



COLBY FREE PRESS

Car collectors put it in park at Oakley show

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

American classics, American muscle.

Call them what one will, these cars turn heads. And more than a few heads turned Saturday at the Buffalo Bill Hot Rod Show in Oakley.

Up to 50 cars and motorcycles were on display in downtown Oakley and some of the owners took the time to talk about their cars.

Rod and Mary Ann Leatherman drove from Scott City in their 1964 Corvette hardtop.

"We heard about this last year and we were a little late," Rod said.

In 2006, the Oakley show was only for Corvettes.

"I bought that in July 1974 from an individual in Ulysses," he said. "The car is like I bought it."

He paid \$2,300 for the car, which is worth much more now because of its condition and appreciated value. He has added some chrome pipes and did some mechanical work, added new carpet and seat upholstery, but the car is mostly as-is.

The hood is from a 1967 Corvette 427. A man who rebuilt the car put the new hood on it. Rod decided to keep it.

"I like the looks of it," he said.

The car has a 327 engine, and a 4-speed transmission.

The Corvette is not their only classic. The Leathermans own a 1936 Ford pickup, a 1963 Chevy Impala ragtop and a 1964 hardtop.

Rod said alternating between the vehicles keeps him busy.

They take the cars to two to three shows a year, and started going about four years ago. They have been to Hays, and have also attended the Colby Rod Run in 2005, when they brought their

1963 Impala.

They also took the Corvette to the Ulysses show, which was the first time it had been back to Ulysses since he bought it. They showed their pickup there last year.

"They're just getting started up there," he said. "It's kind of fun."

Besides a chance to show off the classics, Rod has one more ulterior motive:

"The most fun I get out of this is driving my car," Rod said.

Jack and Sandy Callahan of Centennial, Colo., showed their two-door 1934 Ford hardtop. Sandy said they have owned the car seven years. When they bought it, it was hardly recognizable as a car.

"It was in pieces," she said.

Its previous owner had sporadically worked on it for 10 years before deciding to sell.

"My husband did a lot of work on it," Sandy said.

They own a body shop and he painted the car.

Like the Leathermans, Callahans also have more than one classic car. They own a 1957 Ford, 1952 Chevy fastback and a 1958 Edsel.

She said Jack bought the '57 because it was like the car he drove when he was in school. The '52 was purchased just because they wanted it. The Edsel, a two-door hardtop, was purchased at a garage sale.

"All we did was painted it," Sandy said. "They're very rare."

They have had other cars over the past 30 years, including a 1934 Ford sedan they had for years before selling it.

The Callahans also show several times a year. Last year, they took the car to the show in Reno, Nev. She said the show had about 5,500 entries and give out 32 awards. Their Ford was 31st.

"We felt pretty good," Sandy said.

Leroy Kraft's 1956 Chevy Bel Air's present condition is a far cry

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TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Dwayne Nelson of Oakley, left, talked with Leroy Nelson, right, of Goodland about his 1956 Chevy Bel Air during the Buffalo Bill Hot Rod Show Saturday in Oakley. More than 40 cars and motorcycles were on display.

Rod Run: More than spinning wheels

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

A display of cars is still the foundation for the return of Colby's annual Rod Run show.

But there will be more to Rod Run this time than wheels and fenders.

Organizers are preparing for Rod Run June 8-10. Rod Run had been an annual event in Colby for years before a lack of volunteer help did not allow the event to be held last year. Since then, a new group of volunteers have brought back Rod Run for June 8-10.

"We want to reach beyond car enthusiasts," said Tuffy Taylor, one of the organizers of Rod Run.

"It's important to keep what's been done for Rod Run for years, but we want to expand for the others out there."

Part of that reach includes a flea market that will be set up along Franklin Avenue at 10 a.m. June 9. Organizers are looking for more people willing to display their wares along the street.

Cars are not the only form entertainment either. Live entertainment will be held at the Colby Community Building starting at 6 p.m. June 9. Ventriloquist Greg Claassen starts his show at 7 p.m. Afterward, 1950s Bop Shop music with Bill Haley's Comets will take the stage at 8 p.m. Tickets will be available at select locations and at the door.

The car show part of Rod Run is open to street rods, classics, customs, muscle cars and special interest. Registration begins at 5 p.m. June 8 at Sonic and Montana Mike's.

Car registration continues from 8:30 a.m. to noon June 9 at Sixth Street and North Franklin Avenue.

