

# Brewster community mourns loss of lifelong resident

The community was saddened by the death of a young family man earlier this week and we send our condolences to his wife, children, parents and brothers.

Tom Baird, area farmer, passed away at Citizens Medical Center in Colby following a short illness on June 25. His funeral was held in Colby on Tuesday, June 29 with burial in Colby. Tom graduated



**Sally Michael**  
• Brewster Correspondent

from Brewster in 1972 and lived all his life in the area. His wife, Kathy, is with the local school system and

his children Andrie, Melissa and Benjamin are students in the local school. Again, our sympathy to this family on their loss.

During the week, LaVelle Michael was visited while in the hospital by Fred Jr. and Rae Solomon of Houston and by Brian and Michele Michael and Sam and Hannah of Bennington plus many others from the area. LaVelle is now at his

home in Brewster and doing a little better.

Speaking of doing better, we were able to observe Maurita Musil walking by the Senior Center the other day and it is good to see her doing so well. She has had an uphill battle with leg problems but she is doing much better and it is good to see.

Another person that it is good to

see doing so great is Alvin Helin since he has had his knee surgery. It makes one feel good to see how much easier he is walking after having the surgery several months ago. His family is very happy about it also.

Roger and I went to Hays following church on Sunday and returned home Monday evening. We like to time it to have supper with our

friends in the Oakley area on our return trip and it worked out for that this time. While we were in Hays we visited with our daughter and family, Beth and David Ziegler and also had a chance to visit with Brian and Michele while they were returning to Bennington after being in Colby. The weather was so great, just the right coolness and it was nice to visit family as always.

Harvest is not swinging very hard this year but there is quite a bit of cutting going on.

The yields are pretty light and I don't think anyone is very happy with the results but fortunately, the farmer always looks forward to next year with optimism.

It seems like it is a long time until election and I don't know if we'll be able to handle all the ads that we'll be subjected to until then but there are some things that I really don't think I'll be able to handle. The editorial cartoons seem to be especially vicious and all the folks that seem to have such a strong hatred for some.

I know who I support and most who know me would be able to guess. But it is no up to me to tell others how horrible the other person is and I don't want them telling me their opinions unless they preface their remarks with that phrase— "IN MY OPINION."

There's a big difference between facts and opinions and I think they need clarification. And I don't think there needs to be much hatred, it doesn't look good on Americans. See you all next week!

# Colby students finish best in nation in technology event

For nearly 4,000 Technology Student Association members nationwide, school's end represents the time to head to the technology annual national conference to compete in more than 60 competitive events based on principals learned through projects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Taking place at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. from June 20-24, the 26th annual



J. Morgan



S. Waterman

conference recognizes the technological future of its youth and the nation by "Visualizing The Next 25 Years of Excellence."

Students in attendance from Colby High School were Shane Waterman, John Morgan and Brian Saddler, said Don Balluch, one of the two sponsors from Colby.

The other sponsor was Curt Beringer.

"John and Shane competed in

construction systems, structural engineering and technology problem solving," he said. "The pair did extremely well."

Balluch said the two high school juniors finished first in the nation in construction systems and ninth in technology problem solving.

Brian Saddler competed in dragster design and flight endurance, he said.

"Along with Brian's events he was kept busy filling in as a state

officer," Balluch said.

Saddler was elected state treasurer for the 2004-05 year but the officer for this conference could not make it so Saddler filled the spot, Balluch added.

"The students had a great time and represented Colby High School well," he said.

As for the students, all three said it was a great experience and they wanted to thank everyone who helped them go to nationals.

# Committee concludes intelligence failed worldwide

FORT LEAVENWORTH (AP) — The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee has concluded that a global intelligence failure led to the belief that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction before the war in Iraq began, the committee's chairman said Thursday.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said he expects his committee to release at least part of the report next week, probably Wednesday.

Interviewed after a groundbreaking ceremony for a new building, Roberts said the report generally concludes that intelligence agencies worldwide engineered an "assumption train" that led them to conclude that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction.

Roberts said various Iraqi military officials thought other Iraqi officials controlled weapons of mass destruction, and also said there was evidence that Iraq was poised to become the "Grand Central Station" of a trade in such weapons.

"These conclusions literally beg for changes within the intelligence

community," he said. "What we had was a worldwide intelligence failure."

In Washington, the House Armed Services Committee's senior Democrat, Missouri Rep. Ike Skelton, said the conclusions "could very well be correct."

"The intelligence we got, particularly on Iraq and regarding weapons of mass destruction, just didn't turn out to be correct," Skelton said.

And Roberts suggested that even Saddam himself believed his regime had weapons of mass destruction.

"People who had the WMD and all of that either kept it, sold it, hid it, so on and so forth," Roberts said. "Saddam, I think, still thinks today that he had it."

Roberts said the committee found that intelligence agencies did not rely enough on what he called "human intelligence" gathering after 1998.

And after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he said, intelligence agencies were more likely to base conclusions on incomplete infor-

mation because they were worried about further attack.

"What you had was a great intelligence assumption train," he said. "Everybody assumed that Saddam Hussein would reconstitute his program."

"There was a lot of empirical evidence in regards to ties to terrorism, and so the assumption train just added on more cars."

"It wasn't backed up by the necessary backup to make those kind of conclusions."

Last month, former chief U.S. weapons inspector David Kay suggested that no stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction will be found in Iraq.

HAYS (AP) — A Texas man charged in the beating death of a Fort Hays State University freshman in November pleaded no contest Thursday to a lower charge.

Christopher Ross, 19, of Wylie, Texas, entered his plea to a count of involuntary manslaughter as part of

Such weapons were a reason President Bush's administration gave for going to war last year.

But Roberts also quoted what he said was Kay's conclusion: "That country had become a very chaotic state and was about to be Grand Central Station for the real proliferation of weapons of mass destruction — you know, willing buyer, willing seller."

Furthermore Roberts said, "When we talk to some of the military generals of the Iraqi Republican Guard, one general will say, 'I thought General So-and-so had it.' You talk to General So-and-so, and he says, 'I thought he had it.' Saddam thought he had it as well."

series of fights between the buildings and in the parking lot of an apartment complex north of campus during the early morning hours of Nov. 13. He died two days later.

The four were also charged with aggravated battery for their roles in fights with others that morning.

Roberts said the panel will make its conclusions public, but he doesn't know how much supporting information will be included because of ongoing discussions with the Central Intelligence Agency about how much material must remain classified.

For weeks, the committee and the CIA had been in conflict about how much of the material in the reports must remain classified.

Robert said initially the CIA removed more than half of the information in the 410-page report.

Roberts said the changes "eviscerated" the report, but he still hopes to see at least 80 percent of it made public.

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