

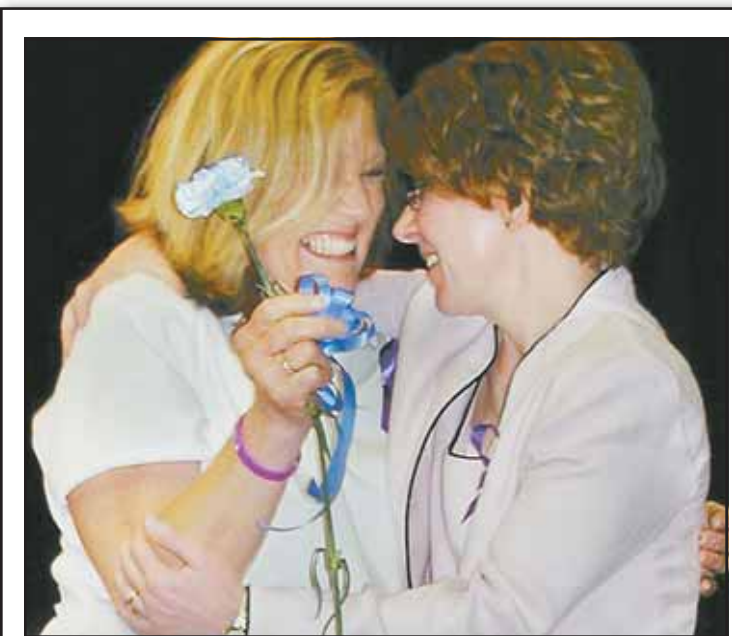
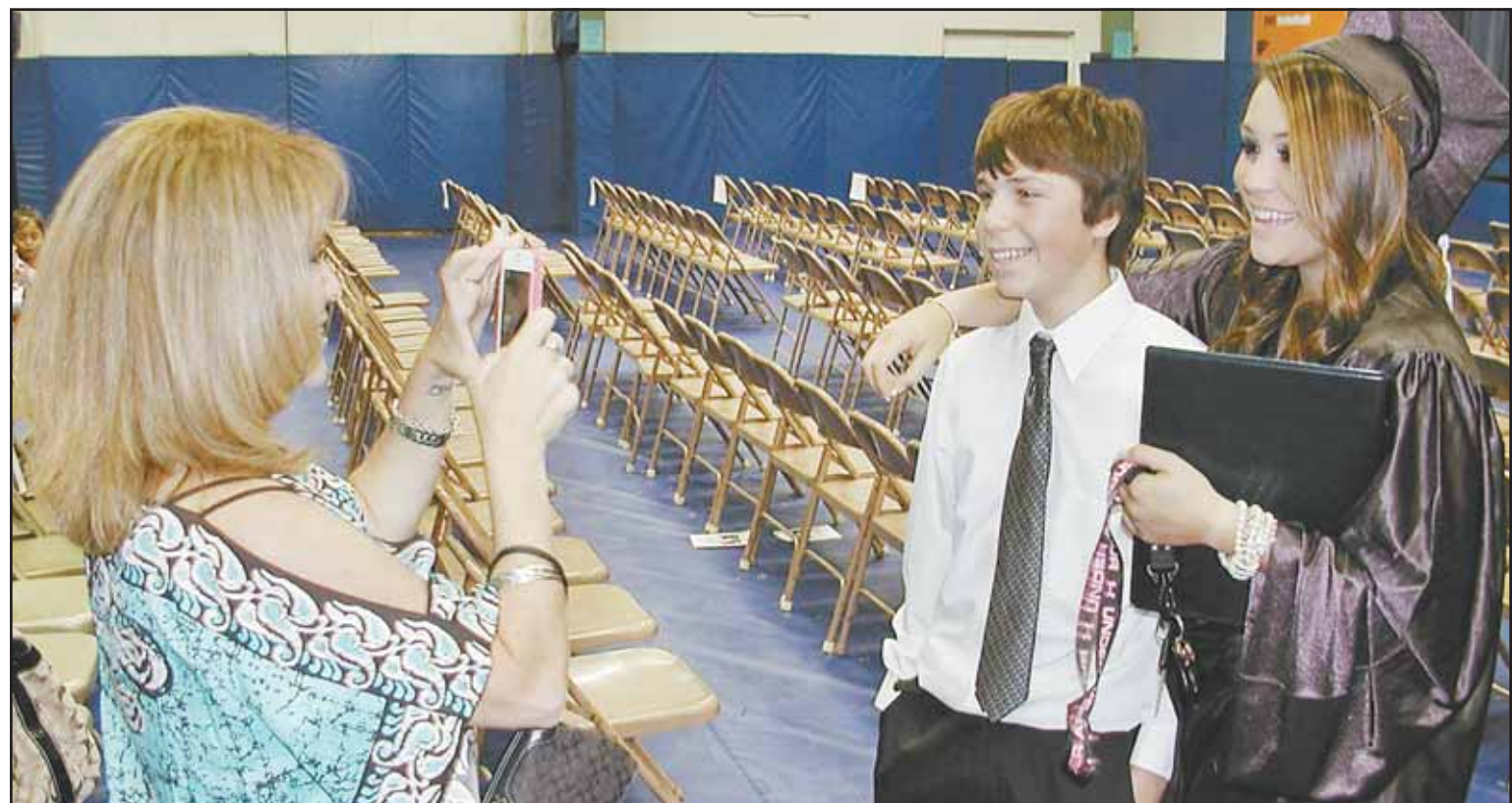
## College sends off Class of '13

Colby Community College finished up its school year in style Saturday with speeches from former faculty members. Debbie Schwanke, public information director for the college, said that a total of 170 graduates processed at the ceremony, while friends and family crowded the seats of the Colby Community Building. But about twice that many earned their diploma this year, including 92 students with associate of arts degrees, 58 with associate of science degrees, 85 with certificates and over 100 with associate of applied science degrees. Seventeen students graduated at the college's first commencement

in 1965, Schwanke said. Dr. Robert Mosier, the college's first president, gave the address for the 48th annual commencement ceremony, speaking about the difference in society's values from those in 1965. He added that the graduates are in charge of making the most of the world they find themselves in. He and Roger Hale, who was given this year's honorary associate degree, described the early years of the college and how things have changed since then. Hale also worked at the college when it was first founded, teaching in the basement of the Cooper Hotel before the campus was set up.

