



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby Rod Run offers new attractions

By John Van Nostrand

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Nearly \$4 gasoline may not be the talk of Colby this weekend.

What that gasoline goes into may be what everybody is looking at, or talking about.

Colby's Cruise to the Past car show will be held in various places throughout town starting Friday.

Registration will be from 4-7 p.m., Friday, at Sonic Drive In and Montana Mike's, adjacent to each other, on South Range Avenue. Prizes will be given to the top three entries; \$100 for first; \$50 for second and third will receive a gift card.

Cruise to the Past is open to street rods, classics, customs, muscle cars, special interest and open class. Colby's Cruise to the Past had been a tradition, until the show was not held in 2006. The show was brought back to life last year.

"It's not a whole lot different than last year," said Brandon Booi, one of the organizers. "But we wanted to have some kind of entertainment on Friday."

Last year's show had 140 cars and organizers are hoping to at least match that this year. Should there be a threat of hail during the weekend, Booi said those who registered a car will be given a sheltered place to park their car.

Booi and the organizers got what they were wanting. All of the fun Friday just won't be at Sonic or Montana Mike's.

A dance and beer garden will be held at Taylor Motors from 4-10



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

People look at the car's during the 2007 Cruise to the Past, Colby's car show. Organizers are planning for about 140 cars to again be in this year's event which starts Friday.

p.m. Taylor Motors is located south of Interstate 70 exit 53.

Even though organizers want to make sure those who brought their cars are taken care of, Booi said organizers also wanted to make sure the area who come to look at the cars and meet the owners are

taken care of as well.

"We tried to move some evening events which are open to anybody. We encouraged those with cars to get their cars out there. We will rope off an area. I hope they'll stay."

Saturday's events start off early

with a pancake and sausage breakfast from 7-11 a.m. at the Colby Community Building. The meal is a free-will offering and proceeds will benefit another Colby event - Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass music festival scheduled next month.

Car registration continues from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, at Fike Park at the corner of Sixth Street and Franklin Avenue.

More than just cars are expected to be at the park too. Booi said vendors in the area from food to crafts were invited to set up their

wares at the park, beginning at 10 a.m.

"We tried to get some things and activities for women," Booi said. "How often can you spend nothing, walk down to the park and you are only out if you buy something?"

Those who registered a car can play in a horseshoe tournament beginning at 1 p.m., also at Fike Park.

Everybody is also invited to try their skills at changing a car tire - but not like you would at home, or on the road.

"We will have a tire-change race, just like they do in a NASCAR race. It's all about speed," Booi said.

If turning a lug-nut wrench doesn't sound like fun, another chance will be to guess how long it takes for a car engine to blow up. An engine, without certain fluids, will be started. Without those fluids, the engine will heat up and eventually quit.

"For a minimal fee, people will guess a time," Booi said.

Live entertainment with Pieces of 8 starts at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Taylor Motors. There is no cost of admission.

Cars will again be on display from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sunday at the park. A church service will be held at 9 a.m. at Fike Park. Booi said those who plan to attend are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

Awards for the cars will be presented at noon in the park.

For more information, call Booi at 460-3317 or People's State Bank at 462-2224.

Tomato concerns prompt caution

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Grocery stores and fast-food restaurants are pulling tomatoes and sandwiches off shelves in the wake of a salmonella outbreak in the United States.

"As a precautionary measure for the safety of our customers, Dillons stores have removed several varieties of tomatoes from sale in all stores due to concerns about potential salmonella contamination based on guidance from the Food and Drug Administration," said Sheila Lowrie, communications coordinator for Dillons.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers about a nationwide salmonella outbreak linked to consumption of certain red, raw tomatoes, particularly red Roma, red plum and red round tomatoes.

As of Tuesday, the FDA listed

those tomatoes not part of the outbreak or cherry and grape tomatoes, including ones sold with the vine still attached and those grown at home. Since mid-April, more than 160 cases of salmonella, also known as food poisoning which produces flu-like symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea, have been reported to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga.

Lowrie said the types of tomatoes pulled from shelves include raw red tomatoes, such as salsa or salads prepared fresh from delis, salad-bar items, sandwiches and kabobs.

"Dillons will also offer Arkansas Slicing Tomatoes, a home grown variety arriving at the peak of its season, to our customers (starting) Wednesday or Thursday," Lowrie said. "This variety has not been impacted by the recall."

Lowrie said Dillons will continue working with governmental and consumer safety agencies to make

sure customers are safe. She said customers questioning the safety of a tomato purchased can take the item back to the store.

A spokesman for Wal-Mart said their customers' health prompted pulling tomatoes from shelves.

"Food safety is a top priority at Wal-Mart," said Deisha Galbreth from her office in Bartlesville, Okla.

Local fast-food businesses are following grocery store actions.

"Yes, we pulled tomatoes on May 31," said Shannon Martin, manager of Colby's Sonic Drive-In. Martin said corporate officials with Sonic Drive-In told managers across the country that until the U.S. Department of Agriculture clears all tomato producers, menu items will be void of tomatoes.

Colby's McDonald's restaurant has also pulled sliced tomatoes from its products. Deana Rupp, marketing director in Hays for the Oak Brook, Ill.-based company, is-

sued what she called a "three-point" statement about the outbreak.

"Pulling the tomatoes has nothing to do with the McDonalds corporation and there have been no incidents with McDonalds," Rupp said. "We are acting with an over abundance of caution based on the federal government recommendation and we are suspending sliced tomatoes until we get more clarification from the Food and Drug Administration."

