



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Graduates talk about memories

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

It was a time of memories for the 17 Golden Plains High School graduates during commencement ceremonies Sunday in the high school gymnasium.

The nearly two-hour long event included presentations from the salutatorian, Courtney Ann Albers and the two valedictorians, Landon Gerard Truetken and Dana Marie Broeckelman, along with remarks from Pastor Lane Purcell from the Rexford Community Church and school board member.

Dr. Roger Baskerville, superintendent, said the ceremony was longer than the traditional hour due to a longer video and also since there were two valedictorians this year.

"It always amazes me to see the large number of family and friends that literally are packed into the gymnasium," he said.

One of the messages both Baskerville and Travis Smith, administrative assistant, gave to the 2004 graduating class was for the students not to hurry through it.

"Enjoy the moment," Baskerville told the students before the event.

In their presentations, Truetken spoke of memories and had a paragraph dedicated in his talk to each one of them.

Albers, the salutatorian, also emphasized remembering the 13 years of school with Broeckelman summarizing to everyone about the good and bad times.

She also spoke of gratitude for parental support and the importance of family love as a vital part of education and extra curricular achievements.

Taken from the Bible, Lane



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Samantha Lynn Juenemann, one of 17 graduating students from Golden Plains High School, handed her mother, Jan, a rose in honor of Mother's Day with her father, Tom, standing nearby. All of the students gave their mother a flower and hug during the commencement ceremony, Sunday, in the Golden Plains High School gymnasium.

spoke from Chapter 16, Verse 33 in the Gospel of John with emphasis in bracing for life.

In his remarks, he reviewed Christ talking to the disciples.

"I have told you in this world these things so that in me you might find peace. You will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world," according to the Bible verse.

Baskerville said the class was somewhat bigger than in previous years. "We average 14 to 15 graduates, but there will be even larger classes in the next few years," he said.

In addition to the valedictorians and salutatorian, other students graduating were: Jaelynn Renee Andrews, Jesse Alan Colson, Matthew John Giesenhagen, Jeremy

Jake Gould, Samantha Lynn Juenemann, Casey Blake Lewis, Abbie Joan Miller, Brent Kyle Moss, David Lane Purcell, Adam Joseph Sabatka, Dusty Lee Spreser, Kelsey Jo Spreser, Randi Jo Stevenson and Valerie Elaine Vanatta.

The class motto was "The past cannot be changed, but the future is whatever you want it to be."

Air conditioner repairs okayed for two buildings

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

Air conditioning units at the Thomas County Courthouse and Office Complex will be getting some needed attention.

The county commissioners approved \$3,110 in work for the units at their meeting this morning.

One unit at the courthouse will get a new generator and the cost will be \$2,150.

Two other units will get new pump kits to stop hydraulic oil leaks at a cost of \$320 each.

A unit at the office complex will also get a pump kit for \$320.

Floyd Highland of Midwest Energy was at the meeting to discuss the problems. He said in addition to the leaks on the units that will be repaired, there's another problem at the office complex.

"Somewhere up there we're losing chilled water," Highland said. "We can't find where it's going." He explained the water goes through both the air conditioners and the boiler for cooling.

He said an option would be to dig

out the part of the pipe that runs underground at the office complex to see if that's where the leak is but the commissioners didn't take any action on it.

"We've got to get that fixed," said Commissioner Ron Evans.

He also asked if it would be possible to someday replace all eight units at the courthouse with one large unit.

Highland said it would be but he recommended they start a fund to save a little money each year until the county has enough to complete the project, which could be about \$35,000.

"Something's going to have to be done someday," Evans said.

In other business:

- The commissioners approved the purchase of a canopy for the landfill's mower tractor in the amount of \$687.

- The commissioners also signed an award of bid notice for the landfill excavation project.

The low bid from Dirks Earthmoving in Scott City was approved at the May 3 meeting.

New coach did play high school athletics

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

A misinterpretation of comments made by Colby High School's new head football coach appearing in a page 1 story in the April 23 issue of the *Colby Free Press* finds that coach Greg Koenig did, in fact, participate in sports in high school.

His high school sports career included cross country, basketball and track.

"I started for two and a half years of basketball in high school," he said. "I also ran at state several years in cross country and track."

Koenig said he did play middle school football but didn't continue with the sport in high school, adding he was a bit "undersized" to play in high school.

He also competed in intramural sports in college at Valley City State University in Valley City, N.D.

Koenig was hired as the head high school football coach at the April 19 school board meeting.

He's spent the past six seasons as the head football coach at Las Animas High School in Las Animas, Colo.

Koenig has had success as a football coach, racking up winning records in 1999, 2000 and 2001. During his tenure as the Trojans' head coach, the team earned its first playoff berth in more than a decade and also its first appearance in the state quarterfinals since 1976.

In addition to his coaching duties, Koenig will teach English at the high school.

New filings released

By TISHA COX

Colby Free Press

There has been a flurry of filing activity for political seats in Thomas County. As of today, there have been 10 new filings, said County Clerk Tracey Perkins.

Anyone wanting to run for office has until noon on June 10 to file for the Aug. 3 primary.

Richard Stefan, Democrat, has filed for the District 2 county commission seat currently held by Glen Kersenbrock, who hasn't yet decided if he will run again.

Republican Andrea M. Wyrick is seeking to fill the county attorney position currently held by Democrat Laurence A. Taylor.

