



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

## Brewster resident flown to Swedish Medical Center

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Traffic accidents this weekend sent six people to the Logan County Hospital in Oakley, and one to Swedish Medical Center in Denver.

On Saturday morning, 20-year-old Paxton Crumbaker, Brewster, was flown from Oakley to Swedish Medical Center after he crossed the centerline in a 1998 Dodge Dakota pickup and struck the trailer wheels of a 1995 Peterbilt on U.S. 83 about three miles south of Oakley at 11 a.m., according to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Crumbaker and his passenger, 19-year-old Sarah Heier, Colby, were taken by ambulance to the Logan County Hospital.

Heier was treated and released, according to Angela Snyder, spokesperson for the hospital.

Crumbaker is listed in serious condition, according to the hospital at Denver.

The driver of the semi, 29-year-old Mitchell Flinn, Oakley, was not injured.

An later accident resulted in three children and an adult being treated and released from the Logan County Hospital.

The highway patrol said 54-year-old Larry Kruse, Oakley, was westbound on Thomas County Road C when he lost control, entered the north ditch and rolled his 1986 Ford pickup across the road and into the south ditch at 6:50 p.m.

Kruse was treated and released in Oakley, along with 7-year-old Jade, 10-year-old Jance and 14-year-old Jody Kruse, according to hospital administrator Jay Plank.

## Schools worry about fallout from session

By JOHN MILBURN

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — School superintendents believed this was the year the Legislature would boost their budgets with a big increase in funding. Now, some are wondering how to cover their costs.

Several studies, including one from a task force assembled by Gov. Bill Graves, had suggested that Kansas' public schools badly needed more dollars — perhaps hundreds of millions more. And they all concluded that time was right.

"We all thought this was the year to do something big for education," said Sen. Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

In January, Gov. Bill Graves proposed raising school funding by \$67 million — enough to increase base state aid by \$50, to \$3,870 per student.

From the Senate came two tax plans, one worth \$236 million over three years, the other for \$150 million over two years.

And a \$206 million hole in the state budget didn't help.

"It's an issue that we all collectively failed miserably on," Graves said after the session.

Educators agree.

Colby superintendent Kirk Nielsen said today that in the short term, the district will make it work. However, he added that if funding continues to decrease he believes schools will be in jeopardy.

"While many districts are maxing out their local option budgets in order to make ends meet, we have been as conservative as we can," he said.

"It's not even keeping up with inflation," said Diane Gjerstad, lobbyist for Wichita schools.

"That's what is so frustrating for districts."

For many districts, the \$50 increase per students will barely cover increases in utilities, textbooks and health insurance, she said.

"That's before talking about taking care of the staff," Gjerstad said.

"We can't keep beginning science teachers. They can go work for aircraft manufacturers for better pay and benefits."

Hays superintendent Fred Kaufman said the total \$2.35 billion budget approved by legislators for elementary and secondary schools means there will be little growth in education in Kansas this year — and none in his district.

"The real reason there was nothing for public education was that they didn't have the courage to raise taxes," Kaufman said.

"They should admit this rather than attacking education and educators to defend themselves."

Not all school officials are critical. George Brown is superintendent in Norton, where he has not heard support for more funding.

"I understand fully the thought of the Legislature," Brown said.

"The public does not want a tax increase. The sentiment that schools have to tighten their belt is real."

Of the state's 304 school districts, 131 will actually receive less state aid in the fiscal year that starts July 1 than in the current year.

Most of those are small, rural districts with declining enrollments.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Angela Albers and Chris Basgall headed toward the auditorium for the commencement ceremonies Sunday as Golden Plains High School graduated 14 seniors. Linda Ryan, senior class sponsor, (middle) smiled proudly as she walked with the students.

## Students deliver graduation speeches Sunday at Golden Plains High School

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

REXFORD — More than 300 people attended commencement ceremonies Sunday in Rexford to watch the 14 members of the Golden Plains High School graduating class celebrate their special day.

Among highlights of the event were speeches from Valedictorian Christopher Broeckelman and Salutatorian Angela Albers, both talking about gratitude and the challenges facing all of them.

"Today is a day that I have looked forward to for a long time," Broeckelman said.

"We are here to celebrate the completion of a phase of our lives — lives that are like the construction of a bookcase."

In this analogy, Broeckelman talked about starting out with raw materials and building on the foundation.

Similar to the step-by-step process

needed in building a bookcase, so is the process for building true character, he said.

"Now that we are finished with high school," Broeckelman said, "it is time to move on. It's time for the finishing process...which, I believe is an unending process — one that we work on throughout our lives."

He also issued the following questions to the 2001 Class by asking them, "As we grow older, will we use the talents that God has given us, or will we let them be wasted? Will we continue to strive to do our best, or will we let stuff slide?"

Broeckelman thanked God first for letting him and his classmates be there Sunday and for all the talents given to

everyone. He also thanked his parents for always being there, along with gratitude to the community, teachers and classmates for their encouragement and support.

In his closing remarks, Broeckelman said, "consider the turtle — he makes progress only when he sticks out his neck."

"I believe that in life there are times when we have to stick our heads out of our shells, face the world, and trust God that everything will turn out okay," he said.

For Albers, leaving high school will mean leaving behind some friendships and the comfort of Rexford, Kan.

"But," she said, "we get to take along with us the memories and knowledge we have gained throughout our high school careers."

She reminded her classmates not to forget the challenges that they have already achieved and the success accomplished by graduating.

