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Colby, Brewster Commencement

Graduates celebrate completion of school

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

Colby High School graduated 103 seniors in front of a packed house at the Community Building on Sunday afternoon.

Bill Cordes, a motivational speaker and author chosen by the seniors, had four points for the seniors.

He told them honesty and integrity are important, to always contribute more than they consume, to smile more often and to be persistent.

Valedictorian Chelsey Roesch, who graduated early and attends Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., told the graduates to keep their eyes open and take advantage of every opportunity.

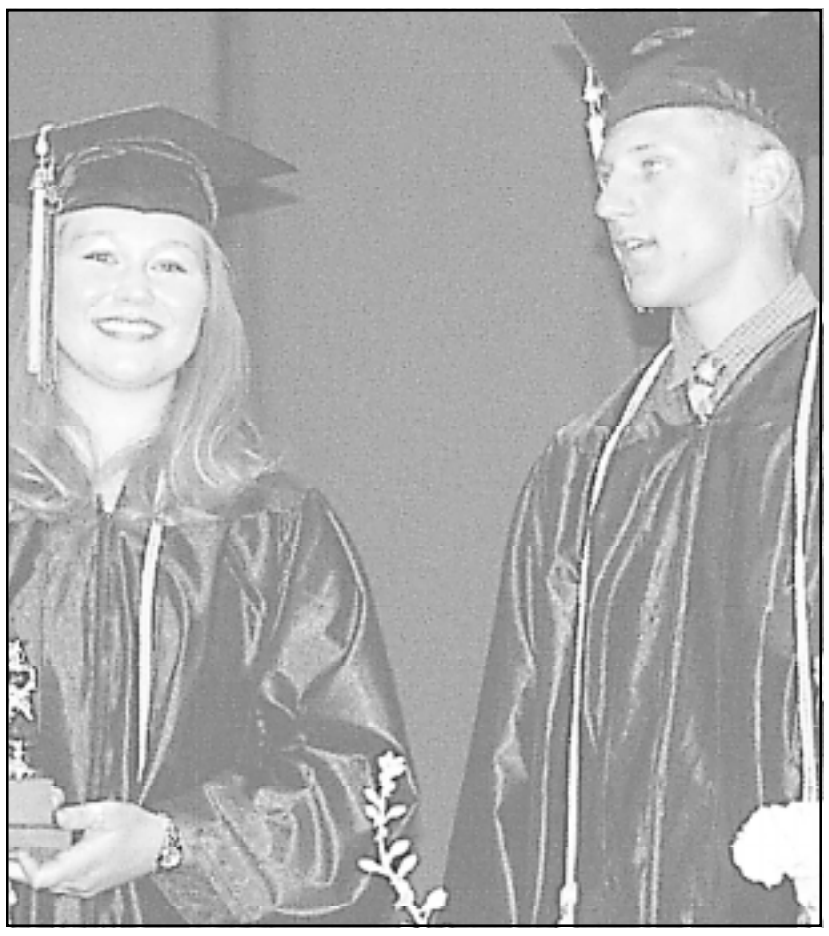
Salutatorian Matt Murray reminded the class of their accomplishments and told them the best was yet to come.

Superintendent Kirk Nielsen presented the class to the board of education. Board members present and handing out diplomas were; Gerry Fulwider, Cathy Gordon, Wilburn Holloway, Bill Miller, Gary Walker and president Stan Molstad.

Members of the graduating class of 2001 were:

National Honor Society members; Clayton Elliott, Kayla Harry, Shannon Harter, Tanner Holloway, Jeannie Jackson, Matt Murray, Chelsey Roesch, and Troy Siebert.

