



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

College students, others honored

By **Patty Decker**
Free Press Editor

More than 300 Colby Community College students received diplomas or certificates during commencement Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

Others were recognized for their contributions to the college.

College President Skip Sharp awarded Jay Donelan and Betty and the late Jim Firestone as this year's honorary associate degree recipients. Jim Firestone was the first to receive the degree posthumously.

Sharp also presented the Dr. Richard Mosier Award to Ivana Stojadinov of Centa, Serbia. The Mosier Award is named for the first president of the school and given to an outstanding student.

"Ivana maintained a 3.85 grade point average and was captain of the Lady Trojan basketball team in 2004-05 and 2005-06," Sharp said. Sharp explained how Ivana was unable to play her first year because of a knee injury, but was still named captain of the team.

"We have a tremendous group of international students from Japan, Korea, the middle East, eastern Europe, and Canada, and

they teach us too."

"I am so proud to be at Colby and really sad to leave," Stojadinov said. She also expressed thanks to the staff and students for all their support.

Dr. Kristen Bishop, dean of curriculum, recognized Carol Barnes as the outstanding instructor and recipient of the Dr. James H. Tangeman Award. Tangeman was the second president of Colby College.

Barnes said when she accepted the job 19 years ago, she didn't know where Colby was.

"I am glad I found it, and my colleagues and students. I will never forget this place," she said.

Barnes joins the list of other Tangeman award recipients in recent years to include Vernon Wranosky, Bob Selby, Sandy Harper, Tom Moorhous, Joan Jilka and Steve Lampe. The award was first presented to Dr. Max Pickerill in 1988.

Sharp gave one degree posthumously to Justin Cosco, who died in a car accident in April.

Commencement speaker Dr. Don Coldsmith, spoke about "a job," and how he learned to do various jobs early in his career.

While attending medical school, Coldsmith served part time as a



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College students, left to right, Dawn Bear, Rachel Augustine, Tyler Asher and Carlan Arthur looked over the com-

mencement ceremony Saturday at the Colby Community Building. More than 300 degrees were awarded.

minister; worked in a mail order gunsmithing business, night man at a marina and went on to graduate, write, raise livestock and be a doc-

tor. His jobs continued when his children were growing up, having spent 17 years involved as a 4-H leader.

"A job is something you do well," he said. "I tried to do all the jobs I had well and I had a strong feeling of enjoyment." Coldsmith said he

learned from every job he ever did. "I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up," he said.

Youth center: It's not a matter of if, but when

By **John Van Nostrand**
Colby Free Press

Failure is not an option for Todd Stramel.

Stramel, who has led an effort to open a youth center in Colby, informed Colby Chamber of Commerce members Friday of the latest developments of the facility. To end all doubts, he emphasized the center will happen.

"It is going to happen," he said. "It is a matter of when."

Stramel speculated the center to open in two years.

For the past several months a group of people interested in such a center have met on a regular basis. Stramel said from that group, a core committee was formed and is meeting every week.

The committee has been involved in various aspects for preparing the facility.

Negotiations are being held of acquiring property. Stramel said the location is undisclosed.

The project has received donations even though the committee has not formally had fundraisers.

The committee is also applying

for a non-profit status.

"We have money coming in," Stramel said.

What is proposed for the facility is diverse. Stramel said amenities from go-carts, batting cages, a skatepark, performance stage and sound system, golf simulator, coffee shop and meeting rooms have all been discussed.

"You will need to go to at least Wichita for something like this, but I don't know if there is something like this there," Stramel said.

The committee is preparing a budget in correlation with what will

first be implemented at the center.

"We are researching those activities," Stramel said.

"We do have sketches of layout, square foot needs and cost."

That does not mean the center will open with all of those activities. Stramel expects the center to be built in phases.

"It will be mammoth," he said.

In other chamber news...

• New chamber director Holly Stephens begins work this week. Stephens, from Goodland, graduated from Fort Hays State University.

Jada Tubbs served as interim director.

• Horlacher Jeweler owner Jeff Horlacher received the Plains Spirit Award from Steve Rozell of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Wichita District Office.

The award is given by SBA to recognize a small retail or service

business for its success and contribution to the community. Horlacher was nominated for the award by Fort Hays State University Small Business Development Center.

The Wichita district office served 77 counties in central and western Kansas.

• A caravan of vehicles commemorating the 50th anniversary of the interstate system in America will drive through Colby June 21 on Interstate 70.