Saturday, June 9, starts with a pancake feed at 7 a.m. at Colby Community Building. Free-will donations will be accepted and proceeds will benefit Colby's Pickin' on the Plains bluegrass music festival scheduled in July.

Saturday afternoon, those who registered cars will be competed in a horseshoe pitching contest. At 4 p.m., people can take a guess at how

long it will take for an engine without oil in it to quit running. Golf cart races will also be held.

Plans are being made for a church service at 9 a.m. June 9. A poker run will begin at 10 a.m. and awards for the cars will be given out at noon. After the awards, a barbecue will be held at the former Jaycee's Center near Country Club Drive and East Fourth Street.

For information about Rod Run, contact Jon Pope at Peoples State Bank, P.O. Box 869, Colby, Kan., 67701 or telephone at (785) 462-2224 or Brandon Booi at Taylor Motors, 1000 Taylor Ave., Colby, Kan., 67701 (785) 460-3317.

Trees becoming a nuisance for utility lines in Colby

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

The Colby City Council will consider proposals for tree trimming and removal project when it meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers, 585 N. Franklin.

Trees have been related to some concerns in town.

"During the last windstorm," said Carolyn Armstrong, city manager, "electrical power was down in two different areas of town. We have about 7,900 feet of alleys and easements where there are overgrown trees," she said.

"Most of the trees will have to be

climbed and trimmed because there is not enough room for vehicles to access the alleys."

It is expected council members will review a list of areas where trees are needing to be trimmed or removed and a proposal could be presented at the meeting.

In other council agenda items ...

Prompted by concern from Councilman Jim Tubbs at the last meeting after Gerry Fulwider, executive director of Economic Development, requested \$15,000 to assist in a matching grant, Armstrong and John Gatz, city attorney, added a provision to the guidelines for the use of the one-quarter cent sales tax funds in promoting economic

development.

The amendment, if approved, will allow for workforce training in newly created jobs to constructing or repairing infrastructure needed for new industry development. The money would also be available for use as matching funds to enable more favorable grant applications, other funding to attract industry suitable for Colby, and to secure land or buildings suitable for development.

"This language was taken from the publicity used prior to the vote (in November 2004) on establishing this funding," she said.

Should the new language be adopted, the council could approve the request from the

Thomas County Economic Development Alliance. Fulwider is expected to be at the meeting.

In addition, the council will examine bids from three companies for a sanitation truck and could authorize bids for two pickups for the public utilities department.

Other business includes a resident wanting to discuss the parking ordinance;

- a request for money from the Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services;

- consideration of approving 4-H animals at the Prairie Museum of Art and History

- recommendation on the Mark Ost-

meyer's contract as airport manager

- approving a proposal to update spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan as it deals with the city.

Black and Veatch, an engineering firm in Overland Park, completed the plan in 2001 and the Environmental Protection Agency gave a final amendment to the city's oil pollution prevention in December 2006. However, the plan needs to be revised to comply with the amended regulations.

The council will also consider approving Sunday through Saturday, May 6-12 as Building Safety Week.

All meetings are open to the public. For an agenda or questions, call 460-4410.

Competition goes to the dogs



Samantha Lindberg, above, and her dog Kilo, and Madisyn Haggard, right, and her dog Allie, played with their dogs during a break at the Thomas County 4-H spring dog show Saturday at the 4-H Building.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Kansas foreclosure rates beat national averages

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas has higher foreclosure rates on homes than the national average for almost all kinds of mortgages, according to the regional director of a nonprofit group dedicated to community revitalization.

John Santner, district director with NeighborWorks America, which was created by Congress, said that as recently as December, there were 4,220 homes in foreclosure in Kansas and an additional 7,385 home loans were seriously delinquent, meaning more than 90 days past due. A total of 1.32 percent of all mortgages were in foreclosure in Kansas in late 2006, compared with 1.19 percent nationally.

Robert Baker, counselor and education coordinator with Hous-

ing and Credit Counseling, said some Kansas residents have credit card debt and are facing job losses, reduced income and medical problems.

"The middle class is getting squeezed," Baker said.

Across the country, people have little savings. The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said Americans spent more than they earned in 2005, creating a negative savings rate of 0.5 percent for the year.

When it comes to home loans, one trouble spot has been the subprime adjustable rate mortgages offered to buyers with poor credit.

The interest rate is low at first, but it goes up in the second or third year, increasing monthly payments by up to 30 percent, Santner said.