



# COLBY FREE PRESS

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Monday

May 9, 2011  
Volume 122, Number 73  
Serving Thomas County since 1888

8 pages

## Golden Plains graduates 27 students

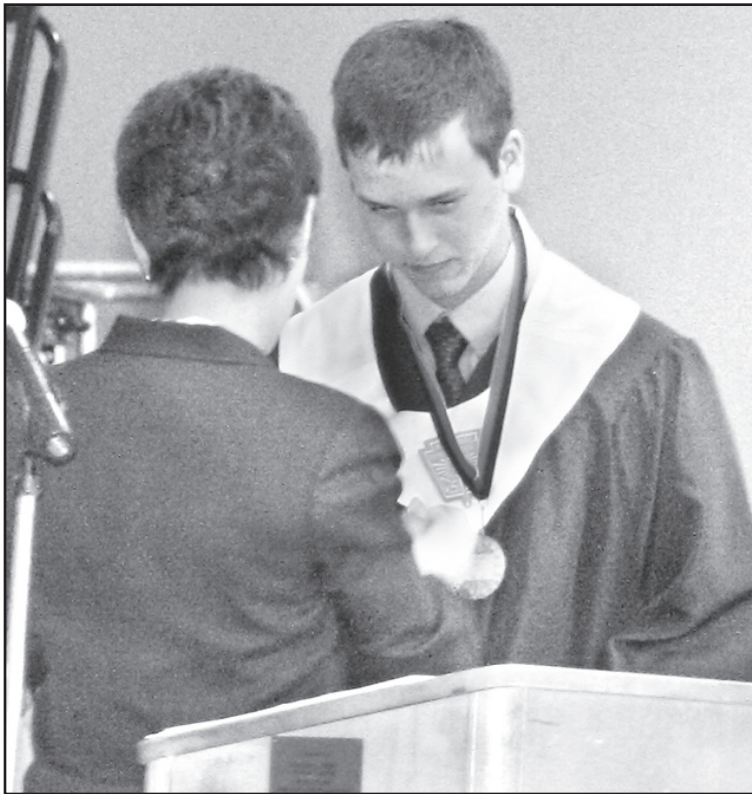
Golden Plains High School kicked off commencement season Sunday by graduating its largest class in history.

Twenty-seven students received their diplomas on Sunday at the high school in Rexford. The next largest class was in 1969, the school's first year after consolidation, when 26 students graduated.

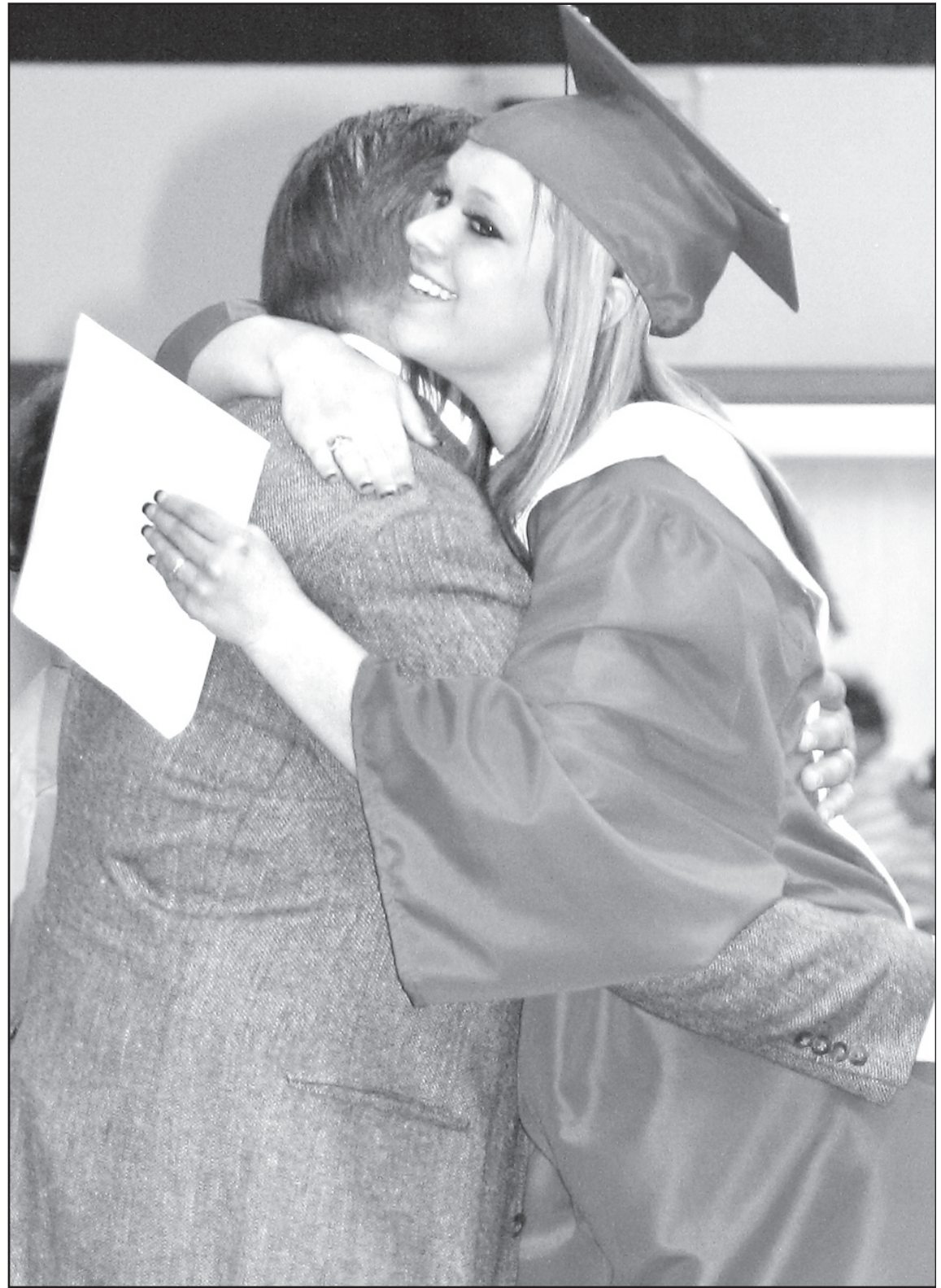
"I am proud of each and every one of these students," said Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshhoh. "They have worked hard to reach their graduation goals. They all have the potential to be successful in whatever their future holds."

