



8 pages

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Eight graduate from Brewster, Heartland



MARIAN BALLARD and KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Ariel Regier (above) hugged her father Randy Regier after he presented her with her diploma at Heartland Christian School's graduation ceremony Saturday. All six Brewster High School graduates (right) lined up for pictures after receiving their diplomas from the Brewster School Board later that day.

By Kevin Bottrell

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Students from Heartland Christian School and Brewster Public Schools walked across the stage to receive their diplomas on Saturday.

Heartland Christian graduated two seniors. Valedictorian Ariel Regier and salutatorian Rachel Myers received their degrees from their fathers, Randy Regier and Craig Myers.

After a senior video tribute, commencement speaker Pastor Micah Howery of Hoxie told the graduates that moving on from the constant support of the school will help them grow roots strong enough to help them face adult challenges. The graduates' sisters, Amy Myers

and Alexi Regier, performed "My Wish," by Jeffrey Steele and Steve Robson.

Brewster graduated six students on Saturday: Sheena Rall, Wyatt Werth, Jalyn Williams, Whitney Shultz, Tyler Williams and Desari Wolfe.

The class asked Brewster High English teacher Sandra Stearns to speak. Stearns is a Fort Hays State University graduate and has taught at Salina High School and Cloud County Community College.

Stearns likened the graduates' journeys to the Robert Frost poem "The Road Not Taken."

"We know that these big forks have occurred for these graduates already and will over and over again," she said.

See "GRADUATE," Page 3



Heartland graduates Ariel Regier (left) and Rachel Myers (right) posed for pictures before the graduation ceremony began.



Citizen discussion group talks population decline

By Tomi Miller

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A book discussion at the Colby Community College library on Tuesday sparked discussion between Thomas County residents on young people who leave town versus those who stay behind.

James Foster, from the Rural Development office led the discussion of Dr. Patrick Carr's book, "Hollowing Out the Middle," which analyzes the problems in rural towns that are quickly emptying out. Carr spoke at the college on April 4, as part of the Max Pickerill Lecture Series.

Foster asked the group attending the discussion their opinion on efficiency being good or bad in a rural economy. While some felt that becoming more efficient and making it so fewer people could support

production in an economy, others felt that efficiency impacts rural areas in a negative way.

"The little guy just can't make it anymore," said Jan Wolf, attendee at the discussion.

The group further discussed that becoming more efficient creates less jobs for the residents of a community and with fewer jobs, workers, especially the younger generations, seek jobs and opportunities elsewhere.

Wolf said the biggest problem with rural areas is that there are no jobs for the youth after graduation and the community needs to create more jobs that graduates want to do.

Joni Clark-Leiker disagreed, saying that instead of focusing on creating new jobs, the community needs to draw attention to the jobs that are or will soon be

See "GROUP," Page 3

Practice makes perfect



Golden Plains High School freshman Marshall Clapp practiced his poetry piece before the Kansas State Forensics Festival at Kansas Wesleyan University on May 7. Clapp was the only student from the Golden Plains forensics team to qualify for the state festival. He performed his poetry piece, "Life is a Prison" by Puff and received a II rating.

Current Walking Trail Donations

\$13,000

Colby Walking Trail organizers are trying to raise \$25,000 for construction of Phase I: a trail loop at the Colby Aquatic Center. Local farm operator

Lon Frahm has pledged to donate matching funds if the trail receives \$25,000 in community donations. **To donate:** Send your tax-de-

ductible donations to the Thomas County Community Foundation at 350 S. Range, Suite 14, Colby, Kan. 67701, and write "walking trail" in the memo line.

Briefly

Get in free with kids at museum

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is offering free admission to parents who accompany their preschoolers aged 5 and under to the museum through Friday. They will have the chance to explore the museum at their leisure and participate in self-directed activities, including dressing up, riding the mechanical horse or stick horses, and more. For more information call 460-4590.

FFA plans oyster fry this week

The Colby High School FFA chapter will have a mountain oyster fry and barbecue from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Donations will be accepted to go to the chapter. For information, call Tom Rundel at 460-5300.

College pool to close Friday

The Colby Community College swimming pool

will be closed from Friday through Thursday, June 5, for annual maintenance and cleaning. The pool will reopen on Friday, June 6. For hours of operation, call Kipp Nelson at 460-5476 or at www.colbycc.edu.

Prairie Land delivery is Saturday

Prairie Land Food delivery will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Sacred Heart School gym. For information, call Gene Griffon at 460-3579.

Relay committee plans breakfast

The Thomas County Relay for Life committee will have a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday in the Colby Community Building. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any committee member or at the door. For information, call Irene Hartwell at 443-0974.

Church plans potluck, conference

The Colby Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ

of Latter-day Saints' will hold a branch conference Sunday. District representatives will be here to conduct business and a potluck dinner at noon. Anyone is welcome to attend. For information, contact Maxine Nelson at (785) 462-3571.

Concert planned in Mingo

The Mingo Bible Church will have a concert by Evidence 2011, a spring music team from Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Mo., at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the church. The group is on a spring tour. Their performance includes a variety of music and testimonials. Donations will be accepted for the group. For information, call Pastor Tom Peyton at 462-2992.

Red Cross wants your blood

The American Red Cross will have blood drives from noon to 6 p.m. next Wednesday and from 7:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 26, at the Colby Community Building. Go to redcrossblood.org or

call (800) 733-2767, to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome. Donors will be entered to win one of 12 sets of tickets to the Country Stampede on Sunday, June 26, and will be entered in the national drawing to win two passes to the Grand Ole Opry. For questions or to volunteer, call (785) 462-3861.

Trash collectors off for holiday

The City of Colby Public Works Department will be closed on Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day. The Monday residential sanitation route will be picked up on Tuesday, May 31. Have your grass and trash to the curb by 8 a.m. For information, call Public Works at (785) 460 4420.



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