County Register of Deeds Maybelle Moore, Republican, and County Treasurer Donita Applebury, Democrat, have both filed for re-election.

Several township trustee positions are also up for grabs. Republican Robert L. Siruta is running for Kingery Township Trustee; Barry B. Kaaz, Republican, has filed for Summers Township Trustee; and Republican Jack Steiger is running for Menlo Township Trustee.

Republican Denny Burk and Democrat Rosalie Seemann have both filed to run for East Hale committeewoman. Mike Baughn, Republican, has filed for the West Hale committeeman position.

Session ends without school dollars

By JOHN MILBURN

Associated Press Writer

TOPEKA (AP) — Legislators ended their session without approving a school finance plan, and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has suggested she might call them into special session later this year to seek additional money for education.

The last proposal considered by legislators would have raised \$82 million for elementary and secondary schools by borrowing transportation funds. Sebelius labeled the idea "the height of irresponsibility."

The Senate approved it on a 26-10 vote Saturday. But in the House, where a bipartisan coalition had previously approved tax increases to benefit schools, members voted 75-41 against the measure.

Republican leaders decided there would be no more attempts to pass a school finance measure. Legislators adjourned the session on its 89th day.

"We just ran out of ideas," said House Speaker Doug Mays, R-To-

peka. "The only people who have the right to point fingers are the children."

After the House vote, Sebelius issued a statement saying legislators "couldn't summon the courage to meet the challenge." The Democratic governor also noted that a legal challenge to the state's school finance system is pending with the Kansas Supreme Court.

"Once the court has issued its order, I will decide whether to call the Legislature back to finish the job they've left undone," Sebelius said. The last special session was 1989.

Under the \$82 million plan, transportation funds set aside for the Kansas Highway Patrol and Division of Vehicles would have been diverted to public schools in June 2005, at the end of the upcoming fiscal year.

The money would have been replaced in July 2005 — after the following fiscal year began. That accounting maneuver would have been similar to a payday loan for an

individual Kansan.

The new money would have been added to the \$2.77 billion in state aid to school districts already approved for the 2004-05 school year. Schools would have received an extra \$30 in general state aid per pupil, raising it to \$3,893.

The state also would have provided \$28.9 million in block grants and more money for programs for at-risk, bilingual and special education. Republican leaders who backed the plan said they were trying to help schools without increasing taxes.

The \$82 million would have been the largest annual increase in state support for elementary and secondary education since the current school finance formula was enacted in 1992.

"I don't understand why people who voted for a tax increase refused to allow schools to have this very real, very spendable money," said Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

Briefly

Flea market donations needed

The Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council is sponsoring its annual flea market. As in years past, organizers are taking donations, which will be tax deductible. Anyone who would like to contribute can do so by dropping items off Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the old Taylor Motors Building (next to Service Oil) 445 N. Lake, Colby. Larger or bulkier items can be picked up on request by calling the ADAC office. This year's flea market will be held Saturday, May 22, at 8 a.m. For other questions, or to request a pickup, call 462-6111.

Colby College commencement nears

The Colby Community College will celebrate its 39th annual commencement starting at 2 p.m., Saturday, in the Colby Community Building. This year's commencement speaker is Sen. Stephen Morris of Hugoton. In addition to degrees and certificates being presented to students, the honorary associate degree will be given to Kenton and Sheila Krehbiel. Other awards include the Mosier Award to the year's outstanding graduate and the Tangeman Award to the

college's distinguished teacher in 2004. For questions, call Debbie Schwanke, 462-3984, ext. 249.

Two school concerts Tuesday

Colby Public Schools will host two "Pops" concerts on Tuesday at both the grade school and high school auditorium, said Amanda Kidder, music instructor. The first concert will begin at 6 p.m. at Colby Grade School's auditorium with middle school singers and band members presenting, "A Night of Disney Favorites." The second concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby High School auditorium with high school singers and band members presenting, "Chart Toppers." Those participating in the two concerts were selected from auditions, she said. For questions, call either 460-5200 or 460-5300.

Scouts seeking donations

Two Colby girl scouts from Troop 162 are making hygiene and comfort disaster relief packages to benefit the Thomas County Red Cross. Jessica Kennedy and Sarah Oesterreich, girl scouts, have left boxes at Colby Photo, Pioneer Memorial Library, College Drive Assembly, the Berean Church or

the *Colby Free Press*, for donations. For questions, call Deanna Oesterreich, 462-3267.

College spring concert

The Colby Community College Vocal and Instrumental Music Departments will present their annual "Spring Concert" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The concert which will be held in the Cultural Arts Center on the college campus.

Fair board to meet

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Items on the agenda include Thomas County Extension Agent report, financial report and bills, committee reports on the buildings and grounds, carnival, rodeo, parade, demolition derby, races, fair book and advertising.

Driver's license office closes

The Kansas Department of Revenue Driver's License Division in Colby will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday for office training.



Thunderstorms

Colby, Oakley, Hoxie area

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southeast winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Windy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Thursday...**Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 70.

The numbers

Sunday's high, 88
Low this morning, 57
Records for May 10, 92 in 1893 and 27 in 1981
Year ago today, 51 and 42
Weekend precipitation, 0.02
May total, 0.09
Soil temperature, 72

The sources:

The forecast is from the National Weather Service, and other numbers are from the Northwest Research-Extension Center, Colby. A recorded forecast updated throughout the day is available by calling (785) 899-7119. Current temperatures are available by calling 460-TEMP.

