

enjoys event planning

transferred to Colby Community College to pursue her education in animal science.

She got her real start in the food and beverage industry by working two years with the Ramada Inn Restaurant, and then the Quality Inn. She also split her time at the Ramada and Quality Inn by spending 18 summers off and on with the Jim Deibert harvest crew.

"Waiting tables wasn't the first and only experience I had with food," Saddler said. "Family and cooking sort of went together when I was a girl growing up in Omaha. My grandmother was an incredible cook, and my mom followed in my grandmother's footsteps. Out of the four kids in my family, three wound up with careers in the food and beverage industry."

She said the best part of her job is interacting with people.

Although she has no formal training in the food industry, Saddler attend workshops, observes and learns. She plans food events for crowds as large as 500 plus, and as small as a few people for a luncheon. She has a full catering menu, and caters meals and finger food events to businesses, retirement functions. They also go into private homes to do parties, provide cocktail waitresses and clean up for private parties. They can prepare the food and cater it in, or come and do the cooking and clean up in the individual's home, she said.

Food for 500 isn't a big deal, Saddler said. The kitchen at the convention center is entirely different from the City Limits restaurant

kitchen in that it is set up for feeding larger numbers of people.

As far as recipes go, she said they come to her from nearly everywhere. She said her greatest pleasure is to please people, especially when they have a special event.

She serves 40 to 45 wedding receptions a year, from small to extravagant, and it's not unusual for her to work 17 hours a day when she does wedding receptions.

Saddler said her vision when she was hired to fill the job at the convention center was to have the best in Western Kansas.

"My boss asked me what I needed to make that happen," she said, "and he gave me all the tools I needed to do it.

"That vision is coming to fruition," she added, "because companies who are needing to hold meetings in western Kansas, plan on doing it in Colby, and we are having good repeat business."

Saddler said the staff has had almost no turnover in her six and a half years.

"It couldn't happen without my amazing staff," she said. "I have never had to let any one go. I have lost two people, and it was because they moved away to other things."

For fun, Sadler likes to help her husband Chuck with the cattle, and even leaves the job for an hour once in a while to help him move farm equipment from field to field.

"That wouldn't be possible either, if I didn't have the staff and boss I have here," she said. "They are all just the best."

loves reaching readers

Wilks enjoys her duties at Pioneer Memorial, and works closely with the board of trustees to establish policies, directs the creation of the budget, manages the building, personnel policies and most of all enjoys working with the public.

She is also an avid reader, and skims and reads five to six books, and has read as many as 10 in a week.

"I don't speed read," she said, "I skim."

She said the least favorite part of her job is if she has to tell some one "no."

"I love customer service," Wilks said, "and in life I try to make the best of every situation."

She has gotten involved in groups such as the Rotary Club, the American Association of University Women, Western Plains Arts Council, Thomas County Coalition, Thomas County Foundation and, of course, her church.



VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Head librarian Melany Wilks may use computers a lot, but she hasn't lost her love of reading. Wilks said she often reads as many as 10 books a week.

Thank You...
for all your hard work...

Left to right: Kathie Burnett, Jatou Denneler and Nicolle Brocklehurst

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Pictured Back Row, Left to right: Karen Shoemaker, Sharon Bieker, Velma Goodheart, Peggy Young, Sharon Funk, Janet Hopson and Karen Parks. Front Row, Left to right: Megan Kirby, Katie Golemboski, Ashley Moser, Marla Wozniak, Sondra Stephens and Peg Tole. Not Pictured: Debra Wood, Lisa Wilson, Karla Haggard, Kaitlyn Albers, Jacque Golemboski, and Tonjau Brown.

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