



COLBY FREE PRESS

2,065 days and counting

All eyes on this student



Phillip Schindler (left) at his first day of school in 1988 and Schindler today on his 2,065th day with high school principal Bryan Bullington.

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

One Colby High School senior is on his way to accomplishing something that no other student in Colby can boast about — perfect attendance for the past 13 years.

If all goes well this year, Phillip Schindler, will be the first to have ever attained such a feat, according to the official school records.

Jo DeYoung, business manager for the Colby School District, said that Phillip has attended 2,065 days thus far and when the end of the year rolls around, he will have not missed one day or been late to one class for a total of 2,237 days.

"It's every mother's dream to see a son change and grow," said

Phillip's mom, Anna, "and I am so very proud of him."

Along with his mother, administrators and teachers talked about the kind of student and person it would take to have perfect attendance throughout the school career.

Colby Superintendent Kirk Nielsen said he is one of those people that has a way with adults and classmates alike and has behaved that way ever since he started kindergarten.

"Phil always has a smile on his face when I meet him and he seems truly happy to see and greet me," Nielsen said. "I think he's an outstanding young man and will do well in life."

Phillip's middle school principal, Robb Ross, concurred. "What I remember about Phil during his years at

the middle school was that other than just being in class every day, he seemed to really enjoy it," Ross said.

"He did well in class and had lots of friends and didn't get involved in a lot of the petty problems that sometime plague other students," Ross said.

Sandra Rall, Phillip's kindergarten teacher, who is now retired, said she remembered him as being a quiet youngster.

"He was a pleasure to have in the classroom and always willing to participate. Thirteen years of perfect attendance is an outstanding accomplishment and something he and his family should be proud of," she said.

Patrick Giebler, who taught English at Colby Community College and did some substitute teaching at the high

school, said he saw some extraordinary qualities in Phillip.

"He was affable, courteous and had the ability to stay focused — these are his virtues," Giebler said. "As to his vices — I know of none."

Giebler said he believes that if Phillip continues to develop his talents, he will find success shortly. "This world needs more young men and women like Phillip," he said.

One of Phillip's counselors, Kyle Shively, said he was one of her favorite students and still is.

"This is my 25th year in education," Shively said, "and he is one of those unforgettable kids."

As a student, she said, he was quick, creative and loved the action of hands-on learning. "I think he would make a

great stand-up comedian and I wish him luck this year," she said.

Doug Baker, Phillip's fifth grade teacher, said he is one of those students that makes teaching a pleasure. "It just isn't hard to find good things to say about him." Baker's wife, Nancy, who teaches math in the middle school, said he was always respectful of teachers and other students.

"I'm sure Phillip's perfect attendance contributed to his academic success in school as well," she said.

Nancy Rundel, who teaches speech at the high school, said he is an original thinker and very creative.

"One of my favorite memories of Phillip is when he developed the "Shinmore" washing machine as a visual for his persuasive speech," she said. "In

presenting the information, he focused on convincing his classmates to purchase his invention — it was great."

Jan Wolf, elementary vocal and music teacher, said she remembered him as diligent. "He is kind and thoughtful and usually quiet and a bit shy," she said.

As for his mother, Phillip's every look, smile and gesture is so familiar and dear to her. It's only natural to see him that way, she said, because Phillip is her son.

"Yet, every now and then, though, there comes a moment when you see someone through somebody else's eyes and it reminds me he isn't just my son, but a person others also know and prize, too," she said.

Cultural exchange

Thomas County schools have international flavor

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Many foreign languages will be heard in commons areas of Colby Community College and Thomas County high schools this year, as the schools host students from many nations in cultural exchange programs.

In addition to a record of 42 students for the college, Colby High School has four international students, Golden Plains has three and Brewster has one.

"We currently have 36 students in the fall semester," said Skip Sharp, dean of student services for the college.

"We have another six, expected in the spring, who are still working out visas." Countries represented include Canada, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, Morocco, Panama, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Tanzania, Kenya, Russia and Jamaica.

Among the students are seventeen returning sophomores.

"We are very pleased with the number of international students enrolled this semester," said college president Dr. Mikel Ary. "Learning the customs and traditions of others is an important part of the college experience. These students help with that process by bringing a variety of backgrounds and cultures to our campus."

"We actively recruit," said public information director Deb Schwanke. "There are several places where you can recruit students from other countries." The process for recruitment is extensive, Schwanke said. Among

"We are very pleased with the number of international students enrolled."

