



8 pages

COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Monday

June 16, 2008
Volume 119, Number 96
Serving Thomas County since 1888

Hot rodders visit Colby



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Cars entered in the annual Cruise to the Past Rod Run lined up Franklin Avenue Saturday afternoon. Those who attended not only got to see some restored cars, but could listen to music and dine all within the comfort of Fike Park.

City plans reviewing airport issue

By Patty Decker

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The Colby City Council will hear updates on the issue of a pond located near the municipal airport when it meets at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in council chambers. For more than three months, City Manager Carolyn Armstrong has been waiting to hear from Colby couple, Tuffy and Linda Taylor, about proposed alternatives related to their pond near the Colby Municipal Airport.

The Taylor's were given time to consider alternatives or have an expert determine whether or not the pond is a hazard to the airport based on Federal Aviation Administration safety guidelines. Other agenda items include progress reports on clean-up operations at 1015 W. Fourth St. and 1025 E. Fourth Street and 2007 audit.



Armstrong

The council will also decide on a request for use of the city's sales tax fund to build a facility to establish a distribution center.

The Thomas County Economic Development Alliance, Armstrong said, is asking for \$400,000 in the 1/4 cent sales tax funds to help construct this facility.

Preliminary information stated the facility would employ four to five workers, shipping 600 to 1,000 packages a day from Colby.

Economic Director Gerry Fulwider and Alliance Member Junelle Hills will be at the meeting to discuss the details.

The council will also consider issuing an environmental code violation order at 660 N. Franklin Ave.; approving a contract with Sporer Land Development in Oakley for its 2008 street improvement project; approving the purchase of a snowplow; request for more money by the city's tree board to become a Tree City USA and resolutions regarding internal financial procedure and home occupation permit renewals.

All meetings are open to the public. For an agenda, call 460-4410 or stop by Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin Ave.

Implement dealership planting new facility

For at least the past 20 years, 1190 Country Club Drive has been home to farm implement dealerships, but not for much longer.

In the early 1950s, Hi-Plains Implement, owned starting in 1974 by Evelyn and the late Doyle Zimmerman, opened for business in Colby.

They moved to 1190 Country Club Drive in 1986 and in 1999 the business changed hands to become Lang Diesel, Inc. (LDI).

But there is still a bit of family connection between the former Hi-Plains Implement and LDI.

The Zimmerman's son, Mike, is now the general sales manager over all five of the LDI locations.

The decision to construct a new building centers on growth. The current location is too small for the business.

The parts' showroom barely scratches the surface of the most popular goods that customers regularly come in to purchase. Business in the service department is expanding, and more room is needed to accommodate all of the work.

Not only is there growth with-



JASMINE STEWART/Colby Free Press

Construction crews brought supplies to the new sight of Lang Diesel, just a few steps down Country Club Drive from its current location. The dealer of various brand of farm implements is expected to have its new shop open by the end of summer.

in LDI, but the city of Colby, Thomas County and the surrounding areas are improving, as well.

Great things are happening in this area and Lang Diesel wants

to be a part of it.

"The people of Colby and all of our customers have really helped our business to thrive," Brian Lang, president of LDI, said.

"We are very excited to see this community grow and we want to be a part of it."

The current facility has a square footage of approximately 6,600.

The new location will have 11,900 square feet of building space, which will feature an expanded office area, a much larger parts showroom and parts warehouse area along with an

air-conditioned and much larger service department, Lang said recently.

New and used equipment will be showcased on the lot surrounding the building with increased space so that equipment is not crowded together.

The current building at 1190 Country Club Drive has been purchased and will be used by the Northwest Kansas Recycling Center.

The anticipated completion date is sometime in late summer.

Until then, customers can continue to use the current location.

A grand opening celebration will be scheduled once a completion date can be determined.

Lang Diesel, Inc. is an established farm equipment dealership founded in Hays, Kan. in 1988.

Now with five locations throughout Kansas, he said., including Hays, Smith Center, Colby, Ellinwood and Sabetha, offer new and used AGCO tractors, Gleaner combines, Hesston hay equipment, White Planters, Sunflower tillage and Massey Ferguson equipment.

Briefly

Donations sought

Kiwanis Club of Thomas County is asking for donations to defray the cost of fireworks for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, said Rick Dickman, event chair. Anyone interested in helping can mail checks payable to: Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan. 67701. This year's display is at 10:15 p.m., Friday, July 4, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Animals ready for adoption

The Colby Animal Clinic has animals available for adoption. If interested in details about these possible pets, call 460-8621.

Food available Wednesday

Hi-Plains Coop in Colby is again serving free hot dogs and all the trimmings at Picnic in the Park, starting at noon, Wednesday, in Fike Park. Free-will donations will be accepted and given to the Kiwanis

Club of Thomas County to help pay for the Fourth of July fireworks display. In recent years, the Coop has donated the food and given all proceeds to the Kiwanis Club to make this community event possible.

Red Cross plans classes

The Thomas County Red Cross is hosting three classes in June, said Sherry White, manager. All classes will run from 7 to 10 p.m. and the location will be announced at a later date. The three classes include First Aid, Tuesday, June 24; Adult CPR and Infant/child CPR, both scheduled for Wednesday, June 25. For costs, other questions or to register, call White at (785) 462-7161.

Bible school scheduled

Colby Wesleyan Church will have Vacation Bible School from 9-11:30 a.m. June 23-27 at the church, 320 W. Pine. All children 4 through those who have finished fifth grade are invited. The school is about service under the theme "God's Big Backyard." Children

will participate in the large-group excitement of Backyard Bash, experience God's word at Backyard Bible Club, meet real servants at community corner plus have crafts, snacks and games, organizers said. For questions, call 462-8391.

Group meets today

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.

Fogging starts

The City of Colby crews have started fogging for mosquitoes. 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 minimum," 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 or any of the board members to include: Kerry Wark, Tina Harris, Daman Glover, Melinda Morton, Tom Wallsmith or Johnny Maupin.

Swim club to host meet

The Colby Swim Club will be hosting a swim meet in Colby, Saturday. More than 300 swimmers and their families will be in town. For questions or to help, call 460-9630, 443-2418 or 460-2955.

Diplomas ready

Diplomas for the Colby High School Class of 2008 can be picked up at the Colby High School front office. For questions, call 460-5300.