Student graduating were: Yajaira Ramirez, Laura Clapp, Randi Cressler, Avery Spresser, Rachel Bomba, Evelin Aragon, Karina Munoz, McKayla Albertson, Breanna Blackheart, Brandy Gilbert, Arianna Valdez, Susana Galvan, Dani Weed, Brady Ginther, Ryan Ptashkin, Jacy Moss, Melissa Ritter, Marissa Mosier, Tate Preston, Eli Garcia, Aaron Emigh, Casey Gould, Taylor Cumbee, Devinn Ritter, Rilee Spresser, Lucas Phillips and David Hunt.

Lucas Phillips was this year's valedictorian.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School  
Golden Plains High School valedictorian Lucas Phillips (above) received his medal from Superintendent Mary Ellen Welshhoh on Sunday. Graduate Jacy Moss (right) gave her dad Terry Moss a hug after receiving her diploma from him at the school's graduation ceremony Sunday.



### Area schools plan commencement ceremonies

**Heartland Christian School:** Graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday in the school gym. Last day of school is Wednesday, May 18.

**Colby Community College:** Nurses' pinning ceremony at 10 a.m. and graduation at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Colby Community Building. Last day of school is Tuesday.

**Brewster:** Baccalaureate at 2 p.m. and graduation at 4 p.m. Saturday at the school. Eighth grade graduation will be at 10 a.m. at the school. Last day of school is Thursday.

**Colby Public Schools:** Baccalaureate at 1:30 p.m. and graduation at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Community Building. The last day of school is Thursday, May 19.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School:** Last day of school is Thursday.

**Golden Plains:** Last day of school is Thursday.



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press  
Sunflower Bank Vice President Darrell Pabst handed donations to (from left) Regina Johnson, Brewster Schools; Mary Ellen Welshhoh, Golden Plains; Renee Schmeiser, Heartland Christian School; Terrel Harrison, Colby Public Schools; and Dave Evert, Sacred Heart Catholic School.

### Bank distributes donations to schools

Sunflower Bank has donated \$2,296 to Thomas County schools.

The bank's "ABC: Be True to Our Schools" program, which is put on in the first quarter of every year, allows customers who sign up to donate money to specific schools. The bank pays 10 cents for each debit card transaction to the customer's designated school. That program netted \$1,976 for area districts.

The bank also has a Pay-For-A's contest, in which six randomly-drawn students earn donations for their schools for each A they earn during the school year. This year's winners earned \$320 for their schools for a total of \$2,296 spread between Heartland Christian School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Colby Public

Schools, the Golden Plains School District and the Brewster School District.