Dr. Mikel Ary, college president

other things, students must prove the financial ability to pay for schooling. Although some are athletes, 13 of the 36 students at Colby are in athletics, many are in America because of the educational advantages.

At Colby High School, there are four students, a large group, according to Liz Gottsch from student records. Gottsch added that, unlike colleges, high schools don't recruit students. Instead, several philanthropic organizations recruit students, host families and provide the paperwork.

According to Joni Clark-Leiker, high school counselor, some students come to Colby and stay for college.

"Not a lot stay, but it isn't uncommon," she said, citing several who stayed to run cross country for the college. Golden Plains has three students this year and Brewster has one. Brewster officials said some host exchange students regularly.

The current international students are: Colby Community College — Adnan Ahmed, Saudi Arabia; Irem Akmen, Turkey; Desiree Bacchus, Canada; Carlos Beitia, Panama; Miho Fujita, Japan; Tetsuo Hashimoto, Ja-

pan; Alexander Hnatyshyn, Canada; Ilieva Bogdana, Bulgaria; Chris Johnson, Canada; Scott Kadatz, Canada; Yuka Kikuchi, Japan; Dusan Kollar, Slovakia; Budimka Kovacevic, Yugoslavia; Zaltica Kurjantnikova, Slovakia; Alexandria Kwiecinska, Canada; Alex Mahundi, Tanzania; Muhammad Mustafa, Pakistan; Daisuke Nishida, Japan; Serra Sangor, Japan; Urara Shirai, Japan; Yoko Shobu, Japan; Yukiko Tagushi, Japan; Kiwa Taira, Japan; Mai Takahashi, Japan; Abe Takahiko, Japan; Mequmi Uyama, Japan; Keith Wollis, Canada; Berkin Yavus, Turkey; Eskendar Yusupoo, Yubekistan, Mehdi Zizah, Morocco; Algirdas Kubilius, Lithuania; Epameinonads, Karamavros, Greece.

Colby High School — Lydia Leonardaries, Germany; Simon Roesch, Germany; Victor Garcia, Brazil; Helena Yoon, Korea

Golden Plains High School — Peter Begerow, Germany; Anne Schumacher, Germany; Marco Vignjevic, Yugoslavia.

Brewster High School — Eduardo Varela, Mexico.

Inside look



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Cub Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 140 took a tour of an ambulance from Thomas County Emergency Medical Services at Fike Park on Tuesday night. Brock Roemer, Christian Wilson, Nate Horinek and Avery Beverly, from left to right, checked out the equipment inside the ambulance during the tour.

Briefly

Weather: Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms are expected to rumble through the Colby area now through Sunday, the latest forecast from the National Weather Service indicates. Temperatures will generally be around 75-85 daytime and upper 50s overnight. Thunderstorm chances range from 20 percent to 30 percent. Expect winds to shift from the south to the northeast at 10-20 mph during the period. Colby's high temperature Tuesday was 95 and the overnight low this morning was 58. There was no additional precipitation, leaving the month's total at 1.71 inches. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 79 degrees. The records for Aug. 29: 104 in 1922 and 40 in 1915. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Sirens tested today

The Thomas County tornado sirens were tested this morning around 11:30, and will be tested again at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 10, according to John Lygeros, emergency management coordinator. "These are not our usual times, and we won't be testing on Labor Day (Sept. 3)," he said.

Office closed, no paper Monday

The Colby Free Press office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, and no newspaper will be published that day in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Deadlines for the Tuesday, Sept. 4 edition are as follows: classified word ads, Friday, Aug. 31 at noon and display advertising, Thursday, Aug. 30 by 3 p.m.

'Homes on the Range' tour set

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is sponsoring its backyard expeditions during the month of September. Everyone is invited to explore the "Homes on the Range" Sunday afternoons on Sept. 9, 16 and 23. Call 462-4590 for additional information.

No yard waste pickup Monday

The City of Colby Sanitation Department will not be operating Monday, Sept. 3 for the Labor Day weekend. Yard waste will not be picked up on Monday, but will be picked up on Tuesday, Sept. 4, along with the regular yard waste route, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. For questions, call 462-4410.

Alumni meeting planned here

The Page City alumni and community biannual meeting will be Friday, Aug. 31, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Colby Community Building.

Tailgate party Friday

The Colby High School Booster Club will hold a tailgate party at Dennen Field on Friday, Aug. 3, beginning at 5 p.m., prior to the football game against Atwood.

Landfill closing over holiday

The Thomas County Landfill will close at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, and will remain closed on Sunday, Sept. 2, and Monday, Sept. 3.

