



COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

Lights out



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Officials ask for water cooperation

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

Water usage in Colby has not been a problem so far this spring, but with the summer season only two weeks away, typically hotter temperatures and less rain will prompt the city to begin closer monitoring.

"The city addresses its short-term water shortage problems through a series of stages based on condition of supply and demand with accompanying triggers, goals and actions," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager.

Each stage, she said, is more restrictive than the previous stage.

However, the city's utility department wants businesses and residential areas to know how much water is being used on a day-to-day basis by providing the Free Press with those numbers.

The first stage in the drought/emergency contingency plan is a water watch, with the conditions to include: city storage has fallen below 85 percent capacity; groundwater levels have fallen five feet below the normal season level; and de-

mand for three consecutive days exceeds 3.5 million gallons per day.

Under a water watch, the public is asked to curtail water use and make efficient use of indoor water, Armstrong said.

"Some things that could add to efficiency might be washing full loads, taking shorter showers and not letting faucets run," she said.

The city also has management actions at various stages.

Some ways in the watch stage include cleaning and flushing wells to maintain them at their most efficient condition. Other ways are to repair leaks within 48 hours after detection and monitoring use of water by the city.

In the event the water usage exceeds the 3.5 million gallons and goes over 4 million gallons for three consecutive days, the water warning stage kicks in.

"Actions during a warning include odd/even lawn watering system imposed on residents," Armstrong said.

In addition, Mayor Ken Bieber or Armstrong could also restrict

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Wednesday's strong winds blew over one of the light poles at Young Memorial Field on East Ninth Street at about 4 p.m. No one was injured. The winds also forced the cancellation of games scheduled Wednesday.

Rods run all over northwest Kansas; Colby's starts Friday

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Engines are revving for the Colby Rod Run this weekend while two area rod runs have already crossed the finish line.

Colby's Cruise to the Past is making a return this year after a hiatus in 2006 and is another stop for car show fans throughout Northwest Kansas.

The Atwood Early Rod Run was May 18-20 and Oakley held its second annual Buffalo Bill Hot Rod Show April 28.

Tuffy Taylor, owner of Taylor Motors, and one of the organizers this year, said Colby's show has expanded classes.

"We want people to bring their cars and show them off," he said.

"That can be anything from a completely original classic to a restoration project still in progress.

"People like to see it," Taylor said.

Ross Rodenbeck of Colby has

two 1950 Mercurys — one that is restored, and another that is an ongoing restoration. He enjoys car shows because they are a chance to see the work others have done.

"I've made good friends with the people involved," Rodenbeck said. His black four-door has been in several rod runs.

Back in 1981 when its restoration was complete, there were only a couple of rod runs around, but that has since changed.

The events have become a popular summer pastime, with several being held around the area.

Kirk Lowry, president of the Rawlins County Ambassadors, said the group organized the event, which celebrated its 25th anniversary.

"It was very well attended," he said. "We had lots of cars."

More than 360 vehicles entered.

"We are one of the bigger ones around," Lowry said.

The Atwood show is held in early May, before the busy summer sea-

Schedule of events

Colby's Cruise to the Past Rod Run is starts Friday, with the Kick-off Cruise and registration from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Sonic Drive-In and Montana Mike's.

During the weekly planning meeting for Rod Run held Wednesday, organizers had more than 70 vehicles entered.

Although a majority of the vehicles are cars, organizers said other vehicles have been entered. There are a variety of categories people can enter a car.

The rod run is open to street rods, classics, customs, muscle cars, special interest and open classes for any vehicle.

Rod Run organizers have

found several buildings and warehouses where cars on display can be kept should inclement weather approach Colby. Those who enter a car will be informed of those locations.

Saturday, there will be a pancake and sausage feed from 7 to 11:30 a.m. at the Colby Community Building. Registration for the Rod Run continues from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the corner of Sixth Street and Franklin Avenue.

The Show and Shine runs all day at Fike Park.

There is a flea market on Franklin Avenue starting at 10 a.m.

There will be a horseshoe pitching contest at 1 p.m. for car show participants only.

At 4 p.m., there is "engine wide open," where people can guess how long an engine, without oil, will run.

Live entertainment will be featured at the Colby Community Building.

The doors open at 6 p.m., followed by ventriloquist Greg Claassen at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m., Bill Haley's Comets will perform 50s Bop Shop music.

Sunday, the Show and Shine will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon, with a church service at 9 a.m. in Fike Park. A poker run is scheduled for 10 a.m. that begins at Fike Park. Awards will be presented at noon.

son starts.

With so many vehicles, more of the downtown area was sectioned off for display space.

Lowry has volunteered for four years now.

"We do a lot for the visitors that come in," he said.

The show starts on Friday night where people with cars entered in the rod run can meet with the ambassadors. They provide food for

the gathering.

A band performed this year, and there was a dance and fireworks at the lake.

All day Saturday is the show and shine, with cars lined up downtown. In the afternoon, the activities move out to the airport for drag racing.

"I think we had about 180 of the cars participate in that," Lowry said.

There are no times or brackets, but drivers race for bragging rights.

"If one guy wants to race, he lines up against his buddy," he said.

The Lions Club in Atwood helps with the races, setting up bleachers and more. More than 2,000 people showed up to watch. Atwood has a population of about 1,400 people.

The drag races are so popular they have even had a couple of Model Ts line up against each other.

That evening, there was a hog roast for car show participants and

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County to keep its cool with air conditioners

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Courthouse custodian Jim McGuire said all of the air conditioning units at the courthouse and Thomas County Office Complex are working, but some are not working like they should.



Christiansen

Air conditioning was on the commissioners' at their meeting Monday.

Commissioner Chairman Ken Christiansen said of the six natural-gas powered units at the courthouse, one is beyond repair.

It will be replaced on a Saturday, when the courthouse's air conditioning can be turned off.

"I look for it to be sometime this month," Christiansen said.

The unit will be replaced with one the county received from Cheyenne

County. The county has several units for parts and replacement.

The courthouse's air conditioning system is an ongoing issue because of age.

The gas-fired units are about 30 years old, and are becoming obsolete, as parts for repair are difficult to find.

The commissioners also approved McGuire's resignation, effective Aug. 12. He resigned because his wife has taken a teaching job in Chapman.

Also on the agenda was bullet-proof glass at the Law Enforcement Center.

Sheriff Mike Baughn talked about the need for it on the sheriff's office side, and also the door to the offices.

Christiansen said the initial estimate from Colby Glass for the glass and door was more than \$13,000, but that has been revised to \$9,600.

The issue was tabled until work on the 2008 county budget begins.

Baughn also said the center's furnace may be a concern in the future, and suggested a building maintenance fund be considered.

Foundation for the future



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby School District maintenance workers Curtis Cayton and Don Morton dug footings for the press box today at Dennen Field

in preparation for a new stadium. Concrete was poured this week, and construction on the stadium is planned for June 23.