

Graduates will have many common lasting ties

GRADUATION, from Page 1

your family," she said. "Every graduate has ties to the community, and the large number of people here shows a common tie. You represent the best of the community.

"I am proud to say I grew up in Goodland, Kan., on a farm," she said. "When I talk to people I work with it is hard for them to understand where I grew up. In many ways Goodland is anything but a common place."

She said she remembers working on the farm where she drove a combine and trucks, learned how to make gum out of wheat and where "you could hear the corn grow in the fields."

Remembering high school, Laughlin said the principal had a special spot where he could check the length of students' skirts, which could not be shorter than four inches above the knee. She congratulated girls in becoming equal in sports over the 30 years.

"When we went to the principal as



Goodland graduates waited for the signal to line up and watched the incoming crowd from the balcony at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

seniors and said we wanted to play golf they didn't know what to do," Laughlin said. "They settled for giving us clubs,

balls, cups and access to the gym. I am glad equality has come to Goodland." She told the graduates they are fac-

ing their first road, and things may change their direction.

"I changed my major six times my

freshman year," Laughlin said. "I have changed my road several times. We all have choices to make, some common place, some momentous.

"The events of 9-11 were a rude awakening that we are not alone," she said. "Our safety cannot be taken for granted. I have been proud of the strength and courage of the country, and we can gain strength from that event. In a week, I was back on a plane and resumed my monthly flights.

"I refuse to let the terrorists control my life," she said. She said that when she graduated in 1972 it was the first election in which 18 year-olds could vote.

"I have always believed my one vote could change the world," she said. "I encourage you to exercise your right to vote. It is your primary responsibility as a citizen.

"We have the freedom to find ourselves," she added. "We can make a difference. There is no certain road for success, but use your best judgment as you face the choices. "We are doers, we shape history and we are pathfinders," she said.

The Outstanding Educator of the Year as selected by the graduating class was Dennis Friedrichs, a high school technology teacher. He was selected from a list prepared by the alumni association. The other two nominees were Jacque Elliott and JoAnn Wahrman.

Principal Swager presented Jace Chipperfield as the Valedictorian and Jordan Riebel as Salutatorian.

The X-Pressos high school singing group presented "Friends Forever" with the six seniors highlighted in the front. Several seniors joined the high school band as they played "The Light Eternal."

Daniela Moreira, an exchange student from Ecuador, talked emotionally of her year in Goodland and the many things she enjoyed about the experience. She and Student Council President Jessica Vignery then traded national flags.

Assistant Principal Richard Lies read a lengthy list of the awards the graduates had received, and then the graduates came forward to receive their diplomas.

Speaker gives graduates advice

BREWSTER, from Page 1

passion is a key to success in life.

"In the spirit of helping you commence with the next stage of your life," Evert said, "I, who have taught many of you in the classroom, cannot bear to pass up the chance to give some advice.

"Congratulations, you made it! You have now completed 12 years of formal education. However, are you creative, motivated, diligent, competent, mature, capable of change and ready to learn and learn again? Are you ready to listen?"

"I would also like to congratulate all of the teachers and families and friends who supported and encouraged and some might even say put up with you graduates.

No one accomplishes much alone in this world and today is a day for each of you on top to congratulate those who lifted you up. I will remember what Mr. Cheatham said a couple of years ago. "One thing you know for sure when you see a turtle on top of a post. It didn't get there by itself."

"Perhaps the greatest congratulations of all on this day should go to the parents. The process of your growing up, too, has educated them. We must remember that parents are the primary educators of all children. They have understood the dilemma of teaching you to be independent while knowing that you might be hurt.

"Parents, rest assured these graduates have grown into fine young men and women capable of meeting life's



The Class of 2002 at Brewster High School: (l-r) J.R. Baird, Dan Dewey, Tara Fulwider, Mandy Johnston, Jess Long, John Luckert, Katherine Mills, Christi Somers. Darrel Pattillo/The Colby Free Press

challenges.

"In closing, if you want to go far in life, be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic

with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong, because someday you will have been all of these."

The graduating class of 2002 in-

cludes J.R. Baird, Dan Dewey, Fulwider, Mandy Johnston, Jess Long, John Luckert, Mills and Christi Somers.

U.S. Special Forces soldier dies in skirmish

INTERNATIONAL

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. Special Forces soldier was killed in eastern Afghanistan during a skirmish with forces believed linked to al-Qaida and the deposed Taliban militia, military officials said today. At least one opponent died and an Afghan fighting with the American forces was injured in the firefight.

Sgt. Gene Arden Vance Jr., 38, was killed Sunday afternoon when his unit came under heavy fire, said Capt. Steven O'Connor, a U.S. military spokesman at Bagram air base north of Kabul. Vance was a 10-year veteran of the West Virginia National Guard and had been stationed in the Middle East for five months, the military said.

The firefight started when suspected al-Qaida or Taliban fighters in a mountainous area fired on U.S. forces at about 5 p.m. local time Sunday, said Maj. Bryan Hilferty, a U.S. military spokesman.

"We returned fire, killing one enemy," Hilferty said at a briefing today in Bagram, the main coalition base in Afghanistan. He did not say how Vance was killed.

The U.S.-led coalition believes Taliban and al-Qaida fighters trying to regroup have been hiding out for months in the mountainous area of eastern Afghanistan near the cities of Khost and Gardez. British Royal Marines continued to search the area today, Hilferty said.

DILI, East Timor — A new Cabinet was sworn in today. Students, former guerrilla fighters, police and soldiers took to the streets in a jubilant parade. Former President Clinton raised the flag at the new U.S. Embassy. The government signed a treaty with Australia

around the world

to share revenues from oil reserves.

On Day One of East Timor's independence, the hard work of nation building began in earnest. The tiny half-island territory of 800,000 people proudly took its place among the community of nations early today, declaring itself a sovereign country and putting an end to centuries of often brutal occupation.

As East Timor awoke after a night-

long independence party, hundreds of people crowded in front of the former Portuguese colonial palace in the capital Dili to watch Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri swear in 23 Cabinet ministers and state secretaries.

"We have to create a solid, transparent and good government," said Alkatiri after the ceremony, adding that the new government would focus on reconciliation with East Timor's

former occupier, Indonesia.

NATIONAL

NEW YORK — City water facilities are potentially vulnerable to biological or chemical attacks because security falls considerably short of meeting federal and state guidelines, according to a report that one lawmaker called "very startling."

The findings released Sunday detailed several gaps in security at facilities within New York City's water system, which serves 9 million people.

Fences were vulnerable to intruders,

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The Goodland Daily News

Familiarity is busword for new season

NEW YORK (AP) — A few months ago on a company retreat, an ABC executive suggested it would be nice to have a television show that reminded viewers of the Michael J. Fox movie, "Back to the Future."

The development process was set in motion, and the result is "That Was Then," a series about a 30-ish man who time-travels back to high school to try and change his life. It

will be on ABC in the fall.

For the new fall shows unveiled last week, familiarity is in, and so is nostalgia. Harkening back to old ideas beats coming up with new ones.

Three new series next season will be remakes of old ones. The WB network is reviving "Family Affair," ABC brings "Dragnet" back and UPN will make supernatural stories.

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