



COLBY FREE PRESS

12 pages

Colby students honored

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

Editor's note: This is the third and final listing of students honored at this week's awards ceremony at Colby High School.

Numerous Colby High School students were honored this week during the awards ceremony for their outstanding achievements during the 2000-01 school year, according to Joni Clark-Leiker, counselor.

The remaining students and their awards, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

- Anthony Repshire was recognized as Applied Math II student of the year.
- Brandon Ritter received a certificate for his participation in forensics.
- Chelsey Roesch received an academic letter; recognition for outstanding achievement in the reading assessment test; Kansas Honor Scholar from Kansas University; and the Governor's Academic Scholarship and Midwest Student Exchange Scholarship from Southwest Missouri State.
- Kimberly Rohr received an academic letter; recognition as Eagle 2001 design editor; Knights of Columbus Scholarship for \$100; Thomas County Tuition Grant from Colby College; and National English, History and Government Merit Awards from the U.S. Achievement Academy.
- Kari Ross received a vocal music/drama scholarship from Colby Community College.
- Wyatt Rundel received recognition for outstanding achievement in the math assessment.
- Katie Rupp received an academic letter.
- Jeff Saddler was recognized for his participation in forensics.
- Karen Saddler was recognized for her participation in scholar's bowl.
- Phillip Schindler received recognition for School-to-Work business project excellence and perfect attendance.
- Sally Schlick received an academic letter; recognition for participation in scholar's bowl; and honored as the excellent Spanish II student.
- Ida Schmidt received an academic letter; was a senior Dekalb Award Winner from FFA; was a Thomas County Tuition Grant recipient from Colby College; Bronze Academic Scholarship recipient from Fort Hays State University; and Thomas County 4-H Scholarship recipient.
- Ben Schroder received the Thomas County Tuition Grant from Colby College.
- Justin Schwanke received the award of excellence from the college of business and leadership and information networking and communication, along with bronze academic award all from Fort Hays State University; and Trojan award from Colby College.
- Jason Schwindt received an academic letter and recognition for all A's in Spanish I.
- Amanda Seemann received an academic letter and recognition for all A's

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Cause for dual celebration



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College commencement and Mother's Day are cause for a dual celebration for at least one Colby family this weekend. Russell Rodenbeck will be among the college's graduates on Saturday and his mother, Shelly, will be appropriately honored on her

special day Sunday. Russell will receive a dual associate's degree in science and art, and will attend Baker University in Baldwin City in the fall. Shelly will receive all those good things moms across the land receive on Mother's Day.

Vandalism at fairgrounds forces lock changes

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

The Thomas County Fair Board was informed at Thursday night's meeting that the fairgrounds sustained in excess of \$1,000 in damage by vandals. Fred Stephenson, custodian, told the board that when he turned on the water in the restrooms this spring, he discovered someone had come in, with a key, and took off and loosened some of the controls allowing the water to spurt all over when it was turned on.

He said there was also other damage, mentioning that said someone had turned on the water heater which had been drained, burning out the control, and then turned it off.

The plumber's bill, he said, was \$1,139.86.

Stephenson said so many people had keys to the various buildings on the fairgrounds, and he doesn't bother to check when he sees people coming and going when no activities are scheduled. There have been some items missing, such as a battery, and some other minor damage done, he said.

The board decided to change the locks on the restrooms and restricting access to the key. They are also considering changing the locks on other buildings on the grounds.

In other business:

• The board granted approval for the Colby Jaycees to give away a 2000 Grand Prix at the Aug. 4 races. Lori Harberer said the Jaycees will be taking donations of \$20 each, for a drawing. The proceeds will be divided among Colby Public Schools, Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart School and a woman who has cancer.

The board agreed to give the Jaycees a booth at the fair, and the Jaycees agreed to help take tickets Saturday night, Aug. 4, and another night.

• SFC Manuel Rubio of the National Guard said plans were confirmed to have an M-1 tank on display at the fair on Saturday, Aug. 4. He has requested a fly-over that day, in conjunction with a 10-year Desert Storm reunion at the Colby Armory. The board asked him if the tank could be in the fair parade on Tuesday, and he said he would see if it

could get here that early. It will be brought to Colby on a truck, but might be too heavy to be on the streets for the parade. The M-1 is the main battle tank of the US Army.

• Thomas County Extension Agent Dennis Chandler said the judges for the fair are mostly confirmed. He said they need a new general superintendent for the fair. He said the 4-H Council is going to paint the Queen's horse barn, and has decided to hire someone to manage the food stand. He also said they weighed in 100 steers and heifers, and 236 bucket calves, sheep and hogs to be used for 4-H projects.

• Cheryl Baird asked Chandler who makes the rules about the animals. She said when 4-H started, the kids usually used animals from their own farms, and raised them from birth. Now some parents go out and buy pedigreed animals, and the kids show them at the fair, and then take them to professional shows. She said the kids probably don't even care for the animals.

Chandler agreed this was a problem, but said the decision about where the

animals come from is made in Manhattan and the fair board does not have the authority to prohibit this sort of thing.

• Mark Miller, chairing the meeting, explained how the progression of officers works since the death of the board president, David Keller. Miller, who was vice-president, now serves as president until the next regular election, according to the county commissioners. The board will vote on a vice-president. Due to a lack of members present, the vote will be put off until the next meeting. Cheryl Baird volunteered to run for vice-president.

• Laura Cook, secretary, said she had been trying to get a carnival, but had no luck so far. The carnival which had been here last claimed they had not received the contract mailed to them for this year. The board will contact some of the home owned carnivals in nearby counties to see if any of them would be willing to come to Colby.