Colby Community College students (above) looked in the audience for family and friends during their processional Saturday. Congratulating them was Roger Hale (right) an instructor who retired in 2001 and got an honorary associate degree at the ceremony. After it was all over, new graduates (below) had time to get their pictures taken with friends and family.

EVAN BARNUM, SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Vicki Wark was overjoyed to be recognized as one of Colby Community College's 88 nursing graduates this year.

## Pinning ceremony caps graduates' day

Eighty-eight soon-to-be nurses in white scrubs filed into the Community Building Saturday morning for a pinning ceremony, part of their graduation from Colby Community College. Each got a flower and pin. "Receiving their pin is kind of a tradition in the nursing world," said Debbie Schwanke, public information director, adding that the students all were at commencement later. Tina Schrick, coordinator and instructor for the nursing program, put pins on the nurses. She said later that just under

half of them, 41, got a level one practical nursing certificate, while 41 earned an associate degree in nursing. Graduates came from three of the college's campuses: Colby, Goodland and Norton. Three of this year's graduates in practical nursing, Stephanie Tauchen from the Colby class, Amanda Majors from Norton and Cassandra Battistoni from Goodland, spoke to the audience. Barbie Long spoke for the day program and Nancy Mitchell spoke at the evening program.

## School board amends the budget

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press  
sdieter@nwkansas.com

The Colby School Board adopted an amended budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year at its meeting Monday night.

The district will be putting \$6,473,484 in its general fund, \$875,547 in its capital outlay fund and \$643,306 in its at-risk student fund, instead of \$6,232,074, \$750,547 and \$543,306, as it had originally planned. No one came to comment on the new budget at the start of the meeting. A notice of the amended budget was published in the *Colby Free Press* last month after the school board voted to republish the budget April 15 because, Superintendent Terrell Harrison said, the district got about \$241,000 more in funding because of a rise in enrollment this year.

In other business:

- Curriculum Director Diana Wieland reported that the after school program at the grade school is winding down. Two high school students have registered for the Certified Nurse Assistant program next year, she said, and 15 are interested in classes at Northwest Kansas Technical Institute. Wieland said she and high school science teacher Tom Rundel have applied for a \$10,000 "grow rural America" grant from Monsanto. She added that a high school science class will be in charge of the upkeep of a flower bed by the administration building.
- Accepted the resignations of Rhonda Carney as food service director, LeAnn Ostmeier as a grade school teacher, Cindy Moses as an assistant secretary at the grade school, Mitch Spanel as a high school paraprofessional and Brandi Wark as a high school activities secretary. It also accepted the resignations of Jerad Johnson as Head Men's basketball and Parker

- McKee as head women's basketball coach.
- Approved an audit proposal through the 2015 fiscal year from Adams Brown Beran and Ball. The Colby accounting firm will audit the district's finances for the 2013 fiscal year for \$10,080, for the 2014 fiscal year for \$10,584 and for the 2015 fiscal year for \$11,113.
- Approved a series of summer sports fundraisers, including a golf tournament on July 6 for the wrestling team, a lift-a-thon and T-shirt and shorts sales for the football team and a middle school dance, team garage sale and three car washes for the dance team.
- The board members spent part of the meeting training with their new iPads and a software called BoardDocs. The board purchased the software to have paperless board meetings.
- The board heard reports from its administrators. Middle school Principal Rob Ross

See "BOARD," Page 2

## Rural Opportunity credits fall short

By Heather Alwin

Colby Free Press  
colby.society@nwkansas.com

Thomas County has a \$24,986.11 deficit between the amount approved to fund Rural Opportunity Zone credits and the value of credits it has awarded.

Christy Rocca, economic development coordinator for the county, told the county commissioners May 6 that the Kansas Department of Commerce has approved 20 applications for student loan repayments in Thomas County under this program, totaling \$26,486.11. To date, the county has only con-

tributed \$1,500 to the program. The program helps repay up to \$15,000 of the outstanding student loans for those who moved to Thomas County after July 1, 2011, with an associate's, bachelor's or post-graduate degree. Kansas aggressively promotes this program, said Rocca, and Thomas County is one of the areas that receives the most interest. The state is pushing for the county to increase funding, said Rocca. "For our size, we're probably one of the smaller contributors," she said. Thomas County is one of 50 counties across Kansas who par-

ticipate in this program, but each county decides how much it wants to contribute for applicants in its county. Rawlins County and Sherman County also contributed \$1,500 and also have deficits, \$14,169.27 and \$29,644.88, respectively. Norton County contributed the most of any county at \$40,000 but still has some of this money available to pay qualified applicants. The Kansas Department of Commerce administers the student loan program while the Department of Revenue oversees tax credit incentives that also aim to slow population losses in rural

Kansas. "The purpose of the program is to entice people to come here," said Rocca. Commissioner Paul Steele said he thought this program might be an unnecessary duplication of effort. "Do we need this if people are already here?" he asked. Applications are approved at the state level, but Rocca told the commissioners she will get more information about whose applications have been approved. Steele asked Rocca to include her funding requests in her department's 2014 budget proposal.