"Whatever we decide to do in life,"

she said, "we're going to need courage."

Albers also thanked everyone sitting in the audience Sunday, saying that each have impacted their lives.

In her closing remarks, she hoped that her classmates will choose memories that inspire and sustain.

"Remember the hours upon hours we've spent together laughing and enjoying life as the Class of 2001," she said. "We've left our mark on Golden Plains, now it's our turn to do the same to the rest of the world."

Other graduates Sunday included Christopher Basgall, Jean Bruggeman, Dain Carmen, Jared Dible, Todd Dible, Travis Durham, Michael Giesenhagen, Brent Johnston, Mathew Juenemann, Scott McIntyre, Joshua Miller and Peter Stein.

Golden Plains Board of Education members awarding diplomas were Kathy Albers, Paul Bruggeman, Robert Dible and Mark Miller.



Broeckelman

## McVeigh no longer topic of town

By CARL MANNING

Associated Press Writer

JUNCTION CITY (AP) — Timothy McVeigh is no longer the chief topic of conversation in the area that he thrust into an unwanted national spotlight in 1995. But strong feelings linger just below the surface, waiting to be triggered by the right question.

"I'm up to here with McVeigh. It occupies the news to the point of saturation," said Dr. Alex Scott, former Geary County coroner. "We've seen a lot of manipulation by a man who qualifies as a four-star psychopath."

While many feel it's time to put McVeigh behind them, there's disagreement about executing the man who killed 168 people when he bombed the Oklahoma City federal building.

McVeigh's execution had been scheduled for Wednesday in Terre Haute, Ind., but U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft postponed it until June 11 after the FBI revealed it failed to turn over documents to the defense team.

Even before the delay, the hot topic of debate in Junction City wasn't McVeigh but what to do with the shuttered historic Bartell Hotel on the

town's main street.

In nearby Herington, another town that figured in McVeigh's Kansas saga, the talk is more likely to focus on the high school graduation and whether farmers will have enough rain this year.

"It's over and done with. The sooner we can put it out of our minds, the better. The only time we talk about it is when we are forced to," said Barb Mastin, Herington mayor at the time of the bombing.

When Junction City residents are asked about McVeigh, many have ready responses.

"For him, it's an easy way out, that's how I feel," said pet store owner Irma Marshall. "He should work his whole life at hard labor and give everything to the families."

At Erika's Gasthaus restaurant, owner Erika Salyers sits at a table in the back with friends waiting on the lunch-time regulars and offers a different view.

"I would honestly like to see him hanged in public, on that place where he killed those people," Salyers said. "Hang him, but not too fast."

Magdalena Rohr listens, nods in agreement before offering her punish-

ment of choice.

"They should let him out and let the people lynch him," she said. "Every time I see him on TV, I want to slap him. That man has no heart, no feeling."

It was a convergence of circumstances that put this central Kansas town on page one after the bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Building in the largest domestic terrorist attack in U.S. history.

"I think we pretty well put it behind us. We were victimized because he picked our town," Scott said. "He put us on the front page like we were accomplices, and we weren't."

McVeigh spent four nights at the Dreamland Motel just off Interstate 70 before going to Oklahoma City in a Ryder truck he rented here. As a soldier years earlier, he was stationed at nearby Fort Riley along with accomplice Terry Nichols.

The truck was loaded with a fertilizer bomb assembled at a fishing lake south of Junction City near Herington, where Nichols lived briefly.

"When it happened, people talked like all people in Junction were like this. But we were upset just like the rest of the country," Salyers said.

## Briefly

### Weather: Hot!

The temperature in the Colby region could — *could* — hit the 100-degree mark on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service. Tonight, clear, low in the middle 50s and light winds. Tuesday, sunny, high in the middle 90s and northwest winds 5-15 mph. Tuesday night, clear, low in the middle 50s. Wednesday, sunny, high 90-100. The weekend temperatures for Colby: highs, 75 on Friday, 82 on Saturday and 90 on Sunday; lows, 49 on Saturday, 49 on Sunday and 45 this morning. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 2.32 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 73 degrees. The records for May 14: 97 in 1941 and 26 in 1953. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

### Group needs officers

Colby Secondary Parent Teacher Student Association still need officers for the year 2001-2002. Call 462-7188.

### Awards ceremony Tuesday

Golden Plains eighth grade students will hold their graduation and awards ceremony Tuesday, May 15. The last day of school for Golden Plains students is Thursday, May 17, school officials said.

### Choir concert tonight

The Colby Middle School Choir Concert is today at 7:30

p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium.

The Colby High School band will also be performing on Tuesday also at 7:30 p.m.

### Red Cross sponsors meeting

There will be a Community Disaster Awareness meeting, Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. in Colby Community Building's Little Theater. The meeting, said Donna Finley, executive director of the Thomas County Red Cross, will focus on how families can be more prepared in the event of a tornado. Everyone is welcome. For questions, call 462-7161.

### Reception for principal next week

The Colby Parent-Teacher Organization is sponsoring a reception for Colby Elementary School Principal Becky Holtwick, who is leaving the district at the end of this school year.

Everyone is invited to attend the event from 7 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, in the cafeteria at the grade school.

### Booster club fund-raiser continues

The Colby Booster Club still has state championship wrestling t-shirts for sale, said Tami Brown, president. For information or to order, call 462-7903.

### Free compost available

The Thomas County landfill has compost to give away free to whoever will come and get it. If there are any questions, call Larry Jumper, landfill director, at 462-8139.