"There's no doubt this is our favorite time of year, said Colby branch President Jim Stanley. "We're privileged to invest in our schools, and we're thankful for the partnership with schools and with our customers. Each year, our customers rise to the challenge and we're pleased to offer our support."

Sunflower Bank Vice President Darrell Pabst presented the donations to representatives from the schools in a small ceremony Thursday.

Nationwide the bank gave \$86,293 in donations from the ABC program, the highest total in its 10-year history. Since it began, the program has gotten more than half a million dollars for schools.

### Six place at state forensics

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
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Six Colby High School students placed in the top six in their events at the 4A State Speech/Drama Championship Tournament on Saturday in Topeka.

In solo events, Michael Tubbs placed third in Lincoln/Douglas debate; Shelby Terrell, third in humorous solo acting; and Gabby Browne, sixth in serious solo acting.

In duo events, Christina Ostmeyer and Cameron McLaughlin placed third in improvised duet

acting. Ostmeyer and Madison Tubbs placed fifth in duet acting.

McLaughlin and Michael Tubbs also placed in other events in the semi-finals, but were not high enough to make it into finals. McLaughlin got eighth in serious solo acting and Tubbs got ninth in extemporaneous speaking.

The team sent 24 students to compete in 34 events, placing sixth overall. Fort Scott won first place; Tonganoxie, second; Buhler, third; El Dorado, fourth; and Kansas City-Sumner, fifth.

"We had a great weekend," said Coach Nancy Rundel.

Some of the forensics students

aren't through for the year. Ten students will be heading to Washington D.C. over Memorial Day Weekend for the Catholic Forensics League national competition. The students have been raising money to help pay their way and recently got a \$1,000 donation from Jeff Terrell, a sales agent with Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont seed company.

"The work that Nancy Rundel puts in with the students is amazing," Terrell said in a letter to the district. "The students have done an outstanding job performing in competitions, making it to state and nationals."

### Will drought impact Kansas budget?

By John Milburn  
The Associated Press

GARDEN CITY - The effects of Kansas' deepening drought seem to go on forever when seen from the air in a Kansas National Guard helicopter. Below, parched fields with crops that never sprouted, burnt railroads and brown pastures stretch into the dust-tinged horizon.

Many spots in southwest Kansas have had less

than two-thirds of their normal rainfall.

Melvin Neufeld, a farmer-rancher from Ingalls and former House speaker, says the last drought he remembers being this bad was nearly 60 years ago. Even then it took storms of historic proportions to break the spell.

"We had 24 inches of snow at the end of March followed by rain after rain after rain," Neufeld

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### Briefly

#### Diabetes class is Tuesday

Citizens Medical Center Inc. will hold a diabetes class, "Continuing Your Journey with Diabetes," at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Citizens Medical Center conference room. This class is free for a limited time, but registration is required. For information or to register, call Courtney McCarty at 460-1237.

#### Seniors plan potluck Tuesday

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

#### Township plans regular meeting

Barrett Township will hold its regular regular

meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Levant Community Building. The township holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month.

#### Hospital plans open house

Citizens Medical Center will hold an open house for the new renovations and expansions from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the hospital. The hospital will also be showing off its new digital mammography system. Refreshments will be served. For information, call the hospital at 462-7511.

#### Support group meets at church

The Al-Anon/Alateen Family Group is now meeting from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Colby United Methodist Church. This is a 12-step program for people dealing with alcohol or other addictions in the family. For information, call Jim Mardock at 460-2761.

#### Fitness class planned for moms

"Mommy and Me" baby fitness class will have a free opening class from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, at Fike Park. Pre- and post-natal mothers and their children can come for the free fitness class. Dads are welcome too. Signup sheets will be available for the full class. For information, call Jennifer Kramer at 443-5527.

#### Help plant veggies on Saturday

The Thomas County Coalition is looking for volunteers to help plant vegetables in the Community Garden starting at 9 a.m., Saturday at the K-State Experiment Station. Anyone interested should call the Regional Prevention Center at 460-8177.

#### Fishing derby scheduled for May

Colby Community College and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will hold a Kids Fish-

ing Derby from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 21, at Villa High Pond. There is no charge, but parents should register by Wednesday, May 18. Officials from KDWP will be assisting and providing information on fishing topics. The college will provide bait. A drawing will be held for several prizes. For information, call Barry Kaaz at 460-5429 or Kathy Britton at 460-5550.

#### Selden car show coming in June

The Selden Community Foundation will have its 17th annual Selden Antique Tractor and Classic Car Show starting at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 5. For information call Judy Rogers at (785) 386-4231.

