

# College says good-bye to 170 graduates

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Over 170 students graduated from the Northwest Kansas Technical College in ceremonies last Friday.

The commencement speaker, Harry Craig Jr., chairman of Martin Tractor Inc., told the graduates the college has prepared them for their careers. The college's job is done, he said; now yours begins.

The college also handed out the Student of the Year award, and two teachers were honored for long service.

Shortly after beginning his job at Martin Tractor, Craig said, he received an anonymous letter that said he had no leadership ability.

"You couldn't lead a group of old ladies to a posy patch without serious consequences," the writer told him.

Craig said after a couple of months, he got an anonymous vote of confidence. He wasn't sure whether it was from the same source or not.

He advised the graduates to get results, to believe they are the greatest, to identify the gifts that make them great and to extend their hands in love to help those in need.

Bret D. Tremblay, a student in the engineering technology program, was named Student of the Year. Each department had selected three outstanding students, said Paul Chaffin, counselor at the college. Their peers did an evaluation to see which one in each department would compete for the top honor.

The candidate from each department then had to write a paper describing the qualities the Student of



The Max Jones Fieldhouse buzzed with activity last Friday as Northwest Kansas Technical College graduates gathered for their commencement.

Over 170 students took home diplomas.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

the Year should have, Chaffin said, and had an interview.

The candidates from other departments were Chad McDonald, auto body repair; Jared Blaine Hays, automotive technology; Kazim Dyani Cornett, business technology; Tanner Tyrone Lacy, carpentry; Anthony Rosane, communications technology; Joseph Dobbs, computer graphics technology; Danielle Widner, cosmetol-

ogy; Vernal Lattimore, diesel technology; Ron D. Wieck, electrical technology; Paul Velasco, electronics and computer technology; Christopher Hatfield, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration; Tamara Zimbelman, medical assistant; and Bradley J. Stremel, welding.

Tom Purvis was honored for the 33 1/2 years of service he will have when he retires in June, and Chaffin

was honored for 25 years. President Ken Clouse introduced Chaffin and presented him with a gift. It's usually a gold watch, Clouse said, but this time, it's a very large gold watch.

Chaffin opened the box, revealing a gold clock. He said his eyesight is not the best. Chaffin said when he couldn't continue teaching in the carpentry department because of his eyesight, he studied to

become counselor at the college.

Purvis, an instructor in the automotive technology program, started at the college in January 1972, Clouse said, and is retiring this summer. The college will have a retirement reception for him from 2-4 p.m. Friday, June 3, Clouse said, and he will receive his gift there.

"He has forgotten more about transmissions than most of us have known," Clouse said.

Presenting certificates and associate degrees to the graduates were Marty Melia of Goodland, owner of KLOE/KKCI/KWGB radio, and Clarence "Bud" Redman, Syracuse. Both are members of the college's area advisory board.

Students receiving Associate in Applied Science degrees were Ryan Klitzke and Chad McDonald, auto body repair; Patrick D. Selfridge, automotive technology; Kazim Dyani Cornett, business technology; Michael James Morgan and Allen Jay Morgan, carpentry.

Matthew Henry Bock, Scott T. Burke, Robert Fowler, Michael Koerner, Timothy J. Nicholson, Derek Redmond, Brit W. Schroeder, Douglas Vanner and James Scott Waugh, communications technology.

Donna Pickman, cosmetology; Matthew K. Applegarth, Travis Brewster and Paul Lobmeyer, diesel technology; Tyler J. Dreiling, Clint J. Gottschalk, Jordan Huwa, Tyson D. McCall and Zachary Ryan Schoenfeld, electrical technology.

Patrick D. Selfridge, Tyrel J. Spillman, Jeremiah L. Tuttle and Paul Velasco, electronics and computer technology; Kristi Corder, Jason L. Fine, Dustin D. Guerin, Stephanie A. Kramer, Bret D. Tremblay and Chad J. Veilleux, engineering technology.

Kenneth Edwin Gall, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration; Natrisha Danyell Delano, Jamie Dawn Flanders, Jennifer Lyn Keddie, Kristal J. Kindler, Sherrelle Marie Miller and Lacy Jean Zodrow, medical assistant; and Tyler Smith, Levi A. Traxler and Richard J. Wilmore, welding.

## Goodland lumber yard purchases Colby store

### New addition spells change for local family

Kevin and Christie Rasure have a commitment to Goodland and northwest Kansas.

The couple and their family just bought Golden Hardware in Colby.

"We have been asked if we are moving to Colby or out of northwest Kansas," Rasure said. "We are not moving anywhere. Our family is part of northwest Kansas and we like the lifestyle here."

Rasure, in his second term as a Sherman County commissioner, says he believes there are good job opportunities for young people in this area.

"I came back in 1978," he said. "I liked northwest Kansas, and I have no regrets about coming back. I think we need to encourage our young people to come back and become business people."

Rasure graduated from Goodland High School in 1973 and went to Kansas State University, where he graduated in 1978.

He met Christie when she was moving a friend to Goodland. She is from the Selden/Oberlin area and was working in a flower shop across the intersection from Golden Hardware.

They were married in May 1981, and celebrate 24 years together this week.

He said Christie would not be involved in the day-to-day operations of the stores, but will be doing special projects and handling

the advertising for both.

Their son Dan, who graduated from Goodland High School in 2001 and is completing a Bachelor of Science in business management from McPherson College, will spend more of his time in Colby. The fourth generation Rasures in the business, he ran for the state Senate last year.

"The Colby people will see him on a regular basis," Kevin said. "He is probably better known in Colby than I am."

Their daughter Kayla, a 2004 graduate of Goodland High School, has completed her first year at Wichita State University.

Rasure says the building materials business is changing faster today than it was 27 years ago when he came back.

"We used to work mostly with contractors," he said, "but today women are an important part of the process. They want to see product selection and to be able to touch and measure things."

The computer is another major change in the hardware and lumber business, he said.

"Computers are not a part of the business," Rasure said. "Used to be an option to have everything on the computer, but today it is as important as having a forklift."

"The biggest challenge is to keep up with the large selection we carry, and the knowledge of those products."

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Rasure Lumber Do It Center of Goodland has purchased Golden Hardware of Colby. Details of the sale were completed last Friday.

"We had an opportunity to buy the hardware store," Kevin Rasure said Tuesday.

"We had been looking at the possibility for several years, and the timing was right for us to close the deal."

Rasure said no jobs will be lost in Colby, and the Colby store — now Rasure Lumber — will continue to serve the Colby area.

"We feel the employees have done an excellent job in the past," Rasure said, "and we hope to continue that level of service and tradition."

"(Owner Robert) Golden felt it would be better to have a family in

northwest Kansas run the business. He had good people handling the business."

The staff in both stores will remain the same, Rasure said, and the

Colby store will add some building materials.

He said the buildings are being remodeled to handle the building materials.

Golden Hardware was started in 1927 by Ernest Golden in his home and moved to its present location, 490 E. Fourth, in 1947.

Golden had started in the hardware business in the mid 1910s as a salesman for a wholesale company in Kansas City.

Robert Golden, grandson of the founder, inherited the store when his father, Edwin L. Golden, died in 1986.

It was operating as a small wholesale company serving northwest Kansas.



Kevin



Dan

### correction

In on Page 1b of the Friday, May 20, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, the name of Lance Siruta was misspelled as Sirtua. This was a typographical error.

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