

Thank You... For your Dedication and Hard Work!



Left to right: Cheryl Cooper, Sharon Woofter, Pat Sloan, Marilyn Meyer.

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Pictured, Left to right: Shannon Myers and Susan Holzmeister

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Convention manager

By Vera Sloan

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Most people who start out in pursuit of a degree in animal science normally don't end up in a successful career in the food and beverage industry.

But for Julie Saddler, manager of the Com-

fort Inn Convention Center, normal doesn't figure into her days.

"No two days are the same," she said, "however, I love every bit of what I do. I feel very blessed to have a job I love, an incredible staff and a great boss."

Saddler said she started out waiting tables in high school and college and after working at a horse breeding facility in Oklahoma, she



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Preparing food for 500 people is not a problem for Julie Saddler, manager at the Comfort Inn Convention Center. She has been successfully planning events both large and small for over 20 years.

Well-traveled librarian

By Vera Sloan

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The song, "I've Been Everywhere, Man, I've Been Everywhere," could well be the theme for Melany Wilks, head librarian at Pioneer Memorial Library.

Wilks, who has lived in Colby a little over two years, said she actually grew up all over the United States because her father was in the military, and after worked for General Dynamics, doing government contracting, finally ended up as a truck driver.

She calls California home, and attended school there as well as in Oklahoma, Texas, Rhode Island and Idaho.

She said her working career started when she went to work at the age of 19 as a receptionist for a home builder.

She attended junior college in Redwood City, Calif., and finished her bachelor's degree in religious education at the International Correspondence Institute.

She was raised in the Presbyterian church in San Martin, Calif. Her great-grandfather, who was a foreman for California cattle baron Henry Miller of the famous Miller and Lux Land Co., built the church. Church was more than a generational value, she said, it has always been an important part of her life.

She said the ranch house her parents lived in

burned and they sold the ranch, so she helped her parents get into the restaurant business. She met her husband Sandy, a U.S. Customs worker, and four years later they left for a missions training trip to the Philippines, Hong Kong, South Korea and China. After spending time in those locations, they went on to work with people on Smoky Mountain, a part of Balut Tondo and greater Manila.

"There we did missions work sponsoring 750 kids into public education," Wilks said.

While she was there, she also worked at the Asia Pacific Theology Seminary in Baguio, Philippines, and worked at the library there for eight years. She never gave a thought about being interested in library work as a career until then.

Wilks got a masters of theology while in the Philippines. She studied and worked at the same time, and said her work in the multicultural library reassured her that library was a full-fledged career she would pursue.

She finished her Masters Library Information Service degree in San Jose, Calif., after 13 years in the Philippines.

"I had about 12 years in it before coming from California to Colby," she said. "We immediately loved Colby. It has home-town values, and the people here make choices on values that will last."

She said she could see staying here forever, and feels no pull to go back to California.