• *Generations - Looking into the New Millennium* was approved for the fair theme. It was submitted by Albert K. Nelson.

Incident prompts lockdown

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

BREWSTER — Brewster school superintendent Jim Garner said today that extra security measures taken last Thursday were "a precaution because of rumors of threats."

"I have been assured that the rumors were unfounded," Garner said in a letter to district parents last Friday.

Both Garner and Thomas County Undersheriff Mike Baughn said they thought the situation began when students saw a sheriff's K-9 unit assisting Social and Rehabilitative Services on a routine call near the school building.

"There were rumors all over the place," said Garner, including some that included violence toward students and teachers.

"We didn't know what was going on," said Garner, "so we decided to take it seriously."

"In today's society it is better to be safe than to ignore certain signals and regret it later."

The district locked all the doors except for the main entrance, and teachers kept their classroom doors locked. School halls were also monitored more closely, according to Garner.

Garner also said the Brewster City marshal and Thomas County sheriff were notified. Baughn said the sheriff's office had been notified, but that no action had been taken.

School routine returned to normal last Friday, according to Garner.

College celebration is Saturday

By MAXINE NELSON

Colby Free Press

Colby Community College will celebrate its 36th annual commencement at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Community Building. Associate degrees will be conferred on 410 graduates. This number compares to 425 candidates last year, which was the highest number so far, according to Betty Kruse registrar.

Delivering the commencement address will be Dr. William Lewis, vice-chancellor for University Relations, University of Nebraska-Kearney. Degrees and certificates will be conferred by Dr. Mikel Ary, president of Colby Community College, and Kenton Krehbiel, chairman of the board of trustees.

Musical selections will be presented by the college's concert choir and concert band.

Also on the commencement program will be the conferring of an honorary associate degree to Max Embree of Colby; presentations of the Mosier Award to the year's outstanding graduate; and presentation of the Tangeman Award to the institution's distinguished teacher for 2000.

There will be a reception for family and friends after graduation at the Student Union on the college campus.

McVeigh could seek execution delay with disclosure of FBI documents

DENVER (AP) — Thousands of FBI documents that were mistakenly withheld from Timothy McVeigh's trial could delay the scheduled execution of the man convicted of the deadliest attack on U.S. soil.

The blunder, revealed Thursday when the materials were turned over to

the Oklahoma City bomber's lawyers, has embarrassed the government and angered victims and their families.

"We needed this death penalty," said Aren Almon Kok, whose daughter came to symbolize the 1995 blast through a photograph of her lifeless body in the arms of a firefighter.

"For someone to make this mistake ... to find them less than a week before he dies ... is unbelievably unfair," she said in Oklahoma City.

The Justice Department handed McVeigh's lawyers 3,135 documents it said should have been provided during the discovery phase of his 1997 trial

in Denver. McVeigh, 33, is scheduled to die Wednesday at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

"The issue really is whether McVeigh is going to decide whether to challenge this," said Andrew Cohen, a legal analyst who has followed the case.

"The FBI through its negligence or whatever has given McVeigh the opportunity to control his immediate future," Kathleen Treanor, who lost her 4-year-old daughter and in-laws in the April 19, 1995, bombing, criticized the FBI for bungling the case and giving McVeigh the chance to extend his life

further. "I'm appalled," she said. "The FBI knew from the very beginning that this was a huge case."

In a letter to McVeigh's attorneys, the Justice Department said the documents consist of FBI reports, including interview notes known as "302s," and photocopies of physical evidence.

Briefly

Weather: Very warm

If you like very warm weather, this forecast from the National Weather Service for the Colby region is especially for you. Tonight, cloudy, low in the lower 50s and south winds 10-20 mph. Saturday, sunny, high in the 80s and south winds 15-25 mph and gusty. Saturday night, clear, lows in the middle 50s. Sunday and Monday, sunny, high near 90 both days. Thursday's high in Colby was 79 and the overnight low this morning was 49. There was an additional 0.05 inches of precipitation during the night, bringing the month's total to 2.32 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 70 degrees. The records for May 11: 92 in 1967 and 26 in 1979. (*The daily temperatures,*

precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

School open house tonight

Colby Public Schools is having an art department open house today from 6 to 8 p.m. at all three buildings. Everyone is encouraged to visit the grade school, middle school and high school to see a variety of artwork by students this year, officials said.

Golden Plains graduation Sunday

Graduation ceremonies for Golden Plains High School students is Sunday at 2 p.m., at the school in Rexford. In addition, eighth grade graduation and awards will be on

Tuesday, May 15, at 7 p.m., school officials said.

Commissioners to meet

The Thomas County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in the Commissioners Room of the courthouse. Sally Tibbles will talk about the City of Colby proposed 2001 communications contract at 9 a.m. Josh Buffington, EMS director, will bring an EMS Week proclamation to be signed at 9:30 a.m. The contract for the fire truck for Fire District 4 will be discussed at 10 a.m. Colby Fire Chief Robert McLemore will discuss proposed rescue services and hazardous materials response services at 10:30 a.m. Larry Jumper, landfill director will report on budget and closing the landfill for the Memorial Day holiday at 11 a.m.

Charlie Krull will give a report on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health plan proposal at 11:30 a.m.

Choir and band to perform

There will be a Colby Middle School Choir Concert, Monday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium. The Colby High School band will also be performing on Tuesday, May 15, also at 7:30 p.m.

Food drive planned Saturday

Letter carriers at Colby Post Office will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Thomas County Genesis program on Saturday, May 12. Post officials ask that people leave items by their mailbox or on their porch.