Jeff Krzycki, manager of Colby's Taco Johns, is also responding to corporate directions to pull tomatoes from the menu.

"We have received newsletters and telephone calls," Krzycki said. "All Taco Johns have pulled tomatoes, and they'll stay pulled until we find out whether (salmonella) is confined to Texas or what the source is."

Susan Hawkins, manager of Subway, is saying the same thing about a tomato-free menu.

Police step up patrol at Fike Park

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Vandalism and improper use of equipment at Fike Park has prompted the Colby Police Department to heighten surveillance.

"We are asking the older children be more respectful of little children so the younger children are not scared by the teenagers' actions," said Detective Sergeant Gary Shull.

Members of the Mothers of Preschoolers group, an international support network of women who have preschool-aged children, called the police asking teenagers not be so rough on equipment.

Shull said teens were seen climbing up the back sides of equipment and being rough with it.

He said the police department is now patrolling the park three times during each 12-hour shift.

Friday, a city worker located a burned roll of toilet paper in one of the public restrooms.

Shull said the action has been logged into police department records as arson, but there are no suspects in the incident.

Anyone who notices suspicious behavior at or near the park is encouraged to call the Colby Police Department, 460-4460.

Federal mandates could result in higher costs at county jail

By Jan Katz Ackerman

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Federal mandates may change policies, procedures and costs involved in operating the county jail in Thomas County.

Sheriff Mike Baughn on Monday told Thomas County Commissioners Ken Christiansen and Paul Steele the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is expected to force changes in the near future in how he operates the jail.

"If the federal government implements the act, it's going to involve personnel and infrastructure of the jail," Baughn said. "While the act was passed in 2003, implementation is not in place yet, but I

expect it in the next one or two years."

The Prison Rape Elimination Act requires correctional and law enforcement agencies to take a zero-tolerance stance toward sexual abuse of people in confinement. The act requires national standards be put in place in all facilities, prisons and jails to eliminate sexual abuse of inmates. The standards and compliance are mandatory, but no deadline has been established.

"For small agencies," Baughn said. "I think it's preposterous. For prisons it's OK, but for jails it's over-kill."

Baughn said while the Thomas County Jail already has round-the-clock video monitoring of inmates, new laws will require more advanced technology.

"We'll have to have a higher level of monitoring," he said. "And we'll have to have something with video playback."

Baughn said the law enforcement center which houses the jail, 225 N. Court in Colby, will require changes.

"We'll have to have a different cell system such as separate cells for those who commit felonies and those who commit misdemeanors," Baughn said. "It would be over-burdening to get the type of cells (the federal government) wants."

Baughn said he hopes public outcry reaches the ears of federal officials to make the law more realistic. In the meantime, Baughn told commissioners he plans to talk with officials from surrounding counties to determine their position

on the situation.

"I think I'll meet with the area counties central to Thomas County," Baughn said.

Steele asked Baughn to speak with sheriffs from Cheyenne, Rawlins, Sherman, Wallace, Logan, Decatur, Sheridan and Gove counties about the possibility of forming an inter-local agreement for a regional jail facility.

Baughn said the new law burdens taxpayers even more than they are now.

"It looks not rosy for things," Baughn said. "The taxpayers are burdened to death." While at the meeting, Baughn submitted his 2009 budget request for his office. He said fuel and ammunition costs were a significant portion of the \$36,025 increase he is asking for.

"Ammunition costs are up 40 percent," Baughn said.

Asking for \$198,700 to run his office, Baughn said outside changes the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 may make should it be implemented in 2009, he built in an increase of \$36,025 over what was budgeted for 2008. Of that figure, three big ticket items were fuel at \$25,000, medical care for prisoners at \$16,700 and meals for prisoners at \$16,000.

Separating out what it costs to operate the jail itself, Baughn budgeted a \$3,300 increase for 2009. In 2008, the county appropriation for the jail was \$73,450.

Salaries for the sheriff and deputies will be set when salaries of other county employees are set in January.

Briefly

Fogging starts Thursday

The city of Colby crews will be fogging for mosquitoes beginning Thursday and through the remainder of summer. Mondays or Tuesdays, city employees will fog on the south side of town from Webster south. On Thursdays or Fridays, fogging will be on the north side of town from Webster north. "Please check your yards and empty anything that is holding stagnant water (such as cans, swimming pools, tires, etc.), to help keep the mosquito population to a mini-

mum," said Chris Bieker, public works director.

Glassware wanted

Anyone who has glassware they would like to get rid of are encouraged to contact the Thomas County Amusement Association at (785) 462-5857 or 462-6132.

Swim club to host meet

The Colby Swim Club will be hosting a swim

meet in Colby, Saturday, June 21. More than 300 swimmers and their families will be in town. For questions or to help with setup, call 460-9630 or 460-2955.

Amusement group to meet

The Thomas County Amusement Association will hold its regular meeting at 8 p.m., Monday, at the Thomas County Office Complex, 350 S. Range Ave., Colby. All meetings are open to the public. For questions, call (785) 462-5857.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m., Thursday, in the 4-H Building on the fairground.

Moving Wall in Hoxie

American veterans and their supporters will have an opportunity to visit one of the county's famous memorials, the Moving Wall, while it is in Hoxie Thursday through Monday. Starting with an opening ceremony at 8 p.m., Thursday.