Graduates; Candace Albers, Melissa Alderson, Lacey Atkins, Trace Austin, Dustin Baker, Lynn Bandy, Corene Barnett, Ross Barnett, Sarah, Berens, Carrie Bixenmen, Brandy Boutte, Shiloh Brogan, John Brown, Zach Brown, Jennifer Buhl, Leah Burgess, Gina Carmen, Maureen Cassidy, Shana Chandler, Jessica Cox, Jodi Cranston, Kara Criswell, Justin Crum, Karen Davis, Anthony Dawdy, Ashley Denneler, Joey Dinkel, Stephanie Dodson, Ty Dupy, Christine Edwards, Chris Erickson, Justin Finley, Britt Focke, Tony Foltz, Nikki Gavin, Jon Grillott, Lloyd Hamme, Chris Harris, Peter Heier, Austin Herbel, Dustin Herschberger, Lindsay Hurtt, Nicole Husband, Ashley Jones, Danielle Jones, Bo Kleinsorge, Amber Lane, Zach Luedke, Eddie Mainus, Brent Mariman, Bailey Maxwell, Wes McAdams, Lindsey McClure, Wade McCoy, Parker McKee, Casey Meyer, Tony Morton, Jason Munsell, Tim Nye, Nichole Olsen, Emily Orth, Isabel Ortiz, James Peptis, Christina Poling, Brandon Ritter, Kimberly Rohr, Amy Rondeau, Kari Ross, Katie Rupp, Jeff Saddler, Ida Schmidt, Benjamin Schroeder, Justin Schwanke, Elizabeth Shuman, Justin Sloan, Andrea Stephens, Damien Stephens, Jay Stewart, Jennifer Stockton, Kali Strickler, Lacy Struckmeyer, Jason Swafford, Kristin Vaughn, Chris Veeh, David Victor, Julie Walters, Kellie Wark, Brooks Wederski, Brian Williams, Brian Wolf, Corey Woofter, Lindsay Young, Jason Zerr.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

High School seniors in Colby and Brewster had their big day Sunday **LEFT**: Valedictorian Chelsey Roesch and salutatorian Matt Murray were honored at the Colby graduation. **RIGHT**: Brewster's Jill Beiser made a last minute adjustment for Travis Dixon before the ceremony began.

Brewster graduates talk about memories

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

More than 300 people filed into Brewster High School's gymnasium on Sunday to witness commencement ceremonies honoring this year's graduating class.

"The Future Lies Before You," was the theme with speeches by Bobby Tubbs, valedictorian, and Justin Jamison, salutatorian.

For Tubbs, the message was in remembering the good times and memorable experiences. In doing so, he talked about one of his own personal experiences when good and bad can be relative.

"During our junior year," he said, "we realized what kind of teamwork it takes to reach our goals." That teamwork he spoke of was the first time the class realized how much they could accomplish together.

Tubbs also spoke about the many experiences and good times with teachers as well. "I'm sure we could all say that without our teachers' guidance, we would not be where we are today." Some of the happiest memories he said included back to back state championships in basketball, senior prom and the upcoming senior trip to Florida. "Even though we are going our separate ways, it doesn't mean we won't see each other anymore because this class is more than just a senior class — it's a family," Tubbs said.

Jamison also spoke of memories, good times and gratitude to all those who supported the Class of 2001.

"The one story that seems to stick out in my mind," he said, "is the one in Mrs. Depe's English class our junior year."

In telling the story, Jamison said that the class was all gathered around the table working on the latest assignment while Shalon (Miller), who had just came to Brewster from Golden Plains, was not doing his work.

"The football players proceeded to get on Shalon for not doing his work because if he didn't have the grades, he couldn't play next year," Jamison said. "Well, Shalon more than made the grades and was a valuable asset to our team this year."

For Jamison, he believes it was and is this kind of attitude that makes Brewster what it is today.

Along with Tubbs and Jamison, other members of the class included Brett Arnberger, Kimberly Cook, Parker Jay Crumbaker, Clinton Horinek, Nicole Lynn Johnston, Crystal Pounds, Jill Beiser, Diane Cranston, Travis Dixon, Nicholas Juenemann and Jay Reid.

Joan Jamison and Rod Arnberger, Brewster board members, presented diplomas and Ward Cassiday, counselor, named those students receiving scholarships and awards.

Newspaper survey reveals county sheriffs, schools doing better job

By HURST LAVIANA
The Wichita Eagle

Many Kansas sheriffs and school districts are doing a better job of providing information that is open to everyone under state law, a survey by 14 state newspapers found.

