with Brown and Public Utilities Director Chris Bieker worked together examining the current water truck in order to provide the council with a recommendation.

Bieker said the truck has problems from ball joints, transmission leaks, rear main seals, timing chain and fuel filter. Half the gauges on the dashboard don't work. It has about 178,000 miles.

Although most of the problems has not affected the operation of the truck, the council had scheduled this vehicle to be replaced in the 2006 budget year.

"This water truck will easily go one to two more years," Hutfles said. "I don't see how getting a new truck will benefit the city since this one still runs."

Part of Hutfles' insistence on holding off stems from his concern about other more important issues.

"We have issues with our swimming pool and we have issues with our sidewalks and other quality of life projects."

He was referring to sidewalks along Willow Avenue and improvements to the municipal pool.

City Manager Carolyn Armstrong said those types of projects would require a bond issue, adding that money for the water truck is coming from the equipment budget.

"We are mixing apples and oranges," she said.

Mallory said he remembered when the council didn't replace its vehicles when they should have.

"At that time, Mayor Vic VanCamp had about one-half million dollars placed into the enterprise fund to get our equipment up to speed," Mallory said.

"The water truck is now on the rotation schedule," Beringer added.

Mayor Ken Bieber also wanted to remind Hutfles that he, along with the rest of the council gave "their blessing" to replace that particular vehicle.

Waldschmidt said the truck is at the end of its projected life and the city should not wait until it falls apart.



ABOVE LEFT: The crowd at the Celebration on the High Plains listened to opening act No Parking Saturday. More than 2,000 people attended.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

RIGHT: Cross Canadian Ragweed, a country-rock band from Oklahoma, headlined the celebration held at the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

## More than 2,000 celebrate in Colby

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Going by the numbers, the annual Celebration on the High Plains in Colby Saturday was a success.

Held on the grounds at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, the concert event attracted more than 2,000, said Holly Stephens, director of the Colby/

Thomas County Chamber of Commerce. That was the estimate as of this morning.

The concert featured opening act No Parking and Oklahoma country-rock band Cross Canadian Ragweed.

"I was really pleased with it," Stephens said. "It was a wonderful concert."

She said Cross Canadian Ragweed was chosen because she liked

the band, and the group had a different sound that would appeal to every age group.

The group played for more than two and a half hours, which Stephens said gave everyone more than their money's worth.

"The band was absolutely phenomenal to work with," she said. "We couldn't have asked to bring in a better band. It completely exceeded my expectations."

The concert attracted people locally and across the region, including Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The audience also spanned a wide variety of age groups, from high school all the way up to senior citizens, Stephens said.

She added the band was a good choice because of its universal appeal, and also to offer a quality show just down the road instead of having to drive for several hours to see a

big concert.

This was the second year for the celebration to be held at the museum.

Stephens wanted to thank the museum, sponsors and volunteers for their support and efforts, as well as everyone who attended the concert.

"We couldn't have brought in an event of this caliber to Colby without them," she said.

## Orscheln store manager says inventory to grow

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

Colby Orscheln manager Shawn Yost said he has nothing to hide about his new store.

In fact, he even said interested people can go look at the new store even though it is still under construction and there is nothing there yet to purchase — until it opens Oct. 9.

"This is not a top secret," he said.

Yost was the featured speaker Friday at the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce meeting held at Montana Mike's.

**"We've grown four times."**  
Shawn Yost, Orscheln manager

Orscheln acquired Wal-Mart's building at 1915 S. Range Ave. soon after Wal-Mart relocated to its new building on Willow Avenue. Yost, who has managed the store for a couple of years said relocating came at the right time.

Sales increases in 2004 were 12 percent better than the previous year. In 2005, sales were up 18 percent and so far this year they are 21

percent better. Yost said those numbers will be reflected in its new location and how the franchise of stores has changed over the years.

"Orscheln used to have farm supplies," he said.

Now, in Colby, the store has hardware, automotive and seasonal items. More is on the way. Yost said his store will increase its men's clothing and have women's and

children's clothing too. The store will carry tires and expand its products for pets.

"Colby, Kansas, has not yet seen a lot of what Orscheln will carry," he said. Orscheln's current store on Country Club Drive is about 10,000 square feet. Their new location is about 44,000 square feet.

"We've grown four times," he said.

Yost said he plans on still using a portion of the parking lot for the fence materials and items for livestock, stored outside of its current location.

The new Colby store will be

larger than the store in Hays. Yost said his customers base stretches from Burlington, Colo., to about WaKeeney. Goodland also has an Orscheln store.

Orscheln's is involved in community projects from assisting to Christmas gifts for underprivileged families to donating to churches.

Orscheln's opened in 1960 in Sedalia, Mo. Colby is one of more than 130 stores located in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas, Kentucky and Indiana. The president of Orscheln's, Stephen Chick, is from Colby and has relatives in the area.

## Colby's fly-in successful

Even though Saturday morning's inclement weather hampered real airplane pilots, a remote-control airplane operator prepared his plane at the Colby Municipal Airport during its annual fly in.



JOHN VANNOSTRAND  
Colby Free Press

## Nation marks fifth anniversary of 9-11

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation began a solemn observance of the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks Monday, with sorrowful family members clutching photos of the victims at the World Trade Center site and quiet remembrances planned around the country.

On the 16 acres where the World Trade Center once stood, four moments of silence were planned for 8:46, 9:03, 9:59 and 10:29 a.m., the times when jetliners struck each of the twin towers, and when each tower fell. Family members began arriving before 7 a.m. at the trade center site, some holding bouquets of roses and framed photos of their loved ones. Others wore pins bearing pictures of the victims.

"I think it's important that people

remember as years go on," said Diana Kellie, of Acaconda, Mont., whose niece and niece's fiance were killed on one of the planes. "The dead are really not dead until they're forgotten."

Firefighter Tommy King and others stood beside a fire truck with a windshield emblazoned with the names of two comrades who died on Sept. 11.

"It's just weird being back here," King said outside the World Financial Center, where he hasn't been for five years. "This building here was a morgue." Spouses and others of the 2,749 people who died at the trade center were to read the names of the victims as families of the victims descend to roam the site and lay flowers.