Those interested in seeing the vehicles are encouraged to watch from the exit 54 overpass.



J. Horlacher

Seniors asked to serve

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Service and gratitude was the theme of graduation at Brewster High School Saturday.

Thirteen students were awarded their diplomas during the commencement ceremony.

"Everyone of you played a role in helping us meet our potential," class president Aaron Horinek told the audience.

Horinek introduced graduation speaker Jay Kelley of Colby. He is pastor at Colby Church of Christ, commander of the Colby Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and serves as a substitute teacher at Brewster High School.

Kelley talked about living a fulfilled life, and what it means to serve one's community or country.

"You who are seniors will become more responsible," he said.

Instead of searching for happiness, Kelley said students should seek to be fulfilled.

"If you seek to be fulfilled, you can lead a happy life," he said.

Kelley suggested graduates should find places to serve and several of them have already done that.

"Moving away for college or to



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

The Brewster High School class of 2006 moved their tassels after receiving their diplomas during commencement ceremonies Saturday at the high school. Thirteen students graduated.

start lives doesn't mean you can't find opportunities to serve. Don't hide at home.

"Be involved in your community," Kelley said. "Do something that makes a difference in your community."

Kelley said students should serve their creator.

The nation's forefathers came to this country so they could worship as they pleased, and that is a heritage that has been passed down to today.

"It will take courage and work,

but it will be worth it," Kelley said.

He told the graduates they have the opportunity to change the world for the better. It is an opportunity that can frighten or motivate, and he hopes it motivates them.

Valedictorian Karman Selby and Salutatorian Caitlan Rush also spoke.

Selby said he knows some of his fellow graduates will be glad to get away from Brewster, but the community will miss them as well.

He said he and his classmates appreciated what their teachers and

families have done for them.

"It's been a really good time," Selby said.

Thirteen students graduated from Brewster. They are: Sarah LeAnn Albers, Amy Shawn Carpenter, Jonathan Theodore Collett, Megan Elizabeth Fulwider, Branson William Gilley, Cory James Grantz, Aaron Michael Horinek, Kyle Andrew O'Connor, Jalyn Kristine Reid, Caitlan Rose Rush, Karman Adriel Selby, Garrett Lee Smith and Kasie LaShae Stevenson.

Golden Plains grads thank community

By **Tisha Cox**
Colby Free Press

Memories punctuated graduation exercises at Rexford Sunday.

Fifteen seniors received their diplomas at Golden Plains High School in Rexford.

Salutatorian Scott Johnston started off the ceremony with his speech.

He said three phrases commonly heard at the high school were the hallmark of the class' years there.

They are "man it's cold in here," "I'll be glad to leave" and "man, it's cold in here."

Johnston said moving past high school is important, but his message to students was to not forget what they have at home.

"It's great to look forward to growing up and leading a life," he said.

"Don't take what you have here for granted."

Support can come from family, friends or a teacher and Johnston said the community supported the class no matter what.

Co-valedictorians Jessica Shaw and Valerie Broeckelman also spoke.

"We finally made it," Shaw said. The class' success could also be attributed to their parents and the community.

She thanked them all for their support.

"As the class goes its separate ways, they need to have pride in their community," Shaw said. "We

must seize our future and take it into our own hands."

Broeckelman said the community and their teachers had a significant impact, along with their families.

"You encouraged us and pushed us often unknowingly to be better," she said. "You have made all the difference."

The graduation address was given by Golden Plains math instructor Kenneth Kinkade.

Kinkade said he was proud of the class for reaching graduation, which is an opportunity many people in other countries do not have.

"The students have been given the basic tools needed to make decisions based on logic and understanding rather than emotion or ignorance," he said.

Though the world has many issues, such as war and global warming, it can be made a better place.

"This is what you're faced with," Kinkade said, "your mission should be to make the world a better place to live."

Graduating Sunday were: Ashley Katherine Albers, Valerie Robin Broeckelman, Jennifer Lynn Eatherly, Daniel Amos Johnson, Scott Allen Johnston, Mark Daniel Juenemann, Joshua Roy Lahnanen, Sean Thomas McCurdy, Jessica Dawn Shaw, Christopher Lee Springer, Linda Leigh Trevino, Joshua Joseph Vahling, Hannah Sabrina Wallersheim, John Michael Wilson and Aaron John Woods.