But three-quarters of those tested could not meet their duty under a new state law to provide brochures telling Kansans their rights when requesting public records.

The survey in April checked four school districts and 28 sheriff's departments that denied similar requests in September 1999. It sought a copy of an accident report or a high school principal's salary.

All but four offices complied.

Along with the lack of brochures, which are required by law, many also asked more questions than citizens are required to answer when they ask for records.

Public records allow people to monitor how government does its job, from protecting public safety to spending taxes.

New Hayville school board member Seth Konkel learned their importance this spring when he used public records to check spending on a district-owned credit card. His inquiry led to the superintendent's firing and to his and two other newcomers' election to the board.

In a related survey, a group of University of Kansas journalism students found that all but 10 of the state's 304 public school districts had complied with a new requirement that every public agency designate a freedom of information officer. That person's job, in part, is to help resolve disputes over public records requests. A grant from the American Society of Newspaper Editors helped finance the survey.

Assistant Attorney General Steve Phillips said the newspaper survey reinforced his belief that compliance with open records laws is up in Kansas. He attributed the increase to publicity about the 1999 audit.

"I'm getting a lot more phone calls from government officials about the Open Records Act," he said. "There's just been an enormous shift. People are asking questions now."

Sandy Jacquot, legal counsel for the Kansas League of Municipalities, agreed.

"I think government officials are much more attentive," she said.

Jacquot said her organization, along with the Kansas Association of Counties, distributed thousands of free open records brochures to local governments after the Kansas Legislature adopted the requirement.

The Kansas Open Records Act makes all government records open to the public unless they fall under one of 43 specific exemptions, which range from the location of archeological digs to crimnal investigation reports.

The audit results

Without volunteering their occupations, journalists from 14 newspapers visited the 32 offices in April and found:

- Twenty-four did not have freedom of information brochures available upon request.
- Employees at 15 agencies wanted to know why those making the requests wanted to see the records.
- Employees at 11 agencies asked those making requests who they worked for.
- Four sheriff's departments refused to provide complete copies of the

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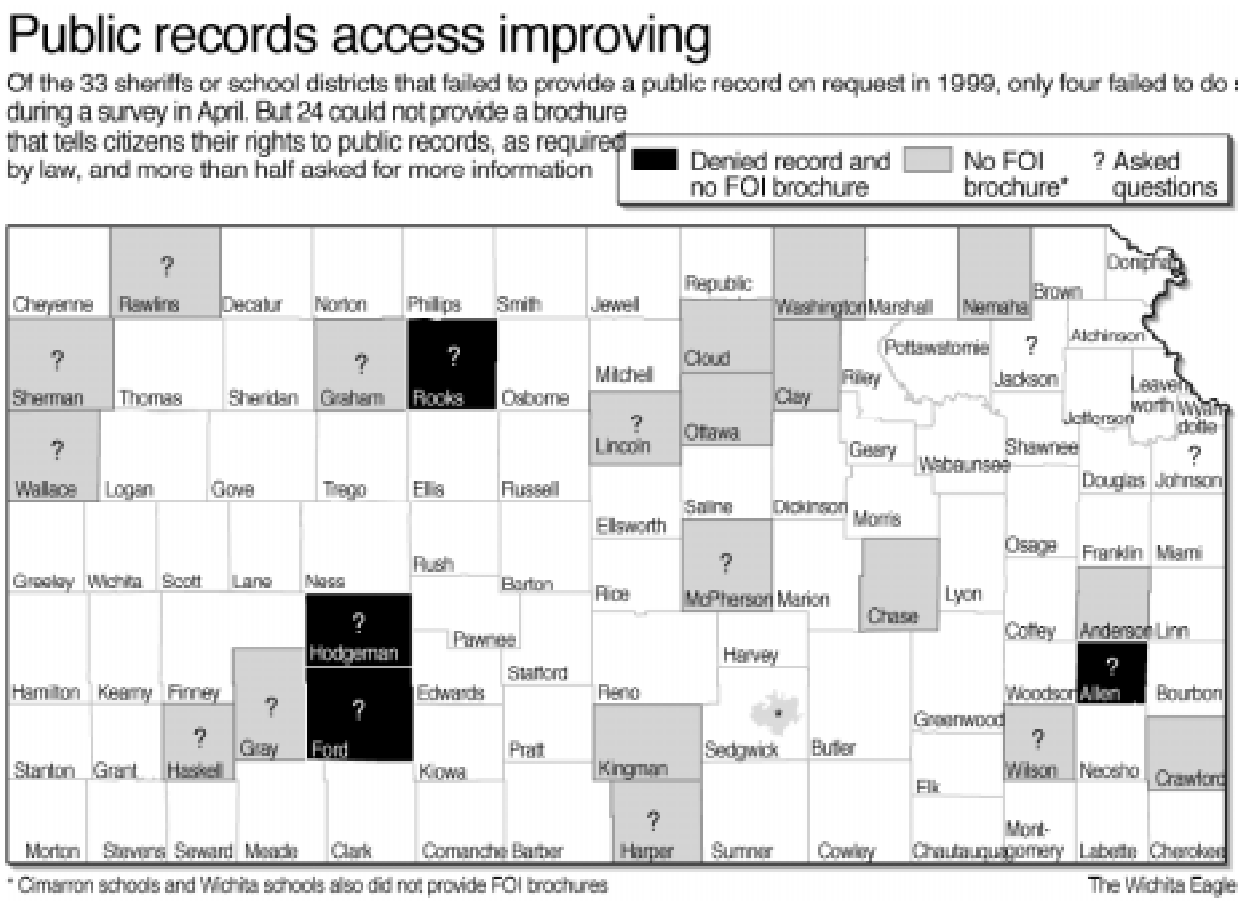

Briefly

Weather: Cool nights

Very cool nights and warmer days. That's the forecast for the Colby region as issued by the National Weather Service. Tonight, clear, frost primarily in low-lying areas, low in the lower 30s and northwest winds 10-20 mph, turning westerly at 10 mph. Tuesday, sunny, breezy, high in the 70s and northwest winds 15-25 mph and gusty. Tuesday night, frost possible in the low-lying areas, low in the middle 30s. Wednesday, dry, sunny, high in the 70s. Colby's weekend temperatures: highs, 78 Sunday, 76 Saturday and 74 Friday; lows, 36 this morning, 54 Sunday morning and 53 Saturday morning. There was 0.06 inches of precipitation over the weekend, bringing the month's total to 2.38 inches. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 72 degrees. The records for May 21: 97 in 1934 and 29 in 1915. *(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)*

School board meeting tonight

The Colby School Board will meet today at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 210 S. Range, Colby. Topics on the agenda include approval of the budget, a date change for the calendar and a lease agreement for a lot north of the Colby Medical and Surgical Clinic.

School packet deadline nears

Colby Parent-Teacher Organization is taking orders for school supply packets until Tuesday, May 24, according to Pam Sager, spokesperson. Orders and donations may be sent to 210 N. Grant, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Jaycees plan fundraiser

The Colby Jaycees are holding a fundraising event with first prize being a 2000 Grand Prix, along with second and third place winners receiving cash. All proceeds from the event, organizers said, will help Colby Public Schools, Puddle Duck Preschool, Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart and others.For information, call 462-6557.

Awards tonight has time change

The Colby High School Spring Sports Awards Night will be held at the high school auditorium tonight, beginning at 7 p.m. (Note: time is different than school calendar) Participants and letterwinners in softball, baseball, track, and boy's tennis and golf will be honored, along with coaches, parents and fans.

Washington D.C. trip meeting set

A meeting for Colby Middle School 8th graders planning to go to Washington, D.C., is planned for Wednesday, May 23, in the Colby Middle School cafeteria at 6 p.m. "This meeting is mandatory for parents," according to Ray Higley, coordinator. An itinerary will be distributed and rules and regulations will be discussed. For those unable to attend, call Higley at 465-5200.