



# COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

# Students say farewell

## Colby college, Brewster, Golden Plains hold graduations

### Centurion urges graduates to search for good health

By **Patty Decker**  
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More than 300 Colby Community College students learned to live life to the fullest during commencement ceremonies Saturday at the Colby Community Building. The advice came from a man living in his second century. Commencement speaker Ralph Waldo McBurney, 105, of Quinter asked graduates how long they expect to use their education. "Are you looking at 25, 50, 75 years?" he said. "At the age of 90, I was still paying into Social Security - still able to do a man's work," he said. McBurney said graduates are living in a different time from when he was in the workforce.

When he was 80, he set a Kansas state record for the 10-mile run for runners his age and went on to set records in running, long jump, discus and shot put into his 90s and 100s at the Senior Olympics and World Masters in New York, England and Puerto Rico. "You need to live the right way," he said. "What you are going to do about time in service depends on you." Part of the answer depends on 30 percent ancestry and "70 percent on you," he said. "Three things (when looking at time in the workforce) will depend on how we eat, exercise, and think," McBurney said, "and anger is another killer." The way someone thinks, he said, has a lot to do with how long a person lives. "Too many jobs today have people sitting," he said. As children, most did a lot of eating and didn't know when to stop, McBurney said. "You need to think about what you eat and how much - nutrition is the key. When I was young, a nutritional tip was not pouring the water out when cooking vegetables because the needed minerals would be lost," he said. "I didn't pour the water out of vegetables - but instead used the water on other things."



Colby Community College graduate Megan Prather, left, points her family out to college President Dr. Lynn Kreider during graduation ceremonies Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Prather won the Dr. Richard Mosier award.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby College President Lynn Kreider presented the Dr. Richard Mosier award given each year to an outstanding student of the year. "This year's recipient is Megan Prather," he said. Prather was selected based on many attributes to include being a presidential scholar. "After graduation, Megan, a business major, plans to attend Fort Hays State University for a degree in management and return to Colby Community College for a dental hygienist degree," he said. The Mosier award is named after the first president of the college and recognizes students with outstanding achievement. John Olson, the chair of math and sciences division, presented the Dr. Tangeman Award. This year's honor went to Dr. Max Pickerill, chemistry instructor, for his love of students and teaching them. "One time," Olson said, "Pick as so many know him, was asked 'What did he teach?'" Pickerill, with a glimmer, told the person, "I teach students." "One of his single most accomplishments," Olson said, "is working with students." Due to health problems, Pickerill is recuperating at home and was unable to attend the commencement ceremony. "I have never met anyone with a more kinder, gentler and more caring heart," Olson said. "He genuinely loves the college, community and loves you the students," he said. Pickerill received a standing ovation from the students and the hundreds of family and friends attending the commencement. Kreider presented the honorary degree to Joe Mildrexler, who was the dean of community services. Mildrexler was recognized for his work in the community since 1986, he said. The honorary degree, Kreider said, requires a person or persons to have a strong Thomas County background, be a person showing volunteerism and careerism and must have rendered service beyond self. In front of his wife, Mella, and daughters, Donella and Janella and their families, Mildrexler accepted the award. "In my 42 years, I have not missed an opportunity to serve the community," Mildrexler said.

### Brewster learns from the funny pages

By **Avery Schultz**  
for the Colby Free Press

Sixteen Brewster High School seniors received their diplomas Saturday at Brewster High School's commencement exercises. Students were Amanda Kay Albers, Abbie Marie Allen, Melissa Kaylee Baird, Michael Wesley Collett, Michael Lawrence Eicher, Joshua Wade Mazanec, Jance Lucas McKee, Kily Camille Miller, Hayley Arielle Rice, Kayla Marie Ryan, Corey Curtis Siruta, Hillary Natasha Starbuck, Tanner Jordan Swanson, David Paul Bendixen Trow, Baylee Rachelle Westover and Christopher Kyle Williams. The class colors were white and gold, the flower—a white rose, the class chose the saying "If you think you can or you think you can't... you're right," as their class motto. Junior leaders were Melissa Crumrine and T.J. Preston. Class president, Abbie Allen welcomed those in attendance, board of education and others in attendance, followed by Dee



Brewster graduate Melissa Baird, left, showed pictures with schoolmate Ashton Domsch during graduation day Saturday.

EVERY SCHULTZ/for the Colby Free Press

Depe, Brewster High School's English teacher delivering the address. Depe opened by drawing from the wisdom of the comic strip Peanuts by Charles Schulz. She explained to the students three key points which Schulz conveyed through his characters and their particular personalities. "It's OK to be afraid, just don't let your fears control you. Charlie Brown often sat in bed and spoke of his fears, but no matter how scared he was, he always did what he wanted to do. Even though he

knew Lucy was going to pull the football away before he kicked it, even though he knew the tree was going to eat his kite, even though he knew his team would lose the ballgame—he kept on trying." She went on to explain how characters like Pigpen and Linus were often regarded unkindly because of their odd habits—being a walking ball of dust and dirt and carrying a security blanket, respectively, but they were always proud of themselves and believed

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### Identity is key for Golden Plains class

By **Joey Falkoff**  
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They never claimed to be the most accomplished. In fact, the Golden Plains class of 2008 is well aware those in years past have won more games or set more records. But those types of things were never what mattered most to them anyway. For the 16 members this year's Bulldog graduating class, simply doing it their way and staying true to themselves in the process was satisfaction enough. "Our class is nothing short of unique," said senior co-valedictorian Caitlyn Moss during Sunday's graduation ceremony inside a packed high school gymnasium. "We may have never been the most popular class—or the most athletic—or even outgoing. However, we've always been accepting, independent and most admirably nothing more than just ourselves. We aren't afraid to be who we are and we'd never expect anyone to



Golden Plains senior Andrew Broeckelman, right, hugged his father Joe Broeckelman after receiving his diploma at Sunday's graduation ceremony in Rexford.

JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

be someone they're not." Moss, who will be attending Fort Hays State in the fall, went on to describe her 15 classmates as "a family" and pointed out a characteristic about each of them she will always remember. "We've fought, cried, laughed together and most importantly we've grown up together," said Moss. "Take a piece of each one of your classmates as you reach

for your dreams." Co-Valedictorian Andrew Broeckelman, who will attend Kansas State University next year, also provided many poignant moments in his speech, which included a story about he and fellow classmate Devin Spresser getting caught in poison ivy. "One of us scratched at it and had to go to the hospital, the other

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## Briefly

**Fire hydrants to be tested**  
Colby Fire Department plans to flow-test fire hydrants across town beginning Tuesday. The tests are to see how well the hydrants work. Testing may cause disruption in plumbing in houses. Those with concerns are urged to call the Colby Fire Department or Colby City Hall.

**Concert rescheduled**  
Due to regional softball on Tuesday, the Colby High School "Pops" Concert has been rescheduled to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, in the Colby High School auditorium. The Colby Middle School Spring Concert will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, in the grade school auditorium.

**Assembly planned May 13**  
Colby High School's All-School Student Awards assembly starts at 2:35 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, in the auditorium. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend. Cameras are welcome. For questions, call 460-5300.

"academic and scholarship award winners will be recognized for their accomplishments." Everyone is encouraged to attend in honoring this year's graduating class, she said. For questions, call 460-5300.

**Art on display**  
Student works are currently on display in the Colby Community College Art Gallery located in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center. The public is invited to view the works which will be on display through Friday.

**Football meeting set**  
The Colby High School football team is holding a parents meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 17, in the high school auditorium. For questions, call head coach Chris Gardner, 460-5200.

**Senior awards May 15**  
The 2007-08 Colby High School senior awards night begins at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, in the school's auditorium. "During the course of the evening," said Kyle Cersovsky, one of the organizers,

**Grass, garbage don't mix**  
Colby residents are being reminded that solid waste garbage and grass clippings cannot be placed in the same green trash bin. "Grass needs to be separated or it will be left," said Chris Bieker, public utilities director. If residents do not have a grass sticker and need one, they can call 460-4420.

**Worn-out